

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 September 2022

**Statement from: Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for
Economic Development, Environment and Planning**

GROWTH

Economic Infrastructure

The South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone near Holbeach in South Holland continues to generate interest and investment. As Members will recall, the servicing of the whole of the 15-acre phase 1 was completed and the marketing launch took place in Spring 2021. Since then, five of the 12 plots have been sold, which will see a mix of speculative and owner-occupied units for small businesses and will complement the University of Lincoln's two buildings, the Food Centre of Excellence and the Institute of Technology which opened in autumn 2021 forming the start of the 'National Centre for Food Manufacturing - South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone Campus'. A local business also started building its own facility on one of the purchased plots in July.

In addition, the Council has developed out a sixth plot with its new, three-storey innovation centre, 'The Hub', funded by the Government's Getting Building Fund. This will provide 26 high-quality offices, eight laboratories, collaboration space and a café for small and start-up businesses working in the agri-tech sector and related businesses in the food supply chain and will be the flagship of the development.

The Hub was completed in July and a launch event held the same month for intermediary businesses and colleagues. By the end of August lease negotiations had progressed to heads of terms stage for two business tenancies covering five offices and negotiations were underway with two potential café operators.

Following on from the critical mass now developing to create a thriving phase 1, there is also already strong interest in phase 2, the 27-acre site which the Council jointly owns with South Holland District Council. The interest is from both potential investors and occupiers, with the significant scale of the now enlarged development generating this confidence.

In West Lindsey, the penultimate plot at the Foxby Lane Business Park in Gainsborough was sold in May and a mix of offices and industrial units for owner occupiers and renting businesses is now emerging to complement the Council's own Mercury House business centre.

In Boston Borough, the final sale at Kirton Distribution Park phase 1 was completed in 2021 resulting in a mix of distribution, manufacturing, and vehicle sales businesses on the development. This was followed by rapid interest in phases 2 and 3, which has resulted in the Council now having sold the whole of these two phases, subject to contract, to two separate investor / developers with significant job creation plans.

In East Lindsey, the Skegness Countryside Business Park extension, which Members will recall was completed in May 2021, will provide a much-needed opportunity for local employers to

expand in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy. The first plot has already been sold to a local developer who we anticipate will bring forward a development of industrial units for local small businesses in the next few months.

Nearby in Huttoft, the new Boatshed Beach Café, designed help to raise the quality of our tourism offer, was completed in early January, and opened in March and has proved to be a popular destination.

In South Kesteven the Council recently sold a 1-acre plot at Spittlegate Level to Grantham Caravans enabling the business to continue trading from its current location in a market which has grown significantly through and following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Elsewhere in South Kesteven, work took place between November 2021 and August 2022 to spatially reconfigure the Eventus business centre in Market Deeping to provide grow-on space for expanding businesses, and to respond to small businesses' new hybrid accommodation requirements by introducing agile / 'co-working' space for flexible and collaborative working for existing tenants and other local businesses.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants, which total around 140, in our five business centres and many industrial and commercial units. The resilience of local businesses continues to be strong, and the occupancy levels across the portfolio is at least as good as pre-Covid-19 levels.

With the worrying news that two-thirds of households will be in fuel poverty by January, our social and economic well-being now more than ever depends on a secure, affordable, and reliable energy supply. This needs to be capable of meeting our needs for power, heating and transport within homes and business across Greater Lincolnshire now and in the future. With that in mind the Council is taking a leadership role by developing relationships with electricity Distribution Network Operators to understand their plans across Lincolnshire to assist growth in areas, especially where supply is volatile.

The Council is also working with all authorities in Greater Lincolnshire and has commissioned a 'Greater Lincolnshire Energy Option Analysis' study to identify energy constraints and promote local innovative solutions. This forms part of a new work programme that increases our intelligence, solves problems, and breaks down communication barriers that prioritise energy and examines all possible options towards achieving Net Zero.

Economic Development

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Team continue to be busy providing much needed support to local businesses. In between January and end June 2022, 486 businesses have been supported.

