

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(vi) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Report by Councillor Fay Smith, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place

Introduction

The areas covered by my Portfolio have changed relatively recently, so I would ask members to be aware of that. I hope that, despite the steep learning curve I have had this year, members will find my report no less full and informative.

Open Space Management

A significant new addition to my portfolio this year has been a range of duties associated with open space management. To give members greater clarity on both the functions and the work undertaken in these areas, I have split the functions out into key areas as below.

Allotments

The council's allotment service is now coming towards the end of a period of major investment. Having sold the site on Riseholme Road the Council has invested all the income into other allotment sites, addressing key concerns from existing tenants and the allotments strategy. This has been a million pound initiative undertaken over two winters (so as to minimise disruption for tenants). Work has included new roadways, new boundaries, and new water supplies. Although it has not been possible to address all demands, this still represents the single biggest investment in Lincoln's allotment services that has ever been made, and shows a commitment to both the service and the Council's vision of enhancing the city as a remarkable place to live.

Key within this investment is the opening up of a new allotment site in the south of the city. For historic reasons the south end of the city has not been well catered for in terms of allotments, and so a key element of the investment was to establish a new site central to the Birchwood estate. A proposal has been drafted for consultation, and feedback assessed. It is anticipated that the new site will open this spring.

Equipped Play Areas

The Council continues to maintain some 25 equipped play areas across the city, ensuring that British Standards are maintained at all times for installation, inspections and maintenance.

High levels of responsibility and care unfortunately means relatively high costs, and this does impact on the council's ability to expand the service and expedite repairs at times. Working closely with the Property Services section, which orders the repairs, safety is always the number one concern for this service. Although it is necessary to close play areas off at times, officers are under clear instruction not to

bow to public pressure to re-open sites unless the necessary safety requirements are in place.

The play area in Hartsholme Country Park was one of the play areas that had to be fenced off following an inspection and a requirement to completely replace the surface of the play area.

Unfortunately this has taken some time to arrange but I am pleased to report that the work is now progressing and should be completed by Easter.

Maintaining high standards of what is in some places aging equipment is increasing costs as indicated below, which shows total recreation budget for repairs and how much of that has been spent on equipped play areas.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 to date
Budget 'Recreation Grounds'	£68,530	£140,520	£71,930
Expenditure on Play Areas	£61,540	£118,125	£138,318

A citizen panel survey in July 2018 showed that 73% of respondents considered the standard of outdoor play provision to be of a 'Very or Fairly Satisfied' standard.

Parks

This year has been yet another good year for Lincoln's parks, with two Green Flag awards achieved in 2018, and three being applied for in 2019.

The Arboretum continues to be known for its high quality historic setting and Hartsholme Country Park has yet again weathered the storm of a year of heavy public demand, including a very successful events programme.

Boultham Park is nearing the end of its capital investment programme, with only snagging works now outstanding. As the project and partnership with Linkage Community Trust settle, the news of this innovative partnership is spreading and attracting interest. Two other councils from the west midlands have visited recently, interested in setting up similar working arrangements with charities. A national first for Lincoln.

The next stage for Boultham Park is the development of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for finances to undertake restoration of the lake and its surrounds (taken out of the original project). This remains very much unfinished business for the park, and it is anticipated that a bid will be made this August, with a decision by the lottery expected at the end of the year. If this timeline is achieved, and if successful this would mean work taking place in 2020/2021, and an activity programme going beyond that. At the moment competition for funds looks to be strong, so whilst cautiously optimistic, we are expending the appropriate time to ensure that the merits of our bid are as good as they can possibly be. There is, of course, no guarantee of a successful outcome.

Hartsholme Country Park and Camp Site

The park continues to be a vibrant and exciting place to visit, as popular as ever, due in no small part to the efforts of the staff and volunteers on site. As always management and maintenance in the face of high visitor numbers is a real challenge for staff, as is the increasing aspiration for improving visitor experience in the modern age.

