

Annual District Councillor Report 2026/2027

**Cllr Amelia Bailey – NKDC District Councillor for Ashby,
Digby, Dorrington & Scopwick Ward.**

Contact [Cllr amelia bailey@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr_amelia_bailey@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

NSIP Solar Farm Applications

Update on the status of the 4 'live' NSIP solar farm applications within NKDC.

Beacon Fen

The examination phase ended 23rd February 2026 following a series of Issue Specific Hearings and written submissions including the NKDC Local Impact Report and Written Representation. The project is now at the 'recommendation' stage (up to 3 months) – being the stage where the Examining Authority will prepare a report and recommendation for the Secretary of State. The recommendation stage will therefore end, at the latest, on 23rd May 2026.

Springwell

The examination stage ended on 8th October 2025, and the Inspector's recommendation was issued to the Secretary of State (the 3-month deadline being 9 January 2026). An approval was granted by the Secretary of State at 9th of April. This process will now be challenged via Judicial Review.

Fosse Green

The project is currently at the examination stage with deadline 1 recently passed. There were a series of further Issue Specific Hearings, Open Floor Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings on 11, 12 and 13 March 2026 and an accompanied site inspection (ASI) on 10th March. The Council will be represented at the ASI and the ISHs. A copy of the agenda for the forthcoming hearings can be found at [XE07 – Rule 13 Hearing notification - Notification Text](#) and the Council's submissions to date can be found in the examination library [EN010154-000223-Fosse Green Energy Exam Library.pdf](#)

Leoda/Leadenham

I can only assume that following the issue report of the Judicial Review challenge in respect of the Springwell Solar NSIP, Leoda has currently suspended this project. Please see the letter I have received from Leoda below:

Dear Cllr Bailey,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to provide you with an update on the Leoda Solar project.

As you may be aware, Leoda Solar Farm is a proposed new solar project on land situated northwest of Leadenham in Lincolnshire. The project could power up to 143,000 homes annually, supporting the UK government's net zero targets and strengthening our energy security by providing reliable and affordable energy at a time when we need it most.

Leoda Solar Farm would also feature a battery energy storage system (BESS), which will store surplus energy for use during peak demand, increasing the resilience of the national power grid.

The project is being developed by Leoda Solar Farm Ltd, which was founded by Telis Energy UK, a green energy company that is transforming the UK's energy landscape with innovative hybrid energy hubs to help solve grid challenges. Telis Energy UK is part of the Telis Energy Group, a European green energy development platform with a target development pipeline of 10 gigawatts across Europe by 2030, delivered by local teams through four subsidiaries across the UK, France, Germany and Italy.

An update on the project timeline

*Following ongoing environmental and technical work, **and in light of the evolving policy and regulatory landscape**, the consultation process for Leoda Solar Farm has been paused and the project has been withdrawn from the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) process. The Statutory Consultation previously planned for early 2026 will also be postponed.*

This pause provides additional time to further review and refine the proposals, reflecting the project team's commitment to developing a high-quality scheme.

The Leoda Solar Farm project has not been cancelled. Withdrawing from the NSIP process at this stage allows the project team to focus on continuing environmental and technical surveys, with findings informing the PEIR.

Engagement with local stakeholders remains a key priority for the project. The project team will continue to work closely with landowners, tenant farmers and other stakeholders and any survey activity will continue to be undertaken in line with existing arrangements.

At this stage, it is not possible to confirm specific timings for future consultation. The project team expects to hold the Statutory Consultation once the ongoing

environmental and technical assessment work have progressed further. Further updates, including details of future consultation activity, will be shared in due course. The project website will remain live throughout the pause and will continue to provide information about the project and how to contact the team. In addition, the project team remains available to respond to any enquiries. While consultation activity is on hold, questions and requests for information can still be submitted.

You can contact the Leoda Solar Farm Community Relations Team via email at info@leodasolarfarm.co.uk, by calling the freephone number 0800 1577352 or via writing to Freepost LEODA SOLAR FARM (no stamp required).

Thank you for your continued interest in the project. We will be in contact again to provide a further update and to outline next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Gilmour

Head of Development

Leoda Solar Farm Ltd

Area Visits

At the beginning of the year I met with NKDC's Chief Executive Officer Kath Marriott and we visited the area I cover in person and discussed the issues raised by residents within these areas. In addition to this further inspections were made in person by NKDC on 30th April, were made for the following areas:

- Harrowby Close, Digby
- Dixon Avenue & Playgarth Estate, Dorrington
- St Clements Close, Rowston
- Springfield Estate, Scopwick

As always maintenance of grass verges, paths and roads remain a high priority and I urge residents to continue to immediately report any areas of concern or repair to either myself at cllr_amelia_bailey@n-kesteven.gov.uk and I will pass then onto the area County Councillor Cllr.kendrick@lincolnshire.gov.uk or you can report them directly with photographic evidence via <https://fixmystreet.com>. Potholes should be 4cm or 40 mm deep to be fixed.