This period has seen a number of new support schemes launched including our Next Level Scale Up programme and support for Pubs looking to diversify. For our Manufacturing sector we have launched further phases of the Manufacturing Transformation and Supply Chain Support programmes due to the continued demand. Other launch highlights include our 'Fit for Business' podcast series which helps business owners get to grips with some basic business

acumen, and we have worked with Bishop Grosseteste University to launch the Greater Lincolnshire Social Economy Academy (GLSEA) in March.

Our flagship manufacturing conference in May saw 60 businesses join us at the Kenwick Park Hotel followed by factory tours at Micronclean and Wolds Manufacturing Services. Future flagship events will include a 'Meet the Grower' event aiming to connect local growers with new local markets, the next #GoDigital Conference in March 2023 and an Export Conference in May 2023.

There has been an extension to our European funded business support programme until June 2023, which means that we can continue to provide generalist and specialist advisory support, business development programmes and implementation grants to businesses. However, there is some uncertainty beyond June 2023 as European Funding becomes superseded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which has been allocated to Lower Tier authorities. We have been working closely with District council colleagues to develop a forward plan for ongoing Growth Hub support and we await the outcome of these discussions.

Business owners continue to face significant challenges around increasing costs, recruitment, supply chain issues as well as the ongoing impact of Covid on sickness and absenteeism within the workplace and the Growth Hub Adviser Team provide an important support system for small businesses working their way through these difficulties. That said, on a positive note many businesses that we are working with have ambitious growth and investment plans.

We are very pleased to highlight that our ongoing evaluation activities continue to confirm that our business support services are well received with 92% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the service and 96% of respondents either very or somewhat likely to recommend the service they received / event they attended to a friend or colleague.

As a result of the support provided, between January and end June 2022, 51 jobs were safeguarded. Through the support provided by the Growth Hub Advisers, and even against such a difficult economic backdrop, there continues to be growth in new jobs created with 14 new jobs evidenced in the same period.

During Q3 and Q4, there will be a new Internationalisation Strategy launched with an accompanying action plan which sets out a number of activities to support exporting growth. There will also be a launch of a new asset for the Digital and Tech Sector – 'Digital Lincolnshire' will following the same lines as the ever popular 'Made in Lincolnshire' brochure which will highlight the best businesses and the wider ecosystem of support for businesses in this important growing sector.

Place and Investment

Team Lincolnshire welcomed back physical events in April hosting an industry insight tour around the University of Lincoln's Medical School. Active partnerships and building healthy and prosperous communities was the focus of an event held in Butlins in June which attracted approx. 50 businesses and provided them with valuable insights as to how they can support

their workforce future in relation to health and wellbeing but also around the built environment and developments taking place through the Town Fund Deals.

In July, Team Lincolnshire (TL) worked closely with Lincolnshire County Council and Business Lincolnshire to host an event at the Bacchus Hotel showcasing sustainability and renewables at the site and through local supply chains. The total number of Team Lincolnshire ambassadors now stands at 139. The review of the 2 Year (2020-2022) Team Lincolnshire business plan is currently taking place with a new one planned for launch in the Autumn 2022. To date, Team Lincolnshire members have helped influence and/or develop 92 investment sites across the region, supported in facilitating 7 investment opportunities at the South Lincolnshire FEZ, created 419 business to business opportunities and created 321 new jobs.

Team Lincolnshire was represented at both the MIPIM and UKREiif investment platforms, our promotional drive focussed on the agrifood sector - attracting the vital developers to support us in future proofing this sector in relation to additional cold storage facilities and speculative warehousing. High quality leads were generated, and the team is intensively supporting these businesses to help land these investments in the region.

Overall the Place and Investment Team have serviced 102 inward investment enquiries during 2021/22 and a further 25 enquiries since 1st April 2022. The Team are working closely with 29 active enquiries with 12 of these being foreign investors. They are from a diverse range of sectors with 34% being from the agrifood sector. The South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone is continuing to be promoted by TL to attract investors with a Team Lincolnshire Cares Coffee Club taking place on the opportunities in April, attendance at the launch in July 2022 and spreading the message via social media, newsletters and PR. The Team continue to gain positive feedback from companies whom they have supported to land and/or grow in the county with investor satisfaction rate being 100%. St Modwen recently commented “I can only say that we are highly satisfied with the support given to us by Team Lincolnshire [...] you have played a very important part in making St.Modwen Park Lincoln a very big success. Your support and encouragement is really appreciated. In particular we value the fact that your team, North Kesteven District Council and the County are all joined up. We would go as far to say that nowhere in the country are we made to feel so welcome.”

