

## Connected Coast Chair's Update: January 2023

**It has been announced by the government that East Lindsey is set to benefit from £8.0M in Levelling Up funding.**

The investment complements the Town Deal funding and projects in Skegness and Mablethorpe will enhance our offer across the area as a whole.

The Levelling Up funding will support the delivery of cultural and tourism projects in Alford and Spilsby, securing the future of heritage assets and providing new reasons to visit the Lincolnshire Wolds. The projects will be delivered by East Lindsey District Council, working with a range of partners. They are:

- **Spilsby Sessions House**

Spilsby Sessions House will be brought back into use as a theatre and as a community-owned space. The listed building also has a significant place in history, for its past use as a jail, and funding will allow the building's old police cells to be opened to the public, creating a new visitor attraction.



- **Alford Manor House**

Funding of £2.5m for Alford Manor House will create a permanent function space as well as the relocation and improvement of the tearoom and kitchen, freeing up space for improved displays within the museum.

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6.0 Alford Museum of Rural Life: New Exhibition Barn  
 6.3 Proposed Sketch Visuals



- **Alford Windmill**

£1.1m is secured for Alford Windmill to help save the historic mill which is now on the Heritage at Risk register. Work will see the mill restored and reopen as a major attraction, including a new visitor experience, café and shop.





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As previously agreed by board members, the role of supporting the Levelling Up funding and projects will also be added to the Connected Coast board's remit, ensuring a joined-up approach between both funding streams.

I would like to thank all the team involved in delivering another highly successful bid for our area and look forward to seeing the progress of the projects.

### **Our projects and progress**

This year is set to see significant progress across all our projects as delivery gathers pace. Here's the latest progress update:

#### **Skegness**

##### **Skegness Town Centre Transformation**

The first four properties set to receive reinstated shopfronts in Skegness have now received planning permission and have been approved by Heritage Lincolnshire's Grants Panel to proceed – meaning work will begin onsite very soon.

At Tower Gardens, surveys are currently being undertaken in anticipation of commissioning works to the site.

Also, Lumley Road is set to be transformed with the announcement that all bins will be replaced, street trees will be planted, and public realm improvements will be carried out. The work on Lumley Road is being funded by Town Deal funding, Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council.

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##### **Skegness Interchange**

Work on the Skegness interchange is set to begin in the coming months.

East Midlands Railway is working with Connected Coast Town Deal, East Lindsey District Council and Network Rail to completely reconfigure the layout of Skegness station, improving passenger flow around the station. Customers can expect a number of enhanced facilities, including accessible toilets with 'changing places' toilet facilities, two new start-up offices, a community café, bookable community space, and retail provisions.

The development will include full mechanical and electrical enhancements, with upgraded heating, ventilation, and IT and security systems.

Outside of the station, there will be an improved configuration of the taxi / drop off area, a new pedestrianised route into the station, improved access to the bus station, installation of a new waste and storage compound, an external seating area for the community café, reconfiguration of the concourse, and cycle facilities.



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Below are images of the planned café and the improvements to the taxi/drop off area.



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### The Embassy Theatre culture house concept



The Embassy Theatre is benefitting from £1.3M Towns Fund investment which will see the theatre undergo a redevelopment that reflects the Scandinavian culture house concept, becoming a community and social hub with culture at its heart. Jens Frimman, Director of Helsingør Teater and the Artistic Director of Skegness' SO-Festival is working on the redevelopment and has explained more about the culture

house concept in the latest Connected Coast blog. You can read it here: [Culture open for all in Skegness - Connected Coast](#)



### Mablethorpe

#### Sutton on Sea community mural

Members of the public have been busy starting a new community mural in Sutton on Sea.

Artist Laura Lilley is behind the project and she would like as many members of the community and local schools to get involved. The wall is based on Sir Joseph Banks, an English naturalist, botanist and petrified forest is its theme.

The mural is part of the development to enhance the Sutton on Sea Pleasure Gardens and Colonnade and is on the triangle wall, behind the anchor water feature.

### Campus for Future Living

Following on from the appointment of Lindum Group to construct the Campus for Future Living in December, the official start on site is set to take place in February.

The turf-cutting event will signal the beginning of the construction works for the Campus which is the Connected Coast flagship project in Mablethorpe.

Hoardings are also about to go up around the site as the delivery of this exciting development gathers pace.



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### East Lincs Expo



A team representing the Connected Coast Town Deal Projects will be at the East Lincs Expo on 8<sup>th</sup> February, and I'm looking forward to being a guest speaker talking about the Connected Coast Town Deal.

If you are interested in attending you can please pre-register at [East Lincs Expo 2023 Tickets, Wed 8 Feb 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#) and/or [Book A Stand – East Lincs Expo \(eastlincs-expo.co.uk\)](#).

Would you like to find out more about any of the projects in this update? Please do get in touch with us: [Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Chris Baron  
Chair, Connected Coast Town Deal Board



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