



“WHAT DOES MY COUNCILLOR DO FOR ME?”

ANNUAL REPORT 2009 CLIFF VILLAGES
Report from your local, Independent Councillor,

MARIANNE OVERTON

Thank You!

Thank you very much for your support on our successful campaigns this year: At Leadenham Amenity site the contract was ending. Some councillors said it should close to save money. 750 people responded and signed the petition to keep it open at weekends, which has now been agreed. We have clearly shown that we are prepared to fight to keep our local facilities.

Thank you also for your response to our campaign in support of more government funding for Lincolnshire police, which was fairly successful, enabling a lower tax increase of 4.99% this year. Thanks also for support on library and heritage services, where we have made some progress, but more to go.

New facilities

Youth Activities

Wellingore and Navenby and Branston Youth Groups are now receiving good support from the County Council. I still help run the Wildlife Watch Group that I started 18 years ago. We provide fun activities for 8-13 year olds to enjoy learning about their environment, and hopefully they will want to help conserve it in the future.

Cliff Villages Voluntary Car Scheme

This is now up and running, supported by all six Parish Councils. (Navenby keeps its own service unchanged.) There are ten voluntary drivers providing help for those who have difficulty using public transport for the journey they need. Phone Co-ordinator Edward Hennell on 01522 723365.

Rural Transport

People told me that rural transport was a key issue and I have called for improvements in all quarters. We now have a new service Call Connect (LCC) and we have kept Dial-a-ride. I also fought successfully at LCC and NKDC for all day concessionary fares including people with disabilities, rather than the government minimum, vital in our rural communities.

Congratulations to Navenby GP's!

The new surgery is large, smart and open, with good access and good parking, positioned on the A607 next to the bus stop opposite the John Cutforth playing field. Brilliant!

As a non-executive Director on NHS Lincolnshire, which commissions all health care for Lincolnshire, I have strongly supported more local services

New Pharmacy

This is now open next to Ellie's in the High Street. It is managed by Jo West from Canwick with three very helpful pharmacists, Mel, Kate and Rosemary, assisted by full-time technician, Teresa. They offer health advice, support and simple diagnostic tests. The complex rules on prescribing are national, but local health advice will be useful.

Speed indicator advice

The Cliff Village and the Heath Clusters of Parish Councils both purchased Speed Indicator Devices. These reactive signs remind people to keep within the speed limit and they do seem to work. They also record speeds and when a problem is found, they will be followed by enforcement.

Grant Success!

Welbourn Village Hall

Welbourn is our fourth village hall project to succeed in obtaining a hefty grant (£300,000 this time). The fund-raising programme of activities is on my County Council website.

Our area has done exceptionally well in getting much-needed grants over the past few years, thanks to excellent team efforts.

The Navenby Hub project is being reworked into a new exciting plan, which I am hopeful will succeed.

Small Businesses

As business champion with the East Midlands Development Agency, I receive information and training which I am using to better support our small businesses. Business Link will visit and offer free advice.

Highways

The footpath Navenby to Boothby was much requested and at last properly improved. Next major project has to be the A607. To add your voice ring 01522 782070. Maintenance work has continued and new works completed in Wellingore and Welbourn.

Budget

Our County Council had a good grant from central government, over 15% over 2 years, moving towards getting our fair share. As leader of the Independents, I proposed zero increase in tax, whilst improving services. This uses the government grant, efficiency savings and does not put any more into the already burgeoning reserves. (£43m) Conservatives went for a 1.75% increase, which does add a fresh £5.7m from our money into reserves. Improvements I have worked on this year include efficiency savings, better highways, health and adult care, supporting carers, the community strategy, transport and waste

management. I proposed to better support culture and heritage which is relatively low in funding and performance, but Council did not agree to that part.

The District Council had a smaller settlement this year, having bigger increases in the past. I agreed with the proposals which included efficiency savings and all of the items that our Independent group had planned since last April. These included support for local businesses, for community policing, greener housing, including a flagship project, energy-saving measures, support staff for our communities through grants, volunteer training at Mrs Smith's Cottage, free collection of recyclables from village halls, charities and schools and better car parking in Sleaford. A good effort!

Newsletter Wanted?

I send out monthly newsletters to let people know what is going on. Also to be easily accessible for you to let me know what you think, so that I can better represent your views. If you know anyone else who should be included, please let me know.

And for humour!

I have a joke page on my County Council website and would be grateful of any clean ones that you come across! It also has news, local events, photos and a letters page.
area:<http://councillors.lincolnshire.gov.uk/cllrm.overton>

Very best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy Easter,

Marianne

Cllr Mrs Marianne Overton

Leader of Lincolnshire Independents;
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