The development of a Master plan for Hartsholme Country park remains a stated objective for the council, even if a timetable can't be prescribed to that now. The need to do something with the site, including the buildings, is not forgotten and I will be pushing for action to bring these into active use as soon as possible.

Investment has been made in the campsite shower block and is appreciated and now being reflected in visitor feedback, which also shows that there is a strong demand for WiFi access as a part of the visitor experience, something that will now be considered for investment in the coming year.

Park Advisory Groups

I am trialling a new initiative, suggested by Steve Bird, based on bringing together the Chairs from the three key Park Advisory Groups in the city. This Chairs' group, which recently met for the first time ever, is exploring commonality between the groups, seeing if there is any learning to be had, and looking at how they might support each other, and consequently the green spaces in the city, in the future.

These are early days and all are keen that this group must, if time is to be spent on it, add value for all the parks.

Commons

This year has seen significant work take place on the commons; all of this being reported to the Commons Advisory Panel, as is normal practice. The commons have benefited from additional income derived from an agreement with LCFC for overflow car parking on match days. Income derived by this means is put directly into work on common land, and prioritised through the Commons Advisory Panel. This year will see a refresh of the Commons Management Plan, and associated work programme.

Examples of work this year include:

- New fencing West Common
- Significant boundary repairs South Common and West Common
- Views and path maintenance, Viking Way
- Survey of all signage and access infrastructure
- Signage strategy agreed and work ordered
- New feeding stations agreed and work ordered

89% of Citizens Panel respondents reported being very or fairly satisfied with management of the commons.

Volunteering

In May 2017 the Council saw the start of a new initiative; one which built on learning and experience. Members will be aware that for some years the council has formally recorded it's thanks to the volunteers in Hartsholme Country Park for their commitment and dedication to the maintenance of this important site. In more recent years we have seen another successful programme of volunteer work undertaken as a part of the Boultham Park regeneration project. Mindful that the end of the Boultham Park project would mean the removal of resources dedicated to supporting volunteers outside of Hartsholme Country Park, changes were made to adjust staffing so as to permit a dedicated focus on volunteering.

I am pleased to report that great progress has been made within this service and that all volunteering for open spaces is now co-ordinated through this post, ensuring consistency of approach in line with Council policies, and co-ordination of resources.

No volunteering has been lost from either Hartsholme Country Park or Boultham Park as a result of this initiative, and indeed we can now be very positive about volunteering opportunities within Lincoln's open spaces in the future, with all the benefits that this brings.

Arboriculture

Tree care is always a priority for the Council as it strives to protect trees against the ever present demands of the urban environment.

In 2018 this authority felled 266 trees and this year's planting scheme makes provision for the planting of 339 trees.

It has been noted that the Council's Arboricultural Officer has reached a stage in his career whereby he may choose to retire. Succession planning is already being put in place, in recognition of how difficult it is to find staff with the necessary skills, and how important this service is in contributing to the Council's Remarkable Place objectives. By careful planning we do not anticipate a drop in performance despite the potential loss of experienced resource.

Street Scene

Under this heading work is covered such as the provision and maintenance of street name plates, bus shelters and art installations. The city currently has 110 bus shelters (66 Adshell/ 45 City Council), and 15 art installations of varying sizes.

The maintenance of name plates is a routine task, ongoing, as is the care of art installations, although it is hoped that this will grow gradually over the years, thereby adding to Lincoln's heritage and cultural offering.

Bus shelters have been more problematic as the demands and costs continue to escalate. Historically there are two tiers of provision. A contract for free provision of those where the advertising pays for the shelter, and those which the council has to pay for. As the second of these tiers is a cost to city tax payers, funding for the care of these is, by necessity of government imposed cuts, being withdrawn. We continue to seek imaginative way to maintain and protect what we can, but ultimately the second tier of bus shelters will be removed unless other funding sources can be found.

Waste/Recycling

Last year I reported that the Council continued to have a 'contamination' issue in the recycling stream, which was consistent with other councils in Lincolnshire, and indeed nationally. Members will have seen more national publicity on this over the last twelve months.

