

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Statement from: Councillor C N Worth, Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services**

### **CULTURE**

#### **Libraries Performance**

GLL's main focus in Year Four is to build upon the successes of previous years, paying particular attention to the introduction of new, environmentally-friendly vehicles, to help assist the County Council in becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

The authority's three large mobile libraries are coming to the end of their life and need to be replaced. In future, the Council will be using smaller, environmentally-friendly vans to serve 234 stops across Lincolnshire. The new and improved vehicles are cleaner and greener and far more practical for our narrow, rural lanes, which can be challenging for the larger mobiles. They also offer much better value for money.

GLL will be selecting the books held in each vehicle so that they match the interests of customers along that particular route. People can also make sure they get the items they would like by reserving them in advance, either online or in person during their stop thus ensuring customers continue to get books they want, while doing our bit for the planet.

#### **Community Hubs**

Discussions are still on-going with a potential provider for the management of the Ermine Community Hub, following Learning Communities' voluntary liquidation in May 2018. GLL remain operational at this site for the interim period.

#### **Future of the Heritage Service**

Eleven recommendations outlining changes to the Future of the Heritage Service were presented to the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 23 July.

The recommendations include moving to a cultural enterprise supersite model and changes to a number of heritage sites, including exercising a break clause in the lease with English Heritage for Gainsborough Old Hall to return the management of the attraction to English Heritage, who own the building. The recommendations support exploration of a third party operation of the Usher Gallery and Lincolnshire County Council ceasing to run the Usher Gallery as an art gallery, as well as exploring a third party operation of Ellis, Alford and Burgh le Marsh Windmills.

The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive included in the report, which were subsequently agreed by the Executive on 3 September.

## **Dinosaur Encounters**

With just over 20,000 visitors up to the end of August, Dinosaur Encounter has already become the second most popular exhibition hosted at The Collection. Visitors have enjoyed coming face-to-face with their favourite dinosaurs, excavating in a dig pit and exploring the dino-trail as well as a host of other dinosaur related family activities.

## **A Royal addition to the county's Tennyson collection**

A letter from a grieving Queen Victoria to poet Alfred Lord Tennyson is the newest addition to the county's extensive Tennyson archive. The two-page letter, still in its original envelope, has been purchased by the County Council using funding from its Heritage bequest funds. The Tennyson Society also made a contribution to the purchase. The document will be housed in The Tennyson Research Centre Collection at Lincolnshire Archives, the most significant collection on the poet in the world, and is a fantastic and unique addition.

## **De Wint Watercolour**

In April, with support from the Friends of Lincolnshire Museums and Galleries (FLMAG), the Heritage Service purchased a watercolour by Peter De Wint, one of the leading water colourists of the 19th Century. This particular watercolour is of The Glory Hole and the High Bridge, in Lincoln and has exceptional provenance.

## **Regimental Digitisation Project**

In 2016, the Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT) secured funding (funded by the Chancellor using the Armed Forces Covenant LIBOR Funds) for the digitisation of document archive material, covering the First World War, with the defined date range of 1900-1929. The outcomes of the project are the improved preservation and access of material as defined, with the longer-term goal of increasing research and public engagement potential.

Lincolnshire Archives sits as a partner within this project receiving fully funded digitisation of relevant archival material in its holdings. While some First World War material has previously been digitised locally by Lincolnshire Archives and made available via Lincs to the Past, this project provides the opportunity for the Archives to partake in a more focused approach (across AMOT's network of museums), in conjunction with wider key stakeholders also holding important national military records. The project offers an exciting approach towards joined-up thinking and potentially a one-point access platform, as well as increasing potential visitor engagement and access to the digitised records.

## **Boole Archive**

In April 2019, funded by a University of Lincoln project, freelance archivist Susan Payne began working at Lincolnshire Archives to undertake cataloguing of the Boole Archive, consisting of records collected by Arthur Rollet gifted to Lincolnshire Archives in 2015. George Boole (1815-1864) is widely recognised as the forefather of the information age with Boolean logic and algebra forming the basis of computer science and electronic circuitry.

The completed catalogue and associated digital images will be imported into our archives catalogue system so that information can be made available to the public via the Lincolnshire Archives services, and documents ordered for viewing via the search room.

### **Lincoln Castle**

The Vivienne Westwood exhibition opened on Saturday 10 August. Bondage to Liberation: Anarchic Collections, brings together iconic pieces of footwear and clothing by designer Vivienne Westwood from the private collection of Lee Price, and 'The Sex Pistols Mural' by radical artist and activist Jamie Reid. Set against the backdrop of Lincoln Castle's Victorian Prison and the Magna Carta Vault, the exhibition includes pieces from the 1970s onwards and celebrates the pair's legacy of non-conformity throughout the decades.

The Victorian Night Circus which is taking place in September is almost sold out. The team are now working on a theme for the 2020 event programme which will be launched at this year's Christmas Emporium.

