

# Lincolnshire Independents

Christopher Darcel 

For Your Independent  
County Councillor for the  
Bardney & Cherry Willingham Ward,

And a proud member of the Lincolnshire Independent Group of  
Councillors, where we are “independents together” to serve you better.



Chris Darcel

*Dear Resident,*

## Four years on and what's new?

**Covid 19, bankruptcy, Women's safety at risk, the Government proposals to sweep away local planning as know it, more privatisation of Healthcare and reducing Local Government. Locally there is new bus route to Southery, the stopping of the Short Ferry Bus Service.**

**Still with us is flooding, continued wasting of money on the incinerator, potholes, pollution, hospital services and Adult Social Care, threat of giant wind turbines, street lighting and spin. These are not new, but these are all good reasons to make this the most important local election in recent years. It's also why I would be most grateful for your vote.**

**Covid 19.** The roll of the vaccination programme by the NHS and Volunteers has been a great success, but the Government created delays in PPE and late lockdown that allowed the early spread to get completely out of control. Muddled thinking and double standards of ministers and others, who should know better, has let us down and the only tool we have to show our displeasure is through the ballot box.

**Postal Voting.** With Covid 19 in mind, postal voting will probably be the norm this year. You can get a form <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-council/council-news/residents-urged-to-apply-now-to-vote-by-post-or-proxy-in-may-elections/> or phone 01427 676576. Return the simple form by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**Bankruptcy of our local businesses** Not a word you might expect to see on an election flyer, but as a result of Government handling of Covid, many members of our community will have lost their homes and life savings trying to protect their businesses. Others have had to take a pay cut just to keep their jobs. If the economy is to bounce back as it has in China, all these experienced entrepreneurs will need a financial hand to start new enterprises. Start-up funds need to be targeted to those with experience and good ideas rather than with money in the bank.

**Government White Papers.** After the May elections a whole raft of Government White Papers will become law. The headlines might look great, but on examination they will have a serious impact on the health service and privatisation, on planning decisions near you and the number of affordable houses that get built, and how local government will be accountable to you for years to come.

**The Short Ferry Bus route.** The No 3 route from Lincoln to Short Ferry, calling at the hospital needs to be restored and extended to Bardney and on to Southery. In a joined up, civilised world, residents from Southery and Bardney should be able to get into the city centre or the hospital easily, by bus and with no changes and at a reasonable cost. **The Conservatives will claim it cannot be afforded**, but if we had a sensible business approach to running the country as a whole, rather than that of running a small, corner shop we would all be much better off. Tesco and other supermarkets provide home deliveries, a bus service and free toilets in their stores, none of which will pay, but the prosperity of the whole store is assured.

**Flooding: Why is nothing happening in Fiskerton and Langworth?** Apparently, Cherry Willingham is under review, but residents in Fiskerton and Langworth are once again being overlooked. Of the three villages Fiskerton and Langworth are at the most risk. You don't need to be a scientist to see why. Just ask the residents or use your eyes. The County Council as the Lead Authority prefers to ignore the residents. That is why we need a change of management.

**The incinerator, potholes, and pollution.** For years I have complained about the capital cost of the incinerator but apparently the annual running costs are just as contentious. If, say, the County Council were spending £5m to much each year on the existing contract, surely it would have been worth spending £5m or even £10m five years ago to recind the deal. The money saved would have paid for the potholes to be repaired every year rather than as a 4 yearly event, street lights kept running in line with the residents demands and for far better monitoring and reporting of pollution events that have occurred in the ward **and it would also pay for a new pedestian crossing on the A158 at Greetwell as well.**

**Hospital services.** For the las few years I have been grateful of the services provided by Lincoln Hospital and whilst I have no criticism of either the machinery, nor staff driving it, I do feel the hospital is horribly out of date as a business model. A Mr Geoffrey Robinson, of Granada fame, looked at a nearby local hospital trust and reached the same conclusions. Perhaps all County Councillors should watch his programme.

**Adult Social Care.** Adult social care is part of the County Council remit and is going to play a massively more import role in our lives post Covid19. Of course everyone's budget is under stress but I believe it is a responsibility of County Councillors to make sure the County is getting its fair share of the cake and that the money is being spent wisely.

### **Giant Turbines**

At a recent meeting of the Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire including West Lindsey, our current Conservative Councillor Councillor voted to reverse the policy in order to give the green light to huge turbines over our countryside. We cannot afford to have Party policy like this seriously damaging our quality of life. We need independent voices speaking up for local people.

**Womens' safety, giant turbines and spin** are all good reasons for choosing new County Councillors in May. Of course women should be safe, in their homes, out and about, walking home or using public transport and be far better supported in reporting rape.

**Successive governments have done little to help. By changing the County Council team we will hopefully send a message to Westminster that we country folk are unhappy and should not be taken for granted. It is time for an Independent who will put your interests first.**



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