I also reported that there was a renewed push within a county-wide Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to develop a mutually acceptable joint waste strategy that would be able to guide collective decisions on waste management long term. The long term vision being vital given the overall costs of these services, I urged caution over short term knee-jerk reactions and impressed the need for us to be strategic in our thinking, working with partners for longer term solutions.

I am pleased to be able to update council that, as hoped, all councils in Lincolnshire have worked together and now formally agreed and adopted a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire (JMWMS), and that an action plan is being developed and progressed. Given the size of the workload involved in coordinating and driving the work programme that underpins the action plan an officer has been recruited by the authorities collectively, and the post has been charged with leading and supporting all councils consistently to ensure progress. The post is to be reviewed after two years.

A serious influencer on the Lincolnshire strategy has been the publication of the government's own Waste and Resources Strategy. Launched at Christmas, this strategy sets out what the government intends to consult on, and the direction it expects waste and recycling management to go. Thankfully there are many consistent elements with our own JMWMS, which will leave Lincolnshire in a positive position to respond to the government consultations, and drive collaborative change locally.

In terms of direct action arising from the new strategy two key things have already happened. Firstly all councils in Lincolnshire have aligned the materials they advertise as taking. All web sites now make clear that we take the same materials, so avoiding any debate about why one council takes something that another doesn't, across Lincolnshire at least. Secondly there has been a county-wide sticker campaign aimed at keeping some of the worst contaminants out of recycling (food, batteries and sanitary products including nappies). The success of this campaign is being evaluated now.

In terms of the next twelve months, I anticipate that the new post holder will be able to report on steady, solid, progress consistent with the strategy. There will be no quick fix solution given both the size and scale of the issues, coupled with the number of agencies that have involvement and influence, but there is real hope for progress specifically in the areas of agreeing a national list of materials that all councils will take, identifying consistent processing systems for those materials locally, seeing reductions in packaging entering our waste streams (including single use plastics), and greater enforcement against those who fly tip.

Contamination in Recycling Rates -Lincolnshire

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	First half 2018*
Lincoln	20%	25%	28%	31%
County Average	19%	23%	27%	32%

*Does not include post sticker /promo campaign data. This is to be evaluated separately when the information is available.

The Council's average combined recycling and composting rate at the end of quarter 2, so covering the combined first six months of the year, was 36.52% (16.76% recycling and 19.76% composting). Quarter 3 outcomes are not yet available.

Recycling tonnages by the end of quarter 2 were around 11.76% lower than at the same point in the previous year.

Composting tonnages were around 5% lower than the previous year and the number of residents using the garden waste service was 15,841 at 15th January compared with 16,355 the previous year. The tonnage of composting waste collected varies quite dramatically in a manner which can only be attributed to differing weather conditions from one year to the next.

Residual waste tonnages have increased by 2.3% (263 Tonnes) on the previous year.

This shows that residual (black bin) waste has increased over time although relatively consistent more recently, despite growth in the number of houses. Generally, an increase is to be expected as the city grows, although other factors can affect waste tonnages, such as the financial climate (in a recession, people throw less away). Garden waste has the expected seasonal ups and downs.

The November 2018 Citizens Panel survey results showed that satisfaction for waste collection services remains very high. 96% of respondents reported being very or fairly satisfied with the residual waste service overall and 94% reported being very or fairly satisfied with the recycling service. Of those who used the garden waste service, 94% reported feeling very or fairly satisfied.

Street Cleansing

This section covers all areas of street cleansing, including street sweeping, litter picking, litter bin emptying, fly tipping, and the removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicles.

Fly tipping continued to be an issue for us this year in certain areas of the city. The Sincil Bank area remains the area of highest demand. More fly tipping has been taken out of this area than any other, and more littering of the streets has taken place. Outside of the city centre, the Sincil Bank area is the greatest drain on resources, and we continue to search for ways to improve this situation, acknowledging the limits to the staff and financial resource we have available.

As example of improvement has been the installation of some CCTV. Working with both the neighbourhood team and the council's CCTV unit, cameras have now been installed at Hermit Street. Fly tipping has already reduced, and offender evidence captured, and so it is hoped that more cameras will be deployed in this area over the next 12 months.