The Team have been working closely with Steve Brookes our LCC Broadband Officer to support further investment around fibre to the premises. Already successfully supporting City Fibre to land earlier in this year in Lincoln, they are now supporting Swish Fibre with opportunities in Louth and UPP in Lincoln. These investments, along with others, provide communities and businesses with the opportunity for growth in the future.

Visitor Economy.

The recommendations of the Tourism Commission have now been in delivery for nearly 18 months. www.visitlincolnshire.com website goes from strength to strength and much work has been done on its search engine optimisation to ensure that it comes top in most searches.

- The website received 30,751 visits in the last 30 days – an uplift of 104.39% over last year

- Average conversion rate is 17% across all content (1 in 5 people are continuing on to make a booking for accommodation or an attraction)
- 17% traffic is from Lincolnshire, 16% near Lincolnshire, 45% further afield (UK), 2% international, 20% not set on their device
- In the year to date, Jan – July 2022 there have been 165,514 new users, which is a 256.43% increase on 2021.

As part of our product development a new birdwatching area has been developed working with all the local conservation bodies. We have begun with a coastal bird trail which was very positively received when launched at the Rutland Bird Fair. We will follow with three trails on the Wolds, Fens and Limestone Edge thus covering the whole county. The most popular area of the website is walking and working with the LCC countryside team we are looking to make it even better. We are developing the number of videos on the website. There will be a series called 'Looking After Lincolnshire' which will look at individual attractions but in an engaging story-based fashion.

More masterclass videos have been placed on www.business.visitlincolnshire.com, as has the Green Tourism Toolkit which has been very well received. A pilot green tourism ambassador programme has begun on the coast, and this will roll out county-wide in October. The programme upskills staff to go into their business and roll out the toolkit. Building on what we have learnt through www.business.visitlincolnshire.com we developed a programme called Hospitable Boost to support the Visitor Economy sector develop and grow, 29 businesses were engaged in 1-2-few, 1-2-1 and group sessions – 490 hours of support in all. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and all participants felt that they'd got a lot out of it. The next Hospitable Boost programme will begin in October.

The visitor economy still faces considerable challenges, the summer/autumn of 2021 was extremely busy although many businesses struggled and continue to struggle to get staff. 2022 has been steadier with many visitors taking up previously cancelled holidays. We continue to hear very positive reports from first time visitors to Lincolnshire who are very favourably impressed with the county. There is no doubt that spend is down with visitors being very cautious. There is some forward booking with visitors assuming future price rises. The sector continues to struggle to recruit and retain skilled staff, manage the increasing cost of food supplies and the ability of effectively promote their services to the UK and international markets. Work on the Tourism Commission actions will continue to support the development and growth of the sector until March 2023.

We continue through product development to develop new markets, seeing the most potential in Lincolnshire's great outdoors. Previously rather undersold, this market is year-round and it has good fit with some of our recent developments such as North Sea Observatory, Huttoft Boatshed and the coastal birdwatching trail. There are considerable new, exciting opportunities for the sector, in terms of Nature Tourism, which is a growth area and we are well placed to take advantage of, and the long awaited England Coastal Path work across the Greater Lincolnshire coast which will come to fruition over the next two years. This will bring in increased walking and cycling visitors who will require different packages of services offers, so we will need to support and encourage our businesses to develop their product offer to support this market.

Infrastructure Investment

Lincolnshire County Council continues to lead the call to Level Up Lincolnshire. We are making the case for investment in infrastructure through devolution conversations across Greater Lincolnshire which are supported by the production of the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which is now being finalised. The SIDP 2022 process was an open conversation about the economic value and diversity of the area and the role strategic infrastructure investment plays in realizing current and future growth in Greater Lincolnshire. The work seeks to capitalise on the area's unique economic strengths to bring forward further growth.

