

ALL IN ORDER OF WHEN THEY WERE RECEIVED.

**QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC FOR COUNCIL UNDER RULE 10 OF THE
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES – COUNCIL 11 DECEMBER 2024**

Q1. Question by Gillian Henshaw to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

As our representative on the Community Partnership can you confirm that sites away from the coastal strip are now being considered by NWS for a GDF and will you insist that any development will be at a brownfield site and not on farmland or nearer the residents properties?

A. The search area is defined and does not include inland parts of the Ward. NWS have yet to make any statement about any potential locations. We will make comment once they have.

Q2. Question by Jeff Bedford to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

Why don't you show support for your own Conservative MP who , after doing her homework calls for a vote on the Nuclear Dump within 12 months? (

A. We have made a commitment to review our involvement within 12 months and with LCC by 2027.

Q3. Question by Nigel Barker to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

NWS have dropped the former gas terminal at Theddlethorpe for the proposed GDF site.

Therefore, Theddlethorpe Community Partnership is now meaningless. ELDC's original interest in developing that site with NWS, is now null and void.

Why are you ploughing on with this hapless project rather than focusing on the real issues with our community?

A. NWS have not dropped their interest in the former gas terminal. They have had to recognise that there are competing interests for the site that might necessitate them finding an alternative surface entry site. We will remain engaged until there is sufficient information to either withdraw from the process or remain. (understanding our commitment to withdraw by 2027 or before if more information is not forthcoming.)

Q4. This question was rejected.

Q5. Question by Peter Hill to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

We have heard for years that NWS & NWSCP want to bring assurance and clarity to the residents of Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe and the surrounding area. As

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there is less clarity now than ever before why not just shut it down or are you so far in the pocket of LCC that you go along with their every whim?

A. The Government guidance is clear on this matter - All relevant principal local authorities on the Community Partnership must agree before the Right of Withdrawal can be invoked or the Test of Public Support can take place. In an area with 2 tiers of local government and where both relevant principal local authorities are on the Community Partnership then they must both agree to invoke the Right of Withdrawal and to carry out the Test of Public Support.

Q6. Question by Bridget Odlin to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

The footpath adjacent to Wood Lane playing field is used by many elderly and disabled people as it is very accessible and level. Where will these people go for their regular exercise?

A. Louth is fortunate to have several public footpaths that its residents can use for regular exercise, including Railway Walk, which runs adjacent to Wood Lane Playing Field linking Monks Dyke Road to Wood Lane. Louth will continue to have public footpaths for its residents to use in the future.

Q7. Question by Phil Odlin to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

If no other 3G in the country has ever removed the entire green space in an area. Why then do you think it is acceptable on Wood Lane?

A. The Council does not have access to the information Mr Odlin has referenced, regarding all other 3g pitches nationally, but in the case of the Wood Lane Playing Field, this facility would provide Louth with a good quality playing surface, that will meet both the current and future footballing needs of the town.

Q8. Question by Robert Duell to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction/Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning

Planning application N/105/01111/24 - Your own Environmental Health Team objected to this application on the grounds of noise and light pollution. Why did Council not respect this and withdraw the application?

A. Following Consultee comments on the application from the Environmental Health Service dated 12 September 2024, further consultation with Planning and Environmental Health officers took place on the 27th September, with amendments to the Site, Artificial Turf Pitch, Elevation Plans and Floodlighting Scheme being submitted on 4th November, and amendments to the Noise Impact Assessment on the 28th November. These amendments are available for further comments from Consultees and the Planning Committee.

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Q9. Question by Mrs A Duell to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction/Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning

Planning application N/105/01111/24 - Will the Planning Committee do a site visit and listen to the noise in our back bedrooms during a football match, before making any decision on this application. **(John Leach)**

A. The application in question will be presented to the Planning Committee in due course. Officers have, and are duty bound, to carry out a site visit in coming to their recommendation. The decision as to whether the Committee carry out a site visit is a matter for the members of the Committee alone and would be a democratic decision at the time the application is presented.

Q10. Question by James Timson to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction/Councillor Tom Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning

Given the central government's targets, Louth's population growth and ELDC's very low green space provision, why are you not taking every opportunity to protect and increase green space in our area?'

A. The extant Local Plan Policy can be found below which sets out the justification in how ELDC identify and secure provision through the Local Plan and decision making processes.

CHAPTER 13 – OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Where we want to be

A District with a healthy and active population with high levels of public participation in sports and recreational pastimes, both within formal sporting facilities but also on increased levels of open space across the District.

All communities will have access to quality open spaces for outdoor recreation.

The District will contain a range of sports facilities appropriate to the size and needs of the community they are located.

What it will look like

Most large sports and formal recreational facilities will be located in the larger centres of population to benefit from the economies of scale and reduce the need for excessive travel.

Smaller settlements will provide hubs for local residents where there will be sports and recreational facilities at an appropriate scale to help support healthy and active local communities.

Delivery Objectives (how we are going to get there)

This strategy will be delivered through the following

- *Lincolnshire Sports Partnership*
- *Evidence*
- *Open Space, recreational and sports facilities assessment*
- *Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012*
- *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013-2018*

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- *Open Space, Sport and Recreation*

Why we have taken this approach

13.1. There are a number of key challenges in providing leisure services in the District. These include an ageing population, large geographical area with predominantly small rural communities, poor access to public transport, a heavy reliance on private transport, significant levels of deprivation and poor health – all factors that affect levels of use of leisure facilities and services.