Graffiti has also been an escalating problem this year, and more recently we have seen concerted repeat attacks in a number of areas. We have increased expenditure year on year and yet seen renewed graffiti attacks only a day or two after clearance, which can be soul destroying for staff and residents alike. Because of budget pressures it is not always possible to clear all graffiti as promptly as would be desirable.

Finally in this section I would make reference to a joint initiative with Lincoln BIG. They have procured a pressure washer for chewing gum removal and other city centre duties. This will permit them to do things that we cannot afford to do, such as chewing gum removal, thus enhancing the standards. We hope to coordinate our work even more closely in the future.

In the summer Citizens Panel survey, 67% of respondents reported being very or fairly satisfied with the cleanliness of the city – an improvement on last year.

Citizen Panel November 2018 stated that only 8.63% of respondents considered street cleansing was a priority for improvement, suggesting that over 90% are content with existing standards, in general terms. This is consistent with the previous satisfaction data.

Public Toilets

This service has again achieved high standards, with four of its city centre toilets being entered for, and receiving, awards in the national Loo of the Year competition: Tentercroft St toilets, Lucy Tower St toilets, Castle Square toilets and Westgate toilets all attained Gold standard. All attendants were judged to be of Attendant Of The Year Award standard.

Charges of 20p per use have been in operation since January 2017, with anecdotal feedback being that the facilities are receiving less damage/abuse as a result.

A Citizen Panel survey of July 2018 showed that 56% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with public toilet provision. This is a concern and means that the provision of public toilets is a key issue for this portfolio. A review of facilities and provision should be expected by no later than the time of the next annual report.

Food, Health and Safety

Food Safety

The Food, Health and Safety Team continue to protect public health, taking a risk-based approach. This allows the service to focus on those businesses that present the greatest risk to public health.

In terms of staff resources, the team were without one full time Food Safety Officer for over 8 months and without a full time Environmental Health Officer for 2 months. In mitigation, an agency worker was employed within the resources available which was the equivalent of 1 day per week, fortunately these posts have now been filled.

Volume of Work (01/01/18 – 31/12/18)

- Service Requests (Complaints, food hazard warnings and requests for advice) –1180
- Inspections – 455
- Samples Taken – 107
- Infectious Disease Investigations – 78
- Welfare Funerals – 11

Lincoln Christmas Market – in the build up to and over the period of the Christmas Market the team carry out a whole range of work including reviewing all the applications for food stalls, carrying out water sampling, visiting all stalls once open (over 300 including ‘unofficial’ traders) and carrying out 79 inspections.

Official Controls Delivered (Formal Food Inspections)

FHS 6 - between 01 January 2018 and 31 December 2018, 455 inspections were carried out. At the end of the third quarter of 2018, the number of inspections carried out compared with the number due for inspection was 82.1% which is below the target of 97%. This is largely due to a depletion in full time staff.

Between 01 January and 31 December 2018, 183 written warnings were issued and 6 Hygiene Improvement Notices served.

FHS 4 - In terms of businesses that are considered to be compliant with food safety requirements, as of December 2018, 97.6% of the City’s food businesses are considered to be compliant against a target of 97%. This can be seen in the table overleaf:

Table FHS 4 – Percentage of food premises that are fully or broadly compliant with food safety requirements.

	Fully Compliant %	Broadly Compliant %	Non-Compliant %	New businesses %	Total Premises
December 16	77	18	4	2	1029
December 17	82	16	1	1	1005
December 18	86	12	1	1	1033

Food Hygiene Rating Of Businesses Within The City

At the beginning of February 2019, the food hygiene rating for businesses that fall within the Food Standard's Agency's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme can be seen below. The increase in the number of businesses rated as 5 has increased, which is a reflection of the increase in fully compliant businesses.