Planning

Development Management

The bulk of work by the team is responding to requests from developers who wish to bring forward renewable energy schemes in our county area. The requests relate to renewable energy generation and inter-connections projects to provide the necessary infrastructure to achieve this. Additionally, in recent months it is evident that sand and gravel operations in Lincolnshire are rapidly working through their existing permitted reserves and we are starting to see developers seeking to bring forward new sites for future mineral extraction. The waste sector has been through a period of consolidation but applications for developments of further anaerobic digestion plants are anticipated in the near future.

In November 2021 the Planning and Regulation Committee refused an application to produce up to 28 million barrels of oil from under the Lincolnshire Wolds at Biscarthorpe. The application and Committee's decision attracted significant national and local media interest. The developer has appealed against the refusal and at our request, a hearing in front of a Planning Inspector is due to take place in Louth on 11th October 2022.

At the other end of the energy scale the Council has been notified of the intention to bring forward seven significant solar park projects to the county. Due to the size of the projects rather than the planning applications being determined at the local level, these are all classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) which will be determined by the Secretary of State. The County Council as a host authority has been engaged with the developers over the past few months during their pre application engagement process and made it clear to these developers of the particular importance of protecting the County's best and most versatile agricultural land. During the examinations next year we will continue to present a strong case to protect our agricultural land; these projects are planned to use over 12,000 acres of the county's valuable agricultural land and we will be looking very carefully at them, including the carbon balancing arguments of installing vast areas of solar panels on productive arable land in the bread basket of England.

In total, the team are involved with 16 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects at various stages of the Development Consent Order Process. This is one of the highest numbers of NSIP projects in any local authority area in England and is creating resource pressures on the team. We are currently looking into the option of creating a dedicated NSIP team to deal with the already high work load and the expectation that this will increase further as more projects emerge and others progress to examination stage. One NSIP project that has the potential to

bring to Boston the largest energy from waste facility in the country, with a proposed 1.2 million tonnes of refuse derived fuel being transported by boat, is due for a decision by the Secretary of State in October 2022.

Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review

The first stage in the review of the Plan was the preparation of an Issues and Options Consultation Draft. This consultation along with a call for potential new mineral sites took place during the summer. A total of 27 sites have been promoted by the minerals industry and these are now being evaluated to determine which ones are appropriate to take forward to the next stage of site selection. This will be followed by the preparation of a Preferred Options Consultation Draft, which will take into account the findings from the earlier stage. This is programmed to be published for public consultation in spring 2023. Then in spring 2024, the final Draft, known as the Publication Draft, is programmed to be published for public consultation.

The three draft stages of the plan will be subject to the scrutiny of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee and will require the approval of the Executive before they are published for consultation.

Following this final phase of consultation, the approval of the County Council will be sought to submit the Publication Draft for examination to the Secretary of State, together with any proposed modifications arising from the final consultation. It is anticipated that this will take place in summer 2024.

The examination will be conducted by a Planning Inspector and will include a public hearing. On completion of the examination, the Inspector will issue a report setting out whether the plan is sound and legally compliant and, if not, whether it could be made so by the inclusion of modifications. If a positive recommendation is received from the Inspector, the County Council can then consider whether to adopt the plan, but it will only be able to do so if it incorporates any modifications recommended by the Inspector. It is anticipated that this will take place in winter 2024/2025.

Historic Places Team

The team is currently very busy with the planning work for the NSIP projects taking up a lot of staff resource as well as the inevitable pressure associated with projects coming to an end.

Planning and Archaeology

We continue to provide advice to West Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council in Lincolnshire and two Nottinghamshire districts (Newark & Sherwood and Bassetlaw). As we have reported previously, we are providing more and more advice to Mansfield Borough Council which provides a further source of income for the team. Other Councils seeking to obtain their archaeological advice from us further demonstrates the high professional standards of the team.

We continue to provide advice to the LCC Planning Services team on quarries and waste proposals as well as our own developments, including conservation advice on LCC properties.

The quarry work is proving particularly busy as mineral operators look to meet the demand for sand and aggregate.

