



Connected Coast Chair's Update: November 2022

Dates for your diary: Connected Coast AGM and Exhibition Events

Next month we are set to host the first ever Connected Coast AGM and Exhibition events which will provide local people, businesses, and stakeholders with the opportunity to learn more about the transformational projects that are being delivered for both Skegness and Mablethorpe.

The events are set to take place:

3pm – 5pm on Thursday 8th December at U@E, Embassy Theatre, Skegness

3pm – 5pm on Thursday 15th December at the Dunes, Mablethorpe

They will provide an opportunity for people to meet with project leads and find out about the exciting plans for each town. In addition, we will also be presenting our annual reports for both towns.

I am really looking forward to both these events, and hope that people can join us and find out more about the exciting plans for our connected coast.

Please email Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk to confirm your attendance; I hope to see you there.

'Town Centre Transformations: Mablethorpe'



'Town Centre Transformations: Mablethorpe' will be the first grant scheme focused on enhancing the heritage of Mablethorpe and will result in a substantial pot of grant funding being made available to local businesses and property owners, specifically within the High Street.

This scheme, being led by Heritage Lincolnshire, will focus on transforming town centre properties through grants to repair and revitalise historic buildings and shopfronts.

Heritage Lincolnshire is set to hold a community event where people can find out more and help shape the scheme. This will take place on Saturday 26th November 10am-4pm, Coastal Centre, Victoria Street, Mablethorpe.

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'Sandidunes' Café Opens

A temporary public café and staff office have officially opened at **National Trust Sandilands**.

The outdoors café, located at the northern tip of the nature reserve, will be an inviting stop for visitors before they go on to explore the wider reserve. During the opening, the name of the café was revealed as Sandidunes after the local community were invited to vote for their favourite name on Sandilands' social media and through a voting box at this year's Sutton-on-sea Furlong Festival. Sandidunes will be open Wednesday to Sunday (10am - 3pm) throughout the whole year, excluding Christmas Day.



Hilary McGrady with Sandilands Food and Beverage Manager Simon Miles at Sandilands temporary café, copyright National Trust

Next to the café, an office cabin has also been installed as a base of operations for the Sandilands team, who will be carrying out essential works across the reserve on a regular basis. Visitors will be able to meet with the team and discuss the exciting re-development project as it progresses.



Hilary McGrady, Director-General of the National Trust, officially opened the café for the first time on Tuesday 25th October.



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Skegness Foreshore

East Lindsey District Council recently opened up the unique opportunity for developers to invest in five prime sites along the **Skegness Foreshore**.

The marketing of the sites is an important step towards the transformation of this part of Skegness, and when developed, will enhance the town, improving what's on offer for local people and visitors alike.

The opportunity to invest in the lots attracted regional and national interest and the Council has invited the shortlisted parties to work up detailed Expressions of Interest. The deadline for the full applications is January 31, 2023.

Campus for Future Living drop-in events

Two drop-in events for the public are set to take place where people can find out more about the **Campus for Future Living**. The first event will take place at Marisco Medical Centre on Thursday 24th November 9am – 12 noon and then, a few weeks later, members of the project team will be at Mablethorpe Library on Thursday 8th December 12.30pm – 3pm. At the events, people will be able to see images of the campus and have their questions answered.

National Portfolio Organisation status and funding

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has been awarded **National Portfolio Organisation status** for the first time - securing just under £2m to support art, culture and creativity across the Partnership.

The prestigious status awarded by Arts Council England has seen funding of £1,955,799 allocated for 2023-2026 to help support arts and cultural organisations across South Holland, East Lindsey and Boston.



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The funding will help to support the development of the Colonnade. And, as well as the NPO for the Partnership, The SO Festival, Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure and Culture's flagship cultural event in East Lindsey has also been awarded Arts Council England funding and secured its place as a National Portfolio Organisation for the third time

running <https://www.sofestival.org/so-festival-npo-2022/> Magna Vitae are leading on the Embassy Theatre Culture House project which will also benefit as a result of the funding and status.

In addition, the funding will also support a programme of art and culture across the Partnership centred on the rich heritage and stories from each district. Education, research and skills programmes will also be developed, giving more people access to culture on their doorstep.

The NPO comes after East Lindsey and Boston adopted a new cultural framework which sets out an ambitious vision for culture, connecting heritage and the visitor economy while recognising the health and wellbeing benefits culture brings to people's lives.

Our latest blog

We are starting to publish blogs on our Connected Coast website; please have a read of our first one from Vice-Chair Claire Draper. In the blog, Claire talks about **Working together for the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens**: [Blog Post: Working Together for the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens - Connected Coast](#)

Chris Baron
Chair, Connected Coast Town Deal Board



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