Food hygiene rating	No. of businesses			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
5 (Very Good)	651	680	723	760
4 (Good)	150	133	113	87
3 (Generally Satisfactory)	58	48	31	34
2 (Improvement Necessary)	11	12	9	10
1 (Major Improvement Necessary)	12	13	8	8
0 (Urgent Improvement Necessary)	0	2	0	0
Total	882	888	884	899

Note the total number that have a food hygiene rating is less than the total number of food businesses as a number of businesses fall outside the scope for a food hygiene rating score e.g. newsagents, child minders.

Examples of Complex Cases

During 2018, the team have dealt with a number of complex cases. Examples include the following:

- A mouse infestation at 3 neighbouring commercial premises that required a co-ordinated response.
- A food business proposing to sell scallops wholesale to other businesses that required detailed research. This is an on-going case, working with the business to ensure that legal requirements are met and that approval can be granted in due course.
- Continuing monitoring of a food business that has had a history of cockroaches.

Citizens Panel

There is a continuing increase in the awareness of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, with 87% of respondents confirming that they were aware of it.

Encouragingly, there has been a 10% increase in the percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the standard of hygiene in restaurants, cafes, shops and takeaways in Lincoln, the figure being 91%. Of the other 9%, 4% were fairly dissatisfied, 1% very dissatisfied and 4% undecided.

Health and Safety (Enforcement)

Nine inspections were undertaken however the majority of the case load is reactive, as detailed below:

Volume of Work (1/1/18-31/12/18)

- Complaints – 37
- Advice and guidance – 35
- Notifications of dangerous equipment – 14
- Accident notifications – 68 of which 8 were investigated.

Enforcement Action Taken

- Two businesses had their electricity cut off which resulted in one of the businesses closing temporarily and the other having a Prohibition Notice served on them. This was due to the dangerous installation of a generator inside the premises which was giving rise to the risk of carbon dioxide poisoning. The requirements of the Prohibition Notice were breached, resulting in the requirement to undertake daily monitoring to ensure that the generator was not in use.
- A Prohibition Notice was served to prohibit the use of stairs to a basement that were in a dangerous condition.
- Two Improvement Notices were served with regard to gas safety concerns.
- A further Improvement Notice was served on a business that had poor lighting.

Other Complex Cases

There was a matter of evident concern with a nightclub in the City, whereby a lead section from the roof fell onto the pavement, narrowly missing a member of the public. This involved an immediate response and investigation into the maintenance of the premises.

There has been an increase in the number of accidents investigated compared with last year.

Bereavement Services

The crematorium is still very busy and we are looking at over 1900 cremation services this year.

We have seen an increase in the number of families using the visual tributes, webcasting and recording services and have had good feedback from people that have been at services where these have been used

Burial numbers are much the same since last year, we no longer have full burial grave spaces in Canwick Road Old and St Swithin's Cemeteries with limited numbers on Canwick Road New Cemetery and Newport but we are still doing re-open graves. We have also started an audit of the old registers to try and find any graves that have not been used so we can release them for use

We are now seeing the number of burials in Long Leys Road increase.

The overflow car park is still an issue but we are looking at this at this time.

We have had one of the staff leave last year whom has now been replaced.

Another staff member has started his cremator training and will be qualified within the next couple of months

Introduction of the new tree memorial (1st one in England) which I reported on last year has had excellent feedback from the public.

We are now looking to make further investment in the Crematorium following the improvements we made over the last few years.

Air Quality

We continue to monitor air quality within the city using a number of methods, including a nitrogen dioxide continuous analyser, a network of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes and a particulate monitor.

During 2018, the nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube network was expanded from 11 sites to 19 sites. The eight additional sites originally included locations on Doddington Road (2 no.), Skellingthorpe Road (3 no.), Long Leys Road, Wigford Way and Portland Street. Following nine months of monitoring, three sites (Doddington Road (2 no.) and Long Leys Road) were relocated to alternative sites at the South Park/High Street junction, South Park/Canwick Road junction and Newark Road/Brant Road junction.

The continuous nitrogen dioxide analyser on Canwick Road is operated on behalf of DEFRA as part of the national monitoring network and benefits from DEFRA's quality control regime.