We continue to provide advice to government agencies and others responsible for change in our historic environment. The Countryside Stewardship work has proven to be extremely time-consuming this year.

We also provide advice on archaeology to government agencies and utility companies. Anglian Water through their Strategic Pipeline Alliance are working on a pipeline which will eventually take water from the north of their region (Elsham) to the Suffolk/Essex border. A lot of archaeological work is underway to mitigate the impact of this scheme.

Historic Environment Record

Work has begun on the concordance project with the National Record for the Historic Environment (held by Historic England).

The Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer website continues to be very popular. Just recently we have added some additional features although the level of use means that we keep exceeding our data usage allowance for mapping. We are now exploring ways in which we can subscribe to a mapping provider to put the mapping on a more secure footing.

Inns on the Edge

This project is drawing to a close. The gazetteer of pubs and beer houses in the study area now includes 312 entries. Most of the site visits have been completed and any surviving remains have been noted and/or recorded.

This project has really captured people's imagination. As well as the successful exhibition at the North Sea Observatory in late May we also had a successful exhibition week at Lincoln University and Skegness Tower Gardens Pavilion.

Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

The historic towns survey will also be completed by the end of September 2022 and we are turning our thoughts to what the results of the EUS might be used for.

The end-of-project symposium was on 30 August 2022 at The Collection. We want to publicise the successes of the project to as wide an audience as possible. We hope it will be a convivial event that really shows how valuable the work of the EUS is and will be in the future.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) in the Historic Places Team is funded by the British Museum, through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), to identify and record objects collected by members of the public from across Lincolnshire. Most artefacts are found by metal detector users and some fall within the definition of treasure and will go through a Coroner's Inquest. The FLO produces the reports upon which the Coroner will base his/her decision.

We have been offered some additional funding by the British Museum and we hope to recruit a Finds Assistant for a year in the near future.

Some finds are of such significance that the location from which they were discovered requires investigation. This is what happened at Cammeringham where a previously unknown Anglo-Saxon cemetery was investigated following some finds being recovered by metal detectorists. These finds prove what a wealth of archaeological artefacts remains to be discovered across the county. Following the report of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Thoresway, in the Wolds, we have now made a proposal to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for resources to undertake a project on these important sites. We hope to make this application later this year so that we can carry out fieldwork in 2023.

Natural Environment and Countryside

Flood and Water Management

The County Council recognises the major importance of the environmental and economic of the coast to the future of the county. Officers continue to engage with our partners to ensure that the appropriate strategies are developed to manage the risks of coastal flooding both in the present day and into the future to secure resilience for coastal communities against the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

The partnership programme with the Environment Agency and the University of Lincoln is currently putting together a jointly agreed and transparent evidence base, that will help Lincolnshire's coast plan how it can best adapt to meet the challenges of climate change, and continue to thrive and realise its potential economic contribution to the region and the country. Currently various modelling scenarios to cover all climate eventualities are being undertaken and mapping of potential impacts and key effects on communities, local economy and households from the present day up to 2070 with key milestones of 2030, 2050 and 2070.

In a similar vein the Humber 2100+ project is currently generating baseline data to understand the risk of tidal flood risk affecting the estuary and surrounding land prior to developing a range of strategic options.

Wider engagement with stakeholders and communities is expected in the new year and members will be kept informed as both these programme progresses.

The need for understanding the coastline and its dynamics are clear and that lessons from the past are built upon and not forgotten. I am pleased to inform members that the Council will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of the devastating effects of the 1953 floods on January 31st 2023. Following a remembrance and thanksgiving service at Ingoldmells Church, an exhibition regarding the floods will be hosted by the Lord Lieutenant at the North Sea Observatory in Chapel St Leonards; which will provide an opportunity to not just reflect on the past but to highlight the important work that various agencies continue to deliver and develop to keep our coastal communities safe.

In the last month Anglian Water have begun providing the public with information on the need for a new Lincolnshire Reservoir and at the start of the month landowners within the preferred site area have been contacted, as have the local county, district members and the local MPs. In the coming month more details will be released regarding the preferred location

of the reservoir. Officers will continue to work to ensure that the reservoir proposals will include additionality aside from water resource storage in terms of potential for recreation, economic investment, land management and biodiversity.

