

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

Statement from: Councillor E J Poll – Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Economic Development

CULTURE

Arts Boost in Lincolnshire

The arts in Lincolnshire are set to receive a major boost thanks to a unique partnership between The University of Lincoln's College of Arts and Lincolnshire County Council's Economy and Culture Service.

A new Arts Development Officer role based at the University will continue to have direct access, for example, to the local authority's Enterprise team for support with a range of international bids and continue in a pivotal role within Lincolnshire One Venues Arts initiative, acting as a bridge between the University, the local authority and regional artists.

This innovative step presents a unique opportunity to develop a new model for diversifying income for the arts that addresses the challenges posed by cuts to government funding and the recession.

Lincolnshire Heritage Award Success

The Lincolnshire Heritage Awards took place on Friday 22 June 2012 at The Collection. The awards celebrate the hard work and effort put into museums across the county. Our museums were successful in the following categories:

Best Exhibition: Winner - Discover Stamford

Inspiration Award for Special Projects: Winner - Gainsborough Old Hall's PDA interpretation; Highly Commended - Lincs to the Past website

Work with Children and Young People: Winner - Play at The Collection

Best Event: Highly Commended - Museum of Lincolnshire Life WWI Living History Weekend on 10-11 March 2012

Museums at Night Really Wild Night

On 19 May, The Collection held a Really Wild Night as part of Museums at Night, a nationwide event to encourage museums and galleries to open their doors beyond the usual opening hours to attract new audiences.

It was a very successful evening with over 300 visitors.

ECONOMY

Help to sectors and businesses

We continue to receive good news about the Historic Lincoln project. A further £225,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding has been awarded to us for the bursary scheme that we run in partnership with Lincoln Cathedral. This will enable us to provide another seven high quality training places which we hope will lead to the trainees finding secure employment in the heritage sector. In mid-August nearly 100 people attended a conference to find out more about our plans for the project.

As well as helping our major sectors like tourism, we continue to work closely with businesses, giving them the opportunity to develop and grow. The Rural Development Programmes that we manage have now given out 69 grants, and Sustain Lincolnshire - our programme to help businesses adapt to the environment - has helped another four companies to make real savings to their bottom line through improved systems and techniques.

Most of these activities receive European grants which help the council's money go further. The European Commission recently published its proposals for its new budget, and we are working hard to make sure that Lincolnshire does not miss out under those proposals.

Progress on major projects

Teal Park – works remain on programme. The estate roads are now tarmacked and ready to take Siemens traffic. Siemens are expected to start fitting out their new factory in September for staff to move in in the autumn. Offsite highway improvements are being accelerated particularly on Whisby Road where a short term road closure will ensure these works are finished earlier than originally planned.

Workspace provision - LCC's new small office development on the former Lincoln Coal Yard is now well advanced and due to be completed in early December 2012. The building which sits on the former line of the Midland railway has been named Wyvern House after the Wyvern which was the emblem of the Midland Railway. The building will provide business space for up to 7 companies and initial letting enquiries are strong.

The Lincoln East West Link – We have secured ownership of a number of properties critical to the construction of the East West Link. Other acquisitions are being negotiated.

Boston Market Place – The Market Place refurbishment is now complete bar some minor works of finishing off. The reopening was crowned by the erection and switching on of the historic "five lamps".

Grantham Wide Westgate – Public realm works to Wide Westgate in Grantham are proceeding ahead of schedule and once completed will mark another milestone of delivery for the Growth Point Programme.