

District Councillors Report Swaton March 2026

Outcome of Sleaford Westholme By-election

The by-election for Sleaford Westholme took place on Thursday, 12 March, 2026 and concluded that Sandy Buchanan has been elected as the representative for this ward. We trust you will join us in making our new Member feel welcome on their new path here at NKDC.

Any changes to the allocation of seats will be shared with Group Leaders ahead of the Annual Council meeting.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

The Government continues with its seven-week consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation bids that it has asked for from the remaining two tier county areas in England (including Lincolnshire). You can find the Government's webpage with its consultation questions here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-lincolnshire-north-lincolnshire-and-north-east-lincolnshire>

The consultation is open until 11.59pm on Thursday, 26 March, 2026.

Residents of North Kesteven can find in their forthcoming NewsNK a summary overview of the four proposals impacting most on the district area. The full detail can be found in the proposals accessed via www.greaterlincolnshireLGRhub.org and at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/LGR

Council Tax

A Council Tax increase of between 7p and 10p a week for most householders has been agreed on the District Council's share of the bill.

In setting the Council's budget for the year from April, the Full Council of District Councillors agreed a 2.96% increase in NKDC's element of the overall bill.

For three quarters of homes - in bands A to C - this will give a total annual charge of between £133.44 and £177.92 for the coming year. That's an annual increase of between £3.84 and £5.12 a year, for these households, depending on banding.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Riparian Ownership

As you may know, residents and land owners with land that adjoins a river, stream or ditch are likely to be a riparian owner which has important legal rights and responsibilities for maintaining that watercourse.

Failure to maintain a watercourse can have serious consequences - including increased flood risks to neighbouring properties and damage to infrastructure.

By taking care of these waterways, it helps protect homes, habitats and our wider community.

Food waste recycling: caddy deliveries begin

The deliveries have begun with residents whose usual collection day is a Monday. The team is working hard on the caddy rollout, with new colleagues having recently joined NKDC involved in packing, loading and delivering the caddies to residents' doorsteps.

It will take a few weeks to deliver the caddies to every address in North Kesteven, so please bear with us as we undertake this huge project. You can find more information about caddy delivery on our food waste recycling page. Also keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Once your caddies arrive, residents are reminded not to start using them until the week before the collections start on March 30:

- **March 23: start using your caddies**
- Week commencing March 30: first food waste collection, on your usual bin day

We want everyone to know about the deliveries starting, so please share this information with residents in your wards.

Some lucky residents will also find something extra in their food waste caddy when it's delivered. We've hidden lucky orange tickets in a random selection of caddies, and if you find one then you'll win one of 35 fantastic prizes donated by local businesses.

Be on the lookout for fake bank notes

Lincolnshire Police have recently been made aware of an increase in counterfeit bank notes in circulation. The notes have been used to pay for fuel, fast food and used in supermarkets for groceries.

Mainly twenty pound notes are the ones being used.

Some key things to look out for include:

Hologram image change - tilt the note from side to side and check the words change between the value of the note and pounds

See through window - check the foil is gold on the front of £5 and £10 notes, gold and blue on the front of £20 and silver on the back of all notes

You can get more info from the [Bank of England website](#) on how to check bank notes.

Sleaford Westholme By-Election

An election to fill the vacancy for the Sleaford Westholme Ward of North Kesteven District Council has now been called, following the death of Councillor Ann Mear.

The election is contested; a poll will take place on Thursday, 12 March, 2026 between 7am and 10pm.

The Statement of Persons Nominated will be published later today.

More information on the by-election can be found on the following link: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/council-news/2026/02/district-council-election-sleaford-0>

Digital Hubs

NKDC run six digital hubs across the district, where residents can receive FREE help using their devices and getting online safely. We recognise that people are increasingly being asked to utilise services online, but we still have lots of residents who aren't able to confidently use the internet.

Trained staff and dedicated volunteers are on hand to offer friendly, welcoming, and non-judgemental support to anyone who would like some digital help. Additionally, the Digital Hubs in partnership with the National Databank, can offer free SIM-cards preloaded with data to those experiencing data poverty. Details of the hub opening times and locations are:

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| Sleaford Digital Hub | Where: Mosaic Youth Hub, Riverside Shopping Centre, Sleaford, NG34 7PD | When: Every Tuesday from 10:30am - 12:00pm |
| Osournby Digital Hub | Where: Osournby Village Hall, London Road, Osournby, Sleaford NG34 0DP | When: Every Tuesday from 1:00pm - 2:30pm |
| Metheringham Digital Hub | Where: Metheringham Library and Community Hub, High St, Metheringham, Lincoln LN4 3EA | When: Every Wednesday from 10:30am - 12:00pm |
| Heckington Digital Hub | Where: Heckington Methodist Church Hall, Church Street, Heckington NG34 9RF | When: Every Wednesday from 1:00pm - 2:30pm |
| Ruskington Digital Hub | Where: Ruskington Methodist Church, Chapel St, Ruskington, Sleaford NG34 9DX | When: Every Thursday from 10:30am - 12:00pm |
| Waddington Digital Hub | Where: Waddington Community Hub, High St, Waddington, Lincoln LN5 9RF | When: Every Thursday from 1:00pm - 2:30pm |

Further information can be found on the website: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/your-community/digital-hubs>