The Council has now also committed to working with partners on the developing Future Fens Integrated Adaptation project. Led by the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Water Resources East this project will seek to share knowledge, resources and ambition, to create an integrated approach to water management for the Fens, that will deliver resilience and adaptation to the changing climate; and has the potential to be the most radical approach to water management in this landscape since it was first drained with the help of Dutch engineers in the 17th century. In particular county officers will be leading on the workstream reviewing how work in the fenland area will align to other regional mitigation actions.

The recent storm event in late August demonstrated the effect the dry weather has on the ability to manage rainfall with the impacts of surface water run off clearly demonstrated in the flooding across pockets of the county, most notably in Spalding and Market Rasen. The causes of the flooding will be investigated by the council as part of our work under section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act.

Sustainability and Natural Environment

The Council continues to deliver against the Green Master Plan aims and ambitions and have made significant progress in various areas; including working with Business Lincolnshire on a project to support tourism businesses to install electric vehicle charging points and to link to the Tourism Green Ambassadors scheme. At the present time the council has reduced its carbon emissions by 68% compared to its 1990 baseline. This is down to proactive decision making and early investment in technology, and that is a message for the future.

In late August we also learned that our combined bid with the Midlands Connect, regarding funding for electric vehicle infrastructure, was one of the 9 successful bids from a pool of 42; which will give the authority the opportunity to aid communities with the provision of charging points at various locations which are currently under consideration.

In terms of carbon reduction measures by the council, the Sustainability team are putting together the revised carbon management plan for the period post April 2023. In doing so the team is working with other council services to establish baseline data against which progress can be measured, and in particular working with Waste and Highways services to consider opportunities for reducing carbon emissions.

Over the summer the Council also commissioned a schools engagement project regarding energy efficiency delivered by Zest and Rhubarb Theatre with the results of the project being showcased around the County at various events and locations. The team are also engaging with communities through the Zero Carbon Parishes project, working with twelve parishes around the county to develop small scale projects to reduce carbon emissions at a local level. Each parish taking part gets a carbon footprint for their area and then projects to reduce carbon emissions. Projects identified have included energy efficiency at village halls, creating wildlife areas, funding solar panels on the roofs of parish buildings and setting up a bicycle repair project.

Further to the Environment Act 2021 the Council is beginning to learn more about our role in the development of the regional local nature recovery strategy which a new system of spatial strategies for nature which will plan, map, and help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment in nature's recovery. The strategies are expected to include the wider environmental benefits of nature recovery, including nature-based solutions that counter the effects of climate change, such as natural flood management. These strategies have the potential to bring together land use planning and land management across Greater Lincolnshire as a region. Initial conversations with Natural England and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership have begun and baseline evidence gathering is already underway.

Countryside Access

Access to the countryside remains a valued resource and visitor numbers across the summer have not decreased significantly in the post pandemic period. Demand for high quality maintained routes remains not just across traditional tourist locations such as the Wolds and the coast, but also those routes highly valued by local communities for general recreation and exercise.

Stronger links to the green tourism agenda are being made and a review of the Council's principal long distance trail, the Viking Way, is ongoing with route alignment, signage and infrastructure improvements being made.

We have also now been informed that all but one of the England Coast Path National Trail sections have been approved by the Secretary of State, and work to establish the path on the ground will commence shortly. Whilst timing of the establishment works will be delivered around various environmental constraints it is hoped that this process will be completed within an 18-month period.

Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Within our Wolds partnership team the Government funded initiative, Farming in Protected Landscapes, has continues to award grants to occupiers within the AONB to help them diversify their income streams, delivering schemes consistent with the wider AONB Management Plan. The scheme is aimed at helping grow businesses, creating green jobs, enhancing biodiversity and investment in infrastructure to attract more diverse visitors to support local economies.

The designation of the AONB was made 50 years ago next year. The partnership is putting together a programme of events to celebrate the importance the AONB to the communities that live there, including the work of the partnership in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and character of the landscape.

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