A further analyser, monitoring levels of fine particulates (PM₁₀ – particulate matter smaller than 10 microns), is installed on Broadgate adjacent to the library.

The Council's Local Air Quality Annual Status Report in 2018 confirmed that there are no new areas in the city likely to be breaching any of the national air quality objectives.

A significant review of Lincoln's air quality model during 2017 confirmed that the spatial extent of exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide objectives within the city has significantly reduced. The review also confirmed that the objectives for PM₁₀ are being fully complied with throughout the city.

As a result of this review, and following consultation with statutory consultees, a decision was made during 2018 to reduce the size of the existing nitrogen dioxide Air Quality Management Area and to revoke the PM₁₀ Air Quality Management Area to reflect the air quality improvements within the city. Orders formalising these decision came into effect on 3rd August 2018. The original report detailing the proposal for consultation went to Executive on 27 November 2017.

Officers are now in the process of undertaking a review of the City Council's Air Quality Action Plan to ensure that it focuses on securing improvements in those areas where exceedances of the national objectives persist. This is one of the projects detailed in the Council's Vision 2020 under the "Let's enhance our remarkable place" priority.

Carbon Reduction.

We hope to achieve a 25% reduction in our carbon footprint by 2020 from our baseline figure in 2005 which was 550 tonnes. So far Lincoln's CO₂ emissions have reduced by 41.3% overall since 2005. So we are exceeding our target.

Licensing

Since the licensing team moved under the Public Protection, ASB and Licensing Service Manager the team have continued to deliver a high standard of work across a broad range of Licensing regimes.

The team continues to maintain a close working relationship partners, the various trades requiring licences as well as giving advice and assistance to new licensees.

Some of the milestones achieved within 2018 have included the renewal of the Gambling Act 2005 Policy. The new policy came into effect in January 2019.

2018 also saw the overhaul of animal licensing with the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act (Licensing of Animal Activities) England 2018. This legislation revoked and amended a number of historical and outdated licensing regimes that related to animals. The new legislation came into effect on 1st October 2018 and incurred a large amount. To date 17 licences have been granted under the new regime, there were 18 under the previous regimes and this is likely to increase over the course of the year ahead. The applicants have all been inspected by an officer of the council and have been subject to Vet inspections also. Of the 16 licences granted that are eligible to be star rated, 10 have been awarded a 5 star rating, 4 have been awarded

a 4 star Rating and 2 a 2 star rating. This demonstrates the high standards associated with animal licensing within the City.

Looking ahead to 2019 the licensing team will be reviewing the Licensing Act 2003 Policy and also looking to update the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy. The team are also involved in a wider piece of corporate work reviewing the markets policy and looking at opportunities to support this policy through the team's street trading policy.

The team continues to deal with high numbers of Premises Licence applications and renewals as well as high numbers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire operators. As well as continuing to permit horses on the common, house to house collections and street collections the team also deals with a number of gambling premises, sex shops/establishments and scrap metal dealers.

Sport Recreation and Leisure Services

The Sport Recreation and Leisure team manage a range of services and facilities that contribute to our Remarkable Place priority, these help keep our residents active and to tackle a whole range of physical and mental illnesses associated with inactivity and obesity.

Obesity

According to estimates from Public Health England, two thirds of adults and a quarter of children between two and ten are overweight or obese. Obese children are more likely to become overweight adults and to suffer premature ill health and mortality. Without intervention, by 2034, 74 per cent of adults in England are expected to be overweight or obese.

Children:

In 2016/17 24.6% of 4-5 year olds and 34% of 10-11 year olds in Lincolnshire were reported to be overweight or obese (Source: NCMP). Lincolnshire has similar levels of children who are overweight or obese to the England average at both 4-5 and 10-11 years. However, when rates are compared across Districts within the County marked variation is seen.

In 2016/17, Boston (27.8%) had the highest proportion of 4-5 year olds who were overweight or obese, followed by East Lindsey (26%) and Lincoln (25.3%). North Kesteven (21.7%), South Holland (23.7%) and West Lindsey (23.7%) had the lowest proportions of 4-5 year olds measured as overweight or obese, the rate for South Kesteven was 24.6%.

