

## **Rob's Monthly County Update – January 2020**

### **Information for Parish Councils and local Communities**

(Please feel free to post it on parish websites)

#### **Debbie Barnes becomes Lincolnshire County Council chief executive:**

The appointment of the former interim head of paid service, Debbie Barnes, to chief executive was approved at a meeting of the full council.

Debbie has worked for the authority since 2006, becoming director of children's services in 2012. During her time with the authority, she has played an instrumental role in transforming Lincolnshire's children's services into a beacon of excellence.

The service was rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2019, with Lincolnshire leading on the development of social work practice nationally, helping Rotherham, Tower Hamlets and Northamptonshire to improve their services. In 2018, Debbie was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in light of her contribution to children's services.

Debbie said: "I'm delighted to have been selected as chief executive of Lincolnshire County Council. Born in Lincolnshire, I am passionate about our county's prosperity. Lincolnshire is a great place to live, work, visit and bring up families. I'm thrilled to be able to work with our ambitious council and partners to deliver an exciting agenda for our county."

#### **Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue:**

An £8m investment is set to make local firefighters among the best-equipped and best-protected in the country. As well as 33 new Scania fire appliances being rolled out across the county, fire crews will have state-of-the-art "Coldcut Cobra" units. These ultra-high-pressure cutting extinguishers allow fires to be tackled from the outside of buildings and other enclosed spaces, with the situation more quickly controlled. That leads to a drastic reduction in water damage to homes.

#### **Over 50,000 Lincolnshire children protected through immunisation:**

Immunisations are giving children and teenagers in Lincolnshire the best possible defence against dangerous illness

The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) visit more than 360 schools in the county to give children free vaccines against serious illnesses.

Over the last school year, the team administered over 50,000 vaccines to help protect youngsters against diseases like flu, HPV, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and meningitis.

#### **Be prepared for winter:**

All types of weather can affect you and those around you. Make sure you're prepared by checking the [MetOffice WeatherReady](#) tips and advice on travel, your home, and health and wellbeing. (source: [LCC Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service](#))

#### **Post World War II life in Lincolnshire?**

The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is looking for people to contribute to an exhibition exploring how VE Day and the aftermath of World War II shaped life in Lincolnshire.

'Memories of VE Day and Beyond: How WWII Shaped Lincolnshire' will open at the museum in May 2020, commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

The project team is keen to feature people's memories and stories of what life in Lincolnshire was like in the period immediately following the war, looking for experiences from 1945-1954. [Share your stories of Lincolnshire life after World War II](#)

### **Fire service launches new plan to protect Lincolnshire**

More focus will be put on preventing fires in high rise and heritage buildings in Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue is compiling its community plan - also known as the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) - which looks at the main risks to lives, properties, infrastructure and the environment in Lincolnshire. The report is now available with a brief online survey for people to give their feedback.

Chief Fire Officer, Les Britzman, said: "Our community plan is our commitment to our communities that as a top performing fire service, we will continue to focus on delivering a professional and innovative service, which is driven by our knowledge of the particular risks the county faces."

Cllr Nick Worth, executive councillor for emergency services at the county council, said: "The tragedy at Grenfell Tower in 2017 and the Notre Dame fire in 2019 remind us of our critical role in protecting communities and the importance and implications of our decision making.

"As well as knowing our risks, the plan shows how using our resources to the best effect, along with things like training, policies, engagement and prevention can help reduce or eliminate these risks."

The key risks identified for the county are:

house fires

- road accidents
- flooding and severe weather
- health and wellbeing
- non-domestic fires
- malicious acts and deliberate fires

With the additional risks of:

- high rise buildings
- heritage sites

added for 2020 onwards.

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue is now interested to hear feedback from Lincolnshire residents, community groups and organisations. The community plan is available at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr) with a brief online survey to complete.

ENDS

