



Connected Coast Chair's Update: January 2024

Skegness Learning Campus

Work on the Skegness Learning Campus is getting underway after the land purchase for the site was completed at the end of 2023.

After planning permission was granted earlier in 2023, Croftmarsh – the land's owner and the developer behind Skegness Gateway – handed the land over to TEC Partnership ready for construction to begin.

The campus will offer an inspirational learning space, where people will be able to fulfil their potential, offering vocational skills training across a range of much-needed subjects. It's the Skegness Town Deal's flagship project and it will provide the Lincolnshire coast with learning and vocational training opportunities, as well as further and higher educational prospects.

The campus is expected to open its doors to students in September 2025.



Tower Gardens

Work being delivered by Skegness Town Council is now underway at Tower Gardens with part of the park currently closed to the public. This work will see refurbishment of the railings around the pond, the pond pump reinstated and improvements to accessibility through re-levelling and, where necessary, slightly re-routing footpaths. In addition, sensory



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planting has been planned and a community planting day will be announced to take place in the spring.

If a cold snap does not delay the laying of the paths, the Tower Gardens project should be complete at Easter.



Skegness Town Centre Transformation

Excellent progress is being made on improvements to 2-6 Lumley Road (Alisons). The first floor windows have now been replaced and tidying up of the principle elevations – such as moving heating flues inside – is underway. The next phase of work at Alisons will see new shopfront installed at the ground floor.

Other properties on the high street have received grant funding agreements and work is currently being planned to make substantial improvements to both shopfronts and upper floor windows in the town.

Mablethorpe Town Centre Transformation

Grant funding agreements have been made to support shopfront improvements and the conversion of the canopy into a functional balcony at 70-72 & 74-78 High Street (Coffee Lounge & Empire Amusements). The work will be carried out in two phases to avoid

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disruption during the height of the season; the shopfronts will be installed between Easter and the school summer holidays, with balcony work taking place from mid-September.

Colonnade



Piling work will begin on site from week commencing 5th February. This will see a specialist contractor installing 85 driven piles which will form the foundations for the new building. This vital piece of work will cause increased noise levels on site, but will be kept within normal working hours and be contained

within the usual industry standards. This is expected to take around three weeks to complete.

Once this is completed work will start on the construction of ground beams to link the piles together, along with the insertion of drainage for the building. This will allow the installation of the steel frame to follow later in the spring.

Station Leisure and Learning Centre

Work is progressing well at the Station Leisure and Learning Centre, including on the installation of the heating system, and air handling ducts. The render coat of the swimming pool is complete and wall tiling is underway at the changing areas. Work is running to schedule with the facility due to be completed in the coming months.



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National Trust Sandilands



After planning permission was granted in December for National Trust Sandilands' plans to create a wetland nature reserve and multi-purpose visitor hub, in January, people were asked to help to shape the play and activity offer on the site.

The National Trust Sandilands team ran a survey at the start of the year, and the feedback received will help to develop the play and activity facilities that will be available at the new look Sandilands.

National Trust Sandilands from above (October 2023) copyright, National Trust, Wayne Lagden



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Long Term Plan for Towns

In 2023, a further £20M in funding was announced for Skegness through the Long Term Plan for Towns. This investment together with the Town Deal projects, will create new opportunities for Skegness and strengthen and improve what we have to offer for local people and visitors.

Community feedback is key to helping to shape the long term plan for Skegness, and local people are being invited to share their ideas on three key themes:

- **Safety and Security**

Examples of things this might include: CCTV, lighting, ideas to tackle anti-social behaviour.

- **High Streets, heritage, and regeneration**

Examples of things this might include: creating and maintaining parks and green spaces, high street cleaning projects, improving markets, preserving and improving heritage sites.

- **Transport and connectivity**

Examples of things this might include: improving transport links, cycling and walking routes, safer routes, new pedestrian walkways, electric charging.

Anyone who wants to share their ideas can do so here: [Long Term Plan for Towns - Connected Coast](#)





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UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Nearly £2million was awarded by South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership at the end of January to support local business growth, skills and community projects across the sub-region through the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funds (UKSPF/REPF) scheme.

Through the UKSPF main programme, £1.6million will be distributed. In East Lindsey, some of the projects benefiting from the investment include:

- **The Old Bolingbroke Butcher's Shed:** Restoring and refitting the vacant butcher's shed at the historic entrance to Bolingbroke Castle with basic facilities including toilets, basic kitchen facilities and services to offer amenity to visitors. This will provide much-needed facilities at this visitor attraction, in time for the celebration of the Castle's 800th anniversary.
- **Louth Art Trail:** A project to replace and install three new works of public art in Louth and update the existing Louth Art trail, complemented by a heritage and arts learning Programme for local schools, based on engagement with the trail and with local arts and history.
- **St. Mary's Church Environs Project, Horncastle:** Improving the public space of the St. Mary's Church Yard with a particular focus on biodiversity, creating wildlife friendly zones, replacing pathways and undertaking urgent repairs to the site.
- **Destination Lincolnshire Going for Growth Wolds Website:** Funding for the redevelopment of the existing Lincolnshire Wolds website.

In addition, just under £300,000 will be distributed to Parish Councils, Village Halls and Community Groups through the Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) GRASSroots scheme, which is funded by UKSPF and REPF across the sub-region. In East Lindsey, the following will benefit from the grants:

- Grainthorpe & Conisholme Village Association
- Sir Joseph Banks Society
- Alford Corn Exchange Community Group
- Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa
- Wragby Youth Centre Trust
- Ramsden Village Hall
- Covenham Village Volunteers
- Stickney Bowls Club
- The Askefield Project



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Skegness Expo



The Connected Coast team will once again be at this year's Skegness Expo which is taking place from 10am – 5pm on Wednesday 7th February at Southview Park Hotel. We'll be joined by Heritage Lincolnshire and East Midlands Railway to provide an update on the progress and plans of the investments and projects along our Connected Coast of Skegness and Mablethorpe. We'll also be inviting attendees to share their thoughts with us to help to shape the Long Term Plan for Towns.

We hope to see you there!

*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

Chris Baron
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