

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2025 AT 7pm AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT Cllr Kelham Cooke (Chair / Town Mayor)

Cllr Bret Allibone
Cllr Andrew Croft
Cllr Jane Kingman
Cllr Habib Rahman
Cllr Jonathan Waples

Cllr Lisa Brewin
Cllr Yvette Díaz- Muñoz
Cllr Jon Lott
Cllr Rhea Rayside
Cllr Anna Wotherspoon

Cllr Peter Copley
Cllr Ed Fancourt
Cllr Marion Pitt
Cllr Max Sawyer

ABSENT: Cllr Amanda Wheeler (Vice Chair) Cllr Luke Chilman
Cllr Barry Devereux Cllr Breda-Rae Griffin Cllr Joanna Winterbourne

IN ATTENDANCE Sarah Dorson – Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT Press
2 members of public
1 member of public online

Prayers were led by Chair

Public Participation

Civic Society Presentation **APPENDIX A.**

Member of Grantham Youth Council (GYC) updated the council on the focus of GYM regarding litter, mental health and careers advice.

To receive a report for information to Full Council

i. Lincolnshire County Councillors Report:

There was one verbal and one written LCC Councillors reports, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX B.**

ii. South Kesteven District Councillors Report:

There were three verbal SKDC Councillors reports, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX C.**

iii. Police Report:

There was one verbal report, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX D.**

433. Apologies for Absence

Proposal 1 - Apologies with valid reasons for absence were received and it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Devereux, Griffin, Wheeler & Winterbourne

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Initialled by Chair

434. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made during the meeting.

435. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 17 December 2024**Proposal 2**

The official minutes of the meeting of the Council were received and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 17 December 2024

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Habib Rahman	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

436. To receive and note minutes of and/or to determine recommendations by committees

Discussions were held regarding the minutes of the previously held committee meetings with a regard to adopt the recommendations

Proposal 3 - The official minutes of the Committee meetings of the Council were received and it was **RESOLVED** That the acts, proceedings and recommendations of the following committees be approved:

- Planning Committee - Tuesday, 07 January 2025
- Climate & Environment Committee - Tuesday, 07 January 2025
- Finance & Governance Committee - Monday, 13 January 2025
- Assets & Services Committee - Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Proposal 3 - The official minutes of the Committee meetings of the Council were received and it was **RESOLVED** That the acts, proceedings and recommendations of the above committees be approved:

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Bret Allibone	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

437. Chair's Report

The Chair report was received and **NOTED**

The Chair provided an update on recent activities and events over the past month:

Civic Engagements and Events

The past month has been relatively quiet in terms of civic duties. However, several important events took place, particularly during the festive period:

- **Christmas Events:** A number of Christmas carol concerts and events were held throughout the season, providing an opportunity for the community to come together in celebration.
- **Virtual Twinning Projects:** At the beginning of the year, a virtual twinning session was held at the Town Hall's courtroom, involving members of the Ukrainian community. This session also included the screening of a short film created by local students from the college.
- **Natalia's Short Film:** A particularly moving short film by Natalia was showcased, offering profound insight into certain experiences. Those who have not yet had the opportunity to view it are strongly encouraged to do so.
- **Holocaust Memorial Service:** Last week, a Holocaust Memorial Service was held at St. Michael's Churchyard. It was heartening to see so many schoolchildren from various schools participate in the event. Following the service, the attendees returned to the Town Hall for refreshments and to view an exhibition of student artwork.
- **Student Artwork Exhibition:** The artwork created by students as part of the Holocaust Memorial commemorations is currently displayed in the courtroom. Councillors and residents are encouraged to visit and appreciate the incredible effort and creativity of the students.

438. Clerk's Report including correspondence

Officer report was received and **NOTED**.

Microsoft Licensing Renewal

It was noted that the renewal for Microsoft licensing is due at the end of February. Microsoft has announced a 5-6% decrease in pricing.

Proposal 4 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve for the renewal of the Microsoft Licence.

Proposer	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
Secunder	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

IT and Broadband Upgrades

The council has undertaken multiple IT upgrades, initially planning an FTTP upgrade. However, it was discovered that the council is in a two-year contract with its broadband provider, preventing immediate implementation. A review found that the current provider offers significantly lower costs, so the council has agreed to either maintain existing broadband speeds or upgrade to FTTP at a reduced cost while remaining in contract. Approval was given to opt for the most cost-effective solution where possible.

Proposal 6 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the current broadband is upgraded with the Current Supplier

Proposer	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
Seconder	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Award Shield Purchase

It was noted that the Mayor's presentation shields; to honour individuals for their contributions to the community, stock is running low and additional units are required. After reviewing multiple quotes, a cost-effective and high-quality screen-printed design was selected. A total of 25 shields will be procured at a cost of £1,125, ensuring adequate stock for future awards.

Proposal 7 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that that the council would proceed with the screen-printed version at a cost of £1,125 plus VAT from York Insignia Ltd.

Proposer	Cllr Max Sawyer	
Seconder	Cllr Andrew Croft	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Co-option Process

The co-option process is ongoing, with applications being promoted through social media and other channels. No applications have been received so far, but inquiries have been made. A decision will be made at the next Town Council meeting in February. Councillors suggested directly reaching out to potential candidates via email to encourage participation.

First Aid Training

First aid training is scheduled for Monday, 24th February. Limited spaces are available for councillors who wish to participate, and interested members should email the Town Clerk to reserve a space.

Councillor Meeting Protocol Reminder

Councillors were reminded to follow proper meeting protocols to ensure orderly and productive discussions.

- **Speaking Procedures:** Councillors must raise their hand and wait for the Chair's acknowledgment before speaking. This ensures a structured flow of discussion, prevents interruptions, and avoids speaking over others. All questions should be directed through the Chair, and any motions or amendments must be proposed and seconded.

- **Addressing the Meeting:** When speaking, councillors should stand where possible to provide a clear visual cue of who is speaking, promoting effective communication and engagement with all attendees.
- **Maintaining Decorum:** Councillors are expected to listen attentively, as effective decision-making requires full engagement. Excessive use of devices during discussions should be avoided to ensure active participation.
- **Code of Conduct and Standing Orders:** Councillors are encouraged to review and adhere to the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to uphold professionalism and respect during meetings.

439. Ward Councillors Reports

Ward Councillor's Report by Councillor Ed Fancourt

Meadows Restoration Project

Cllr Ed Fancourt provided an update on available funding for maintenance work on the meadows. Funding has recently been made available to replace the pea gravel near the Lamas Bridge, which has been washed away by storms.

The Environment Agency has allocated 8 tonnes of gravