



YOUR POLICE SERVICES MAY BE CHANGING - The Government plans to create a “super force” by merging Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire police forces.

The Home Secretary is proposing to reduce the number of police forces in England and Wales. This follows a report issued in September 2005 which argued that larger forces are better able to deal with protective services such as organised crime and major incidents.

A review team from the East Midlands forces confirmed that the stronger option within the region was for all five forces in the East Midlands to merge.

The Home Secretary suggested that a merger outside the region would be considered if a strong enough case were made.

Through early consultation, December 2005, the Lincolnshire Police Authority found public support for a merger with South Humberside but not for potential mergers within the East Midlands region. Of 1770 respondents to the survey question regarding merger options, 31% favoured retaining Lincolnshire as a single force, 28% for a merger with South Humberside, 16% for a merger with all East Midlands Forces, 7% with Leicester & Northamptonshire, with the remainder undecided.

A number of issues regarding the proposed merger remain unresolved and of concern, most importantly, funding.

Consultation Meetings will be held to enable the public to express their opinion - (all at 7.30pm)

Lincolnshire Oak Hotel, Sleaford - 6th July

Springfields Exhibition Centre, Spalding - 10th July

Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham - 11th July

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ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

As in past years there have been concerns raised about the speed of traffic along the A15 through the village, and the dangers of the cross-roads, both for vehicles and pedestrians. The County Council maintains that the number, and severity, of accidents at the cross-roads are within acceptable limits and do not merit any changes to the speed limit. Morton and Hanthorpe again won a prize in the DEFRA Calor Village of the Year Competition 2005. The village won the Lincolnshire Community Life category and was awarded a cheque for £350. The entry came very close to winning the overall competition and an entry has already been made for 2006. Dog fouling became an issue towards the end of 2005, with several complaints coming from the Station Road area. South Kesteven District Council were alerted to the problem, extra warning notices were erected and the council dispatched one of their officers to inspect the area. She began regular visits, two or three times a week, and in addition enforcement rangers began motor cycle patrols at regular intervals. One person was issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice and the area is still being monitored.

During the year there was concern about the possibility of reductions in ambulance cover for Bourne and the

surrounding district. Following a letter of concern from the Parish Clerk assurances were forthcoming from the Lincolnshire Ambulance Service that full benefits and services will be retained in the area.

The Council has been informed that, unfortunately, an Amenity Freighter will no longer be available in the village. The dyke along Hanthorpe Road was finally cleared out and, eventually, the resulting rubbish was removed.

The Council continues to deal with a variety of items and problems on an ongoing basis as well as dealing with the District or County Council regarding such things as potholes and road surface repairs, grass-cutting, overgrown hedges, missing signs, street lights not working, together with its own duties such as managing the Cemetery and the Playing Field.

Terry Barnatt. Clerk.

EXTRACT FROM ACCOUNTS 2005/06

1st April 2005	Balance b.fwd	£862
	Add Income	<u>£18507</u>
	Total	£19369
	Transfers from Reserves	<u>£6000</u>
	Sub total	£25369
	Less Expenditure	<u>£20022</u>
	Surplus	£5347
	Transfers to reserves	<u>£3509</u>
	Balance at 31st March 2006	£1838



ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

END OF AN ERA

After 29 years as Parish Clerk David Thomas decided to retire at the end of the Council year, 31st March 2006. The Chairman, Councillor David Creasey, said that both he and the other councillors were very sad to hear of David's decision as the Council had come to rely on him to carry out the duties of Clerk with diligence and quiet efficiency. During his time as Clerk the workload had increased considerably. His services were duly recognised with a retirement reception in the village hall with various friends, colleagues, village representatives and parishioners present.

Terry Barnatt was appointed as the new Clerk & R.F.O. and began work at the beginning of January. David stayed on as Assistant Clerk and handed over duties gradually during the three months remaining.

Chairman's overview

The retirement of David Thomas as Clerk has been cause for regret but also gratitude for the 29 years of devoted and conscientious service he has given to the village. During that period Morton and Hanthorpe have grown enormously and so have the duties of the council and the responsibilities of the Clerk. Not only has David taken this in his stride but has also guided the Council to achieve Quality Status.

His efforts have been rewarded during the year as we received grant aid of almost £4000 to provide the new fence at the cemetery and upgraded computer equipment for the Council. This was only money available to Quality Councils and we were the only village in Lincolnshire to receive a grant. We are fortunate that Terry Barnatt has taken the post of Clerk. His knowledge of the village and his past experience as a company secretary make him admirably suited to the task.

The winning of the Community Life class in the Village of the Year Competition was particularly satisfying – we were also highly commended for our website. Coming so soon after winning the Best Kept Large Village award it does reflect very well on our village life. It should be stressed, though, that success in these competitions rests almost entirely with the individual inhabitants of the village. The Parish Council can organise the applications but at the end of the day the village is what we all make of it.

There is a strong core of community minded people who make things happen and it is good that their efforts are recognised but it would be even better if more people became involved.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, on March 28th, it was noted from the minute book that 100 years before (actually 29th March 1906) the meeting had been chaired by my grandfather, Fred Creasey. The minutes simply record that "There was no business of interest". I would like to think that the record of our activities in 2006 would extend beyond that! The Council's agendas are always filled with a wide variety of business, some on-going problems and some simply mundane, but I wish to thank all the councillors, and the Clerk, for the hard work and effort they put in on behalf of the village.

David Creasey. April 2006



MHPC

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A QUALITY COUNCIL

We are on the Web
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. A FINE ADDITION TO LOCAL EVENTS IN 2006

The Morton Steam Fair was held over the weekend 24/25th June. It was organised by local man Brian Lawrance, with the assistance of his wife Jo, and their family. The Bourne Road site was used with the generous permission of farmer Gerald Gibson.

The fine weather helped to bring in the crowds who enjoyed the steam engines, static engines, vintage cars and a Tyrrell racing car. In addition there were also local trade stands. Receipts were to go to the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance.

THE LINCOLNSHIRE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

IMAGINE our beautiful county as a sterile landscape, without its rich diversity of plant and animal life.

It is too awful a prospect to contemplate, but the truth is that many species and their habitats have already disappeared. Now you help protect Lincolnshire's biodiversity—the variety of life—by having your say on the revised *Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan*.

The Plan was first published in 2000 and includes detailed action plans to ensure the survival of species and habitats in Lincolnshire

After five years of progress the plan is being revised and those behind the project need your help.

Andy Simpkin, Biodiversity Action Plan Implementation Manager with the Lincolnshire Wildlife trust explains:

“The variety of life gives pleasure to so many of us, whether through feeding garden birds or enjoying countryside walks. It is also economically important because tourists put millions of pounds into the local economy when they visit our wild coastline and countryside”

Andy continues “Our coast, estuaries, wetlands, woodlands and heathland are nationally important: each has its own distinctive landscape and characteristic wildlife. But each of them also faces challenges that may threaten their survival. That is why the revision is so important.”

To help you can fill in a short questionnaire available in libraries, at Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust visitor centres and online at www.lincs-bap.org.

For more information visit the website or write to Andy Simpkin at Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, c/o LWTT, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincs. LN9 5HF.—or phone 01507 526667

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