There was a similar pattern in 10-11 year olds in Lincolnshire 2016/17, with the highest proportions measured in Boston (40.6%), Lincoln (37.4%) and South Holland (35.4%), and the lowest in North Kesteven (31.6%) and West Lindsey (31.4%) The rate for East Lindsey was 33.2% and South Kesteven 32%.

Adults:

Excess weight in adults has reduced slightly in Lincolnshire from 66.5% in 2015/16 to 63.7% in 2016/17; however rates are still significantly higher than the national average of 61.3%. The levels for Lincoln are close to 66%.

Activity Levels

Sport England report that the latest figures from the Active Lives Adult Survey show 27.7 million people – 61.8% of the 16+ population in England – are active. That means they meet the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines and do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity each week – gaining health benefits including a reduced risk of dementia, depression, diabetes, and improved mental wellbeing.

At the other end of the scale, 11.5m people (25.7%) are inactive, meaning they do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week.

The results, which are based on a sample of almost 200,000 survey respondents, show that activity levels in England are stable.

In Lincolnshire the City of Lincoln Council has steadily improved its activity levels over a number of years to become an equal best performer with South/North Kesteven District Councils. However it is worth noting that as a County, Lincolnshire is in the lowest performance quartile for activity in the country.

In October 2018, under the guidance of the Lincolnshire County Council Health and wellbeing Board, officers of the City of Lincoln Council joined other public and private sector groups throughout Lincolnshire to create the Lincolnshire Physical Activity Taskforce (L-PAT). This group will look at different ways to help the most sedentary people in Lincolnshire to become more active. The findings of this work will be shared with members later in 2019.

Yarborough and Birchwood Leisure Centres In Partnership with Active Nation

5th October 2018 was the official opening of our £1.5million renovation of Birchwood Leisure Centre. The renovation transformed the facility to a modern community health and wellbeing hub that includes something for all ages and physical abilities.

- 80-station fitness suite;
- Shapemaster toning and rehab studio;
- immersive indoor cycling studio (one of only seven in the UK);
- 16 station indoor climbing wall;
- Soft play;
- Large group exercise studio;
- 2 multi-purpose activity rooms;
- Cafe

The centre has already seen a considerable increase in use and some fantastic customer feedback.

Active Nation is targeted with increasing visits to the centres by 1% year on year. The following is the performance in recent years. Please note that in 2018/19 this is based on three quarters, there will be an increase in participation when including Q4 due to higher numbers using the sites in January and therefore a lower cost to the Council.

Birchwood Refurbishment July 2017 through to February 2018

Participation – Number of Visits.

Yarborough Leisure Centre

Year	number of visits
2016/17	679,460
2017/18	688,049 (increase of 1.26%)
2018/19 (Q1-3)	522,865 (based on 3 quarters is an estimated increase of 1.32%)

Birchwood

Year	number of visits
2016/17	101,180
2017/18	76,770 (decrease of approx. 25 % due to the refurbishment of the centre reducing the access for activities).
2018/19 (Q1-3)	146,013 (based on 3 quarters is an estimated increase of 153% on 2017/2018 and 92% on 2016/2017).

Comments/Complaints

Yarborough

Year	number of positive comments	of	number of complaints	of	Ratio - positive comments to complaint (high is good)	visits
2016/17	298		121		2.46	679,460 visits
2017/18	283		83		3.40	688,049
2018/19 (Qtr 1-3)	438		175		2.50	522,865

In 2018/19 the majority of complaints have been due to problems with introduction of a new electronic management, booking and access system.

