



## Connected Coast Chair's Update: May 2023

Welcome to the latest update from Connected Coast Town Deal, which returns after we took a short break during the pre-election period in the lead up to the local elections. Here's what's been happening over the last few months:

### £5M Cultural Development Funding for Skegness

It was recently announced that the Embassy Theatre and Skegness Pier have been awarded £5M in cultural development funding.

The funding will support phase two of the transformation of the Embassy Theatre, building on the improvements that will be delivered through the £1.4M Towns Fund investment. The additional works we can look forward to include new studios, a refurbished light box to enable high quality productions and redeveloped commercial spaces and enhanced access.

In addition, and connected to the Embassy Theatre redevelopment, the Cultural Development Funding will accelerate further private investment in the Pier. This will include restoration of the architecturally significant street-facing façade and refurbishment of the remaining pier deck. The works will also help to create new outdoor performance spaces - including an amphitheatre, and new community and creative workspace.

Both the theatre and the pier are important cultural assets on Skegness foreshore, and the improvements to these sites will be transformational. The Cultural Development Funding coupled with the Towns Fund investment, will benefit both local people and visitors alike who can experience and enjoy these two spaces, and all that they have to offer.

The improvements will also help to attract jobs, boost the economy, enhance wellbeing, and support our pride in Skegness. This funding presents us with a huge opportunity to maximise the potential of both the Embassy Theatre and the pier.

Find out more about the funding here: [East Lindsey District Council and partners awarded £5million funding to support redevelopment of Skegness Pier and Embassy Theatre - East Lindsey District Council \(e-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/news/e-lindsey-district-council-and-partners-awarded-5-million-funding-to-support-redevelopment-of-skegness-pier-and-embassy-theatre)



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### Leisure and Learning Hub

We've seen further progress on the Connected Coast projects with work officially starting on the **Leisure and Learning hub in Mablethorpe**.

An event took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March to mark the beginning of the development work.

The Mablethorpe Leisure and Learning Hub is set to see the creation of a new 3,000m<sup>2</sup> centre that will replace the existing Station Sports Centre. The hub will improve leisure and learning opportunities within the area and will provide a swimming pool, gym, fitness centre together with space for digital and face to face learning that will allow residents of all ages to access distance-learning courses.



The existing sports centre, operated by Magna Vitae, will remain open to visitors with access available throughout the project except for a crossover period of 16 weeks. Alliance Leisure will manage the multi-functional development site with ISG named as principal build contractor.

The new Leisure and Learning Hub is benefitting from £7.5M in Towns Fund investment and will bring new and diverse opportunities to access leisure and learning within Mablethorpe.



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The hub will support local people's physical and mental wellbeing, help learners of all ages to gain new skills, and will be an important addition to Mablethorpe, improving the overall town centre experience.

### Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens event

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, representatives of the Connected Coast Board attended a special event in Sutton on Sea. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the plans and mark the granting of detailed planning consent for the new **Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens development**.

The project is benefitting from £4.2M in Towns Fund investment, in addition to £0.5M in accelerated funding which supported works to prepare the site for development.



The development works will see the creation of a new landmark multi-use pavilion and a unique promenade access. Overnight lodges and beach huts, two new craft studios, and a first floor viewing platform will also be developed within the main pavilion. The site will also offer a new Changing Places toilet. Meanwhile, the Pleasure Gardens are set to be enhanced to create new sensory play facilities for children, additional seating areas, and space for pop-up events and markets, as well as landscaping.

### Skegness Community Drop-in Session

A date for your diary: the Infrastructure and Projects team with support from Community Ambassadors from East Midlands Railway will be at Tower Gardens Pavilion, Skegness on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 11:30am - 2:30pm, for a **community drop-in session**. The event will provide an opportunity for local people to see the plans and ask any questions about the major redevelopment of Skegness station that is starting later this year. Find out more here: [Town Deal Funds | EMR \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/town-deal-funds)



*An artist impression of the new café planned for Skegness Railway Station*



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### Campus for Future Living hoardings

In our previous Connected Coast update, we told you about the start on site at the **Campus for Future Living**.

With the development taking place on the ground, hoardings have gone up around the site which tell the story of the project, and the other Connected Coast projects. We plan to install hoardings on other development sites to help to communicate the plans whilst work is taking place.



### Exciting year for heritage for our Connected Coast

Heritage Lincolnshire is working to transform the town centres in Skegness and Mablethorpe. This includes **'Town Centre Transformations: Skegness'**, the first grant scheme to enhance the heritage of Skegness, and a renovation scheme at Tower Gardens. In addition, in Mablethorpe, work is taking place on the development of designs for a block of shops on the High Street.

You can read more about these plans in the latest Connected Coast blog by Alice Ullathorne, Project Manager with Heritage Lincolnshire: [Exciting Year for Heritage for our Connected Coast - Connected Coast](#)



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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)

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