### **Evan Roth 1 Jun 2019 – 15 Sep 2019**

This exhibition presents American artist Evan Roth's Artangel 2018-19 commission, Red Lines, streamed via the internet from coastal sites around the world directly into the gallery, alongside works from The Usher Gallery's landscape collection. Roth's Red Lines project is a network of mesmerising video landscapes, filmed in infrared from sites around the world where the cables that make the internet possible emerge from the sea.

### **Lincolnshire Show – Heritage Services, 22-23 June 2019**

More than 51,500 visitors attended the Lincolnshire Show in June and Heritage Services took over the LCC stand with a Victorian Circus including; Strong Men, Acro-Chaps, a penny farthing, photographer, and a tarot card reader. Heritage Services also filled the main marquee with a dinosaur experience as a taster for the summer exhibition at The Collection, which included artefact handling, excavation pit and a dino trail, walking through our Triassic Park. The stand won best non-agricultural stand in show.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue**

The heavy rain and resulting floods throughout the county proved to be a big test of Fire & Rescue resilience, both in terms of testing the processes around National Resilience assets but also how as a service we sustain our own activities during a prolonged emergency event.

Lincolnshire's High volume pump, hose layer and two Light portable pumps were used to protect some of our critical infrastructure at the Pilgrim Hospital, pumping out several hundred thousand litres of water to prevent their boiler room shutting down.

LFR attended flooding incidents around the whole county including Skegness, Spalding, Belchford, Sleaford, Wrangle amongst others and rescued a lady from a car trapped in water in Low Toynton.

During the main incidents around the Wainfleet area, Lincolnshire were supported by 11 High Volume Pump teams from across the country and during the event there were 160 Fire appliances mobilised (on average all Lincolnshire crews were mobilised 4 times). We assisted in the evacuation of over 50 households, the rescue of 12 cows/calves, 10 dogs and cats and a turtle. We moved in excess of 50 billion litres of water and laid approximately 20 kilometres of High Volume Hose and around 10 kilometres of our usual fire engine hose to pump out the effected properties.

### **Fire Station Chief Officer Group (COG) Inspections**

Since April, the Chief and his team have started their annual programme of visits to fire stations across the county. To date, COG has completed 18 inspections with our On-Call sections and 3 visits with the Wholetime watches with encouraging results. This year, the Chief Fire Officer was keen to invite county councillors to observe the work of their local stations and build closer links with the fire crews. It is positive to report that councillors have accepted the invitation to attend in good numbers and are engaging with their fire stations and firefighters serving the community.

### **Fire Protection**

Earlier this year LCC approved additional funding to support the growth of the fire safety team (following the outcomes of the HMICFRS inspection report) and appointed two new inspectors who have just reached the end of their training. A further two inspectors have been recruited and start their training in September. In addition, the team now have one member qualified to Level 5 Fire Engineering which allows for consultations on complex building designs, with a further team member starting training at the end of the year.

Since June, LFR have issued two enforcement notices requiring improvements to fire safety measures and continue to work with both responsible persons to ensure that all works are completed to a satisfactory standard. We have worked with a number of other premises on action plans (circa. 12 plans) to improve fire safety standards. This allows us to improve Fire Safety without resorting to full enforcement measures and legal action.

Following the Hackitt report and subsequent independent review of building regulations, an amended version of Approved Document B has been launched. The team are now using this new guide in all building regulations consultations and our new inspectors will work towards qualifications in the new standard.

### **Fire Prevention**

The Community Fire Prevention team have a full complement of staff within the Community Fire Safety team, with our new Advocates now having completed their initial training. Over the last few months, the team have been working hard on our new SHERMAN initiative, which highlights 7 key types of people that may be at greater risk, and was also identified in our research and profiling into fire fatalities across the county over the last 5 years.

S – Smoker

H – Hoarder

E – Elderly or lives alone

R – Reduced Mobility, hearing or visual impairments

M – Mental Health issues

A – Alcohol, drugs/medication dependence

N – Needs care or support

The aim is to increase both the public's and professionals' awareness of people that may be at greater risk of a fire and encourage them to get in contact with LFR through a Safe and Well Check. This provides fire safety advice as well as guidance on how to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

We have an 'official' launch of SHERMAN planned for partners and colleagues on 3 October 2019 at Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Waddington Training Centre.

In addition to the above, we are also carrying out a number of smaller projects. These include:

- Identifying and exploring effective ways to support our Ethnic Minority Communities, and includes working closely with Neighbourhood Policing teams, Supplementary Schools and local Community Groups to effectively communicate our Community Fire Safety messages.
- The addition of a new fire cadet section in Spalding
- A Community Fire Safety Workshop for our Retained Firefighters planned for late September. The day will also include workshops on Dementia, Hoarding and Modern Day Slavery.
- Advocates are offering fire safety advice/safe and well support to the Wainfleet flood victims.

