

## Chair's update, September 2024

Hello, and welcome to all our new subscribers,

It has been a busy few months for Connected Coast with some significant progress on projects – including the opening of the new Station Leisure and Learning Centre in Mablethorpe – and consultation on how possible funding could be spent in Skegness. You can find out about this, and more, in this month's update.

If you'd like to find out more about any of the stories 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

### Long Term Plan for Towns



Thank you so much to everyone who took part in our consultation in the summer around the Long Term Plan for Towns funding for Skegness. 161 people had their say in our survey, and we also heard thoughts, ideas, and suggestions at events, and via our feedback boards in town.

We found out that overwhelmingly people feel that the best thing about Skegness is its beach and coastline. There is, however, appetite for

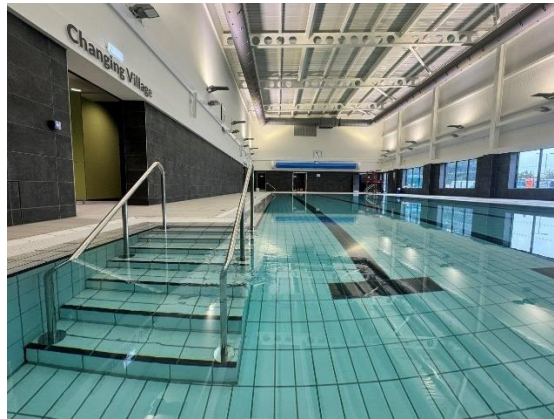
significant improvements that could create a better town centre experience for everyone - in the survey, 68% of respondents said they would most like to see improved public spaces. You can read the full report [here](#)

Now, we're working on a long-term plan for Skegness. Our original deadline set by the government for submission was 1<sup>st</sup> August but this has now been moved and we are awaiting direction on a new timescale. We will continue to build on the progress we have made to date as we finalise the vision and plan, ensuring that it delivers against the priorities for the town. Find out more [here](#)



## News from Mablethorpe Station Leisure and Learning

The new Station Leisure and Learning Centre is now open. This is the first Town Deal project completed in Mablethorpe and has benefited from £7.5M Towns Fund investment. The new modern centre offers a four-lane swimming pool, as well as state-of-the-art fitness equipment, community space, social workspace, and more. The new centre, which is operated by Magna Vitae, will play a crucial role in supporting the wellbeing of local people. Find out more [here](#)



On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Connected Coast Board had the opportunity to visit the new Station Leisure and Learning Centre. Board members took a tour of the new site to view the culmination of the project which has long been an aspiration for the town.



### The Campus for Future Living



In more good news for Mablethorpe, Acis Group has been announced as the operator of the Campus for Future Living in Mablethorpe. The campus, which has seen £8.6M Towns Fund investment, will be brought to life by the partnership between East Lindsey District Council and Acis. Plans for the campus include a range of activities, networking space and room hire, all the aim of making a difference in the community. A number of events

have recently taken place where people could find out more about the partnership, the campus, and what it means for Mablethorpe. If you would like to find out more, visit [here](#)

### Sandilands



Work is now underway to create a 25-hectare (62 acre) wetland nature reserve at Sandilands, which will include open water, islands, reedbeds and ponds to encourage more wildlife and migratory birds to return to the area. The site, cared for by the National Trust, will also see the development of a new visitor hub which will offer a base to explore Sandilands. The new hub is being supported by £2M in Towns Fund investment. Find out more [here](#)

### Colonnade

Work is progressing well on the former Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens redevelopment. Residents have recently been invited to share their thoughts on a new name for the new facility via an online web poll, which closes at the end of September 24. The redeveloped site will offer a state-of-the-art pavilion, with lettable spaces for a café and restaurant, a Changing Places toilet and cultural exhibition space. New beach huts will also be







included, as well as improvements to the landscaping to create further areas and space for pop-up cultural events and markets. A new marketing brochure has been published for the project which can be found [here](#)

## News from Skegness

### Cultural Skegness

Work on Cultural Skegness which will see the redesign and redevelopment of the historic Embassy Theatre in Skegness has begun. Planning permission for the project was granted on 5<sup>th</sup> September, with work taking place to include significant upgrades to seating within the auditorium, an extended storage area for staging and equipment, and the creation of a new feature entrance and multi-purpose space to the rear of the building. A new external seating area will be introduced, and there will be upgrades to existing changing rooms, lift and toilet areas throughout. The proposals also include new Embassy venue signage on the front of the building. Find out more about the culture led development [here](#)



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### Town Centre Transformation

Alisons department store, one of Skegness' best known shops, has been transformed after extensive work was carried out to refurbish the building. Located on Lumley Road, Alisons has undergone a sympathetic revamp that has seen its historic features restored. This includes bringing back into use previously blocked timber windows on the upper floor, and reintroducing traditional shopfronts. Further improvements are also planned for after the end of the season, including the fitting of new entrances, and the installation of traditional retractable canopies. The improvements have been made possible thanks to investment from the business owner and a substantial grant through the Town Centre Transformation project. If you would like to find out more about the scheme, please visit [here](#)



### **Skegness Learning Campus**

Work is progressing well on the new Skegness Learning Campus, with the steel framework now in place. Plans are also moving forward for the interior design. The building is set to open its doors to learners in September 2025.



### **Other investment and projects**

#### **Culture and Heritage Programme**

East Lindsey's culture and heritage programme, made possible by government funding, is moving forward with scaffolding installed and bat surveys taking place at Spilsby Sessions House and its outbuildings in August.

#### **UK Shared Prosperity Funding**

A plaque has been unveiled to celebrate the progress of works at the Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway in Skegness which have been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In addition, more than £270k has been awarded to East Lindsey community projects through the UK Shared Prosperity Grassroots scheme. Read more [here](#)



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