**CARLBY PARISH MEETING**

*NOVEMBER 2022 - Report from Charlotte Vernon, County Councillor for Colsterworth Rural Division*

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide you with a report tonight for your meeting.

Please always feel free to contact me by email or telephone if there is anything that I can assist with, or that you would like me to look into.

**County Council Wide Matters**

**Cost Of Living -** There is help available for residents struggling with the cost of living from the council and other organisations. LCC have a large section on their website with some really useful links including how to apply for Free school Meals, Financial support for carers, help with childcare costs, the household support fund and the HAF (Holidays Activities and Food Programme). There is also information about the emotional support available through local organisations and SKDC have more information too. The Government has also announced that a new Household Support Fund (HSF) grant will be made available to county councils and unitary authorities in England to support those most in need.

Lincolnshire has been allocated £5.46m for this third round of the HSF, which covers the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. This time, the government has not ringfenced any of this funding for particular groups of people. However, local authorities are asked to give particular consideration to groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support.

On this basis, Lincolnshire County Council is currently working with district councils to identify and agree the most appropriate methods for distributing this grant funding, as there is also a requirement to provide access to the funding via an application process.

Applications for support are not being invited until a process can be put in place as other organisations may be best placed to provide this on behalf of the councils. Further details on how the funding will be targeted and how people can apply will be shared once available. Residents facing financial difficulties can also visit <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/> for details of the other support available

**Fixmystreet** – Please do continue to report concerns regarding potholes, or damage to the roads via this website. New app coming very soon which I hope to be able to tell you more about at the next meeting!

**Avian Flu** – Unfortunately, there are now a number of positive cases in Lincolnshire. Anyone who keeps birds commercially or at home is advised to take measures to reduce the risk of the disease spreading. LCC are asking the public to be particularly vigilant about wild birds which may be infected by the disease. If you see dead wild birds, do not touch them, and report them to the Animal and Plant Health Agency. Avian flu primarily affects birds and the risk to the general public’s health is very low, but reports from the public can help track the spread of the disease and prevent it infecting poultry and other captive birds. You can report dead birds to APHA on 03459 33 55 77.

**Part-Night Streetlight Adjustments -** Quick reminder that with the clocks going back last week, this will temporarily affect the timings of the county's part-night streetlights. Over the next few weeks, you might notice that the part-night streetlights start to go off and come on at different times. This isn’t due to a technical fault. The street lights have sensors that monitor the number of daylight hours, which is how they set their internal clock. During the autumn, the lights enter a period of adjustment, when their timings may vary as they adapt to the switch to Greenwich Mean Time.