### **Blue Light Collaboration**

As expected the main focus of the programme has been around the flagship project of the tri-service facility at South Park. Fire and EMAS moved into the station on Thursday 13 June. This has been a fantastic team effort between West Division, EMAS and LCC property. Our crews have already responded to several calls from their new site, and there have been opportunities to host members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee and officers from the wider council. At the time of writing, Lincolnshire Police are due to begin moving in September.

Work continues between services around sharing risk data gathering and the associated processes, fuel sharing agreements for Business continuity, and emergency services 'ride along' schemes where staff are able to familiarise themselves with each other's organisations.

The project to provide a shared training facility at Waddington is gaining momentum and there continues to be interest from EMAS on the use of some of our wider estate for training.

Lincolnshire Lowland Search & Rescue team have now moved into their HQ at Wragby fire station, providing facilities to enable them to continue to build their team profile and assist the communities of Lincolnshire.

### **Fire and Rescue Inspection**

On 23 July, LFR presented Her Majesty's inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Action Plan report to the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee (PPCSC), providing an update on progress against the inspection carried out in June 2018. Within the report (published in December 2018), it identified one cause of concern which primarily related to issues over the effective recording and monitoring of training (getting the right people with the right skills). Therefore, by 31 July 2019, the Service had to demonstrate that suitable operational training was provided, assessed and recorded accurately. It is pleasing to report that LFR now have a new learning system in place, called PDRPro, which has gone live across the county. Work continues to address the findings of the HMICFRS inspection to support the continuous improvement of the service.

### **People**

Following the appointment of Les Britzman as Chief Fire Officer, Mark Baxter was confirmed in post as the new Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Eleven new on-call firefighters successfully completed their initial training with another cadre ready to start in September.

### **Emergency Planning**

The Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Service was heavily involved in the recent flooding incident in Wainfleet All Saints and the surrounding area. Not only were they instrumental in establishing the Command & Control structure to support the response and recovery phases but also attended the scene to help the Community with an Information Hub. Altogether 590 properties were evacuated and 63 properties were internally flooded. There was also a major impact on the agricultural community in this area with approximately 3,500 hectares of farming land flooded and crops lost.

The Emergency Planning team are also instrumental as the LRF Secretariat in the EU Exit planning and are gearing up again to facilitate the task and finish group for the October 31 deadline. Reporting has not yet been requested but the task and finish group met in August to start preparations.

### **Other Key Projects**

#### **New Fire Appliances**

The first of 33 new fire engines was delivered to Waddington Training Centre at the end of July where familiarisation training will be delivered with the first new appliance going operational in October.

## 2020 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) & Community Risk Profile (CRP)

LFR are currently in the planning stages for our 2020 Integrated Risk Management Plan, which will be out for consultation later this year. Our 2020 Community Risk Profile document 'Understanding Risk in Lincolnshire' is in final draft. This document looks at all foreseeable fire & rescue related risks over the next three years and will provide the underpinning evidence to support our 2020 IRMP.

### **Coroners Service**

The new Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire, Mr Timothy Brennand, is now well established and has taken the opportunity to meet many stakeholders across a wide range of networks, for example. police, mortuary staff, pathologists, toxicology staff, general practitioners, funeral directors and healthcare professionals, as well as corporate colleagues involved with suicide prevention and safeguarding.

He is continuing to raise the profile of the Coroners Service at strategic level. Following a review of working practices Mr Brennand is keen to reduce timescales for families waiting for inquest and the new case management system is helping to support this.

We are continuing to look for appropriate accommodation for inquests, with facilities that provide both a judicial setting, but one that has a sensitive ambiance for those who are attending the inquest of a family or friend.

### **Registration Service**

In my last statement I reported that the Registration Service had achieved a long time ambition to offer death appointments at the Swanpool Suite at Lincoln County Hospital. Whilst this is in its early days, it has been incredibly well received by families so far. These appointments allow the family to collect personal possessions, the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and register the death all at the same time. During April, May and June 47 deaths were registered at Lincoln County Hospital.

A Targeted Inspection by GRO in relation to our work to maximise the number of deaths registered within 5 days to meet the 90% national target took place during July. Lincolnshire is a pilot for this new type of inspection programme to help us and other local authorities understand local difficulties and look at best practice here and elsewhere.

During the week, they visited colleagues at several different offices around the county (Boston, Bourne, Gainsborough, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Skegness and Stamford), the CSC and the Bereavement Centres at both Lincoln County and Boston Pilgrim Hospitals. The report by GRO will be published in due course.

Our detailed Annual Survey is running throughout August. This is in addition to the comment cards that are given out at each appointment and ceremony throughout the year. We hope that the results of the 2019 Annual Survey will match that of 2018 which showed that 99.6% respondents rated the service provided as Satisfactory, Very Good or Excellent.

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