Birchwood

Year	number of positive comments	of	number of complaints	Ratio - positive comments to complaint (high is good)	visits
2016/17	142		76	1.86	101,180
2017/18	338		154	2.19	76,770
2018/19 (Qtr 1-3)	293		97	3.02	146,013

Through our partnership Active Nation have also delivered a number of other achievements

- Fundraising for Children in need, Sport Relief and Swimathon.
- A Birchwood centre member nominated for the UKActive Flame Awards, selected in final last six for the “Unsung Hero” Category.
- Quest “Very Good” banding, which is an excellent rating in the Quest industry standards
- Gold standard rating for Active Nations NPS (Net Promoter Score) rating which is based on public feedback as well as whether they would be recommended to others.

Fairs and Circus’s

The Showmen’s Guild provide the City with two fairs in April and September. Attendance to the fair is between 7,000 and 10,000 people per fair. The fairs have a rich history with the City, including Royal Charters, farming and military conflict influences. The Mayor historically opens the fair to the public on the first night to the public and the fair then stays open for two days and seven nights.

Over the past three fairs there have been issues with the weather, especially rain and high winds which has resulted in on site flooding/muddy conditions. The fair had to close for one day due to high winds. These conditions have led to an increase in the site reinstatement costs paid by the Showmen’s Guild and a drop in income. The City welcomed Uncle Sam’s circus last October, enjoying a five day stay, although the wind had been posing a problem on the South Common during this stay the wind had dropped enough to allow the circus performance to continue. The normal attendance for the circus is 5,000 visitors.

Declining numbers combined with poor weather mean that operators are struggling. Officers continue to work with the Showmen’s Guild to ensure the fair comes to Lincoln.

Lincoln 10k

The Lincoln 10k has been managed and delivered by Run For All on behalf of the City Council since the 2015 race. It has raised significant funds for national and local charities. The event still incorporates the City Councils branding as well as that of the Asda foundation who provide the race with significant sponsorship, making the race sustainable.

The Race weekend consists of the Children's Races on the Saturday which now takes place off road to the rear of the Yarborough Leisure Centre site.

The races for the children are called the Lincoln Mini & Junior (children's races) take place on Saturday the 6th of April 11am 2019 and cater for every child up to the age of 15. The event is Lincolns largest free to enter charity sports event for Children.

- 1.5k Mini Fun Run 3-8
- 2.5k Junior Fun Run 9-11
- 5k Junior run 11-15 yrs

The Lincoln 10k itself will take place on Sunday the 7th of April at 11am. Last year 5436 people registered to take part although only 3800 turned up on the day. This was because the race in April was called off due to snow and rescheduled to take place in July, which unfortunately saw a smaller participation rate. We expect this year's participant numbers to be back to normal. The contract with Run For All for the management and delivery of the Race is now in its fifth year with a further two years to run.

Playing Pitches

The last year has been a busy yet successful year despite unforeseen pitch problems, At the start of this year's football season, operational issues at the Cowpaddle meant those pitches had to be shut and last minute changes had to be made to the Sunday league timetable for 2018/19 and several teams who normally played their fixtures at the Cowpaddle had to be moved to alternative venues. We would like to extend our thanks to the Sunday league and in particular its secretary Ian Stephenson for working closely with the City Council in finding a positive resolution to this problem.

The service is planning to do a more formal review of our need for grass pitches later this year. The review is to consider the needs of the City now and in the future. Officers have also been engaging closely with the Football Association this year in its development of a 1 billion pound national development plan to build new football facilities over the next 10 years.

I am pleased to report that we were successful in the bid submitted to Football Association and Sport England to:

- Build two new artificial grass football pitches, one at Yarborough and one at Birchwood;
- Refurbishment of the running track at Yarborough;

- Refurbishment of the existing artificial all weather pitch at Yarborough.

The total cost of this project is around £1.8m and the work has already commenced at Birchwood with the work at Yarborough scheduled to start on April 8th.

I thank officers for their help and support in providing all the information needed to produce this report.

I must also give a special thank you to all the staff employed in the area of my portfolio for all their hard work and commitment and dedication in supporting me over a number of years to enable me to fulfil my duties and responsibilities. It cannot have been an easy task, either, for the staff involved in supporting me to take on the new duties and responsibilities but they rose to the challenge!

I thank you ALL most sincerely.

Councillor Fay Smith
Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Space