13.2. Within the Council's Community Plan for a Sustainable Future under the themes of 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Older People', an increase in the uptake of physical activity throughout the community is a key objective within the wider aim of tackling serious health issues. Increased opportunities to undertake physical activity and increased uptake of existing schemes and facilities are identified measures to achieve this objective, which need to be supported and facilitated through the Local Plan.

13.3. Since the 1st of January 2015 Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure and Culture have assumed responsibility for managing and operating the District Councils formerly run leisure, culture and health facilities and services across East Lindsey. The Charitable trust are now responsible for the day to day operation and continued development of facilities such as the Embassy Swimming Pool and The Meridian Leisure Centre.

13.4. An audit and needs assessment of open spaces, recreational and sports facilities in the District has been recently undertaken. It has indicated no clear evidence of any significant quantitative deficiency in the level of indoor sports facility provision. However, there are discrepancies between the level of provision within the Towns and some villages.

13.5. School facilities, which are available for community use, formed part of this assessment and access to school sports facilities comprises a strong element of the Districts provision of sports facilities. Due to a reliance on access to sporting facilities at schools across the District, the Council will seek continued and increased access to these sports facilities for organised and community use, outside of school hours in order to foster community participation. The loss of a school in a community can often remove the only access to sport and recreation facilities in a village. It is important that Parish Councils and other community groups have the opportunity to take on such facilities, as, once they are lost to other uses, they are lost forever. As well as protection through this policy, Chapter 7 – Diverse Economy, Town/Village Centres and Shopping, also affords protection to key community facilities.

13.6. Green spaces are important to local communities. The availability of open space, sport and recreation facilities are key factors to the quality of life and physical well-being of residents and can, by adding to the attractiveness of the District, encourage potential investors to the area and stimulate economic growth.

13.7. The Council is keen to raise and sustain an awareness of the health and other benefits of leisure pursuits amongst all ages of the local population. Local allotments and parish gardens form an important element of this provision. Not only do they provide an opportunity for an active lifestyle, they contribute to the supply of healthy food and engender community spirit. It is important that protection is given to existing allotments throughout the District and that efforts are made to provide more where demand exists.

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13.8. *The audit of Sport and Recreation facilities has identified a district wide deficiency in the level of outdoor sport and recreation provision. Residential development increases the demand for open space, recreation and sports facilities and this in turn has a cumulative impact on the level of existing provision. Therefore, if development is proposed in areas where there is a deficiency in existing provision or in a situation where the development itself will create an issue of deficiency, the Council will require the provision of new or improved open space, recreational or outdoor sports facilities on developments of 10 houses and above.*

13.9. *The Council will assess the level of provision required on a site by site basis using the number and type of houses proposed, the level of existing population and the amount and type of existing open space/sport provision within the settlement. The standards set out below, based on the Fields in Trust Standards, will be used in determining the level of provision required from new development. On site provision is preferable but where this is not feasible, including for reasons relating to the scale of the development proposed, off site contributions for improving the quality of existing provision within the accessibility standard ranges as set out below will be considered. Open space provision can cover a range of types and may include the requirement for equipped play for younger children, as well as more formal sport and recreation provision and informal areas for less structured activity. The application of these standards will reflect the local circumstances in the individual settlement where the development is proposed.*

Q11. Question by Clive Damms to Councillor Graham Marsh, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction

Why have ELDC failed to provide enough grass pitches in Louth ?

A. The Final version of the commissioned Play Pitch Strategy that will support the local Plan review for East Lindsey has yet to report however, the extant policy in the Local Plan is clear that places a requirement for sports and play provision on qualifying new housing development which is quite aspirational acknowledging the importance of new provision coming forward. However, due to the size of most of the housing sites coming forward through the planning application process there has been very little opportunity to secure the provision of new pitch facilities. New development cannot bring forward existing deficiencies and can only be required where it mitigates its own impact and more often than not these impacts are very small.

Q12. Question by Andrea Spink to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

What progress toward a vote on the Nuclear Dump (Geological Disposal Facility) have you made in the last six months?

A. The Test of Public Support can only take place if all relevant principal local authorities on the Community Partnership agree to it being held. It is to note that Lincolnshire County Council could still continue with it even if ELDC withdraws.

Q13. Question by Elizabeth Lawton to Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

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Three and a half or five years after the nuclear dump project was initiated; suddenly you discover it won't fit the Theddlethorpe site. Our community explicitly asked how large the dump would be, yet we have been held at arms length, given vague answers and have not been given any "new" information despite attending many events.

I read the Nuclear Waste Services Community Partnership minutes of meetings. Not a single mention of moving the site. I have talked with NWSCP members who had no notice of the change of plan. Is NWSCP withholding information from our community or is it all a sham to wear objectors down. Which is it?

A. NWS are distinct from the Community Partnership. There has been frustration, expressed in this council, about the pace and depth of information presented by NWS. Hence the commitment by this council and LCC to withdraw unless more information is forthcoming by certain date points.

Ends.