Housing

Last July 2025, following a planned inspection, the Regulator published a C3 judgement. Whilst NKDC were fully compliant across 3 of the 5 consumer standards, the Regulator determined a serious failing relating to the data NKDC held on our homes and some areas of weakness.

Since then, NKDC have been working with the Regulator implementing an improvement plan and have made progress across the whole of that plan. Progress has been shared at regular intervals with Resources Scrutiny Committee, Audit Committee and Executive Board, along with significant involvement with engaged tenants.

The full judgement published today 29/04/2026, can be accessed - [Link to RSH Judgement - C2 NKDC](#)

NKDC are now preparing an action plan to address the remaining weaknesses, but have already implemented a contractor improvement plan and embarking on a Tenant Census to capture additional information on vulnerabilities and needs.

NKDC will include an article in MembersLink, they have written to all tenants and adding information to our corporate website & social media accounts, NKDC has key messages to in relation to their current position, being:

- Safety has never been compromised, we have very high levels of compliance across all health and safety requirements, the former serious failing only related to data held.
- Full compliance has been maintained across Tenancy, Neighbourhood & Community, and Rent Standards

Areas for further work now relate to contractor performance and knowing our tenants better, using that information to shape services.

If you have anything you would like more details, please contact [Tracy Aldrich@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.Aldrich@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

Local Plans

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee embarked upon a review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan in October 2025. This decision was primarily made in response to changes to national policies and housing requirements and will ensure that the residents of Central Lincolnshire will continue to benefit from properly planned development, rather than by planning by appeal.

The work on reviewing local plans starts with developing evidence before it enters formal stages of the process, including public consultation and examination. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team is in the process of commencing work on gathering evidence to support the review.

A key part of this is to start work on site allocations with a 'call for sites' – a public consultation was undertaken between December 2025 and February 2026 which asked for landowners, developers, agents, other organisations and members of the public to submit sites they wish to be considered for allocation. These sites can be for housing, employment, new settlements, and more.

It is important to note that inclusion of a site in the assessment does not guarantee its allocation in the Local Plan nor the granting of planning permission.

The details of the call for sites and the forms for submission can be viewed at <https://central-lincs.hub.arcgis.com/pages/call-for-sites>. Should you have any questions please get in touch with the Local Plans Team at talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk.

Policing

The Government's reforms to policing - Facial recognition technology will be rolled out across England and Wales from next year - The 43 police forces will be cut to around 12 "mega forces" who will only focus on major crime - "Local Policing Areas" will be included in these forces in each town, city or borough who will focus only on local crime, such as shoplifting or anti-social behaviour - A British FBI will be established, called the National Police Service, to bring together national policing functions to tackle fraud, terrorism and organised crime, with Regional Crime Hubs built into its structure - All police officers must hold a "Licence to Practice" to remain in the force to ensure they're trained to tackle emerging crimes, with those who fail removed from duty - Police will be required to reach serious incidents within 15 minutes in cities and 20 minutes in rural areas, and answer 999 calls within 10 seconds - A National Public Order Commander will be appointed in the NPS to coordinate responses to riots - A new national centre called "Police AI" will roll out AI across all police forces from April to cut bureaucracy and speed up investigations - A new national forensics service will be created to end "postcode lotteries" in forensic capability - Non-crime hate incidents will be abolished and replaced with a new framework so police spend less time "policing" tweets - Police governance will transfer to directly elected mayors or Policing and Crime Boards made up of council leaders

Trees in Conservation Areas

I would like to inform you of an upcoming change to managing notifications of works to Trees in a Conservation Area (TCA).

As these are a **notification** of intended works rather than a formal application, NKDC are only able to consider if they believe the trees in question should be protected or not. The assessment is made on its amenity value to the area; this must be undertaken within 6 weeks of correspondence being received. As this is the case, there is no requirement to consult on the matter and therefore NKDC will be removing this step from their process. They will still write to notify you of any intended works.

You will still be able to make comments to TCA's if you wish however, there will not be a consultation period on these applications. The application process for trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order, will remain the same as it is currently and NKDC will still invite you to make comments. This new process for TCAs will commence from the 5th of May 2026.

If you would like any further information about this letter or our procedures, please contact Tree Services at NKDC on 01529 414155

Devolution

We are anticipating the decision for Greater Lincolnshire to be sometime May-July 2026. For full and comprehensive information relating to Devolution, please see here: [Devolution and local government reorganisation | North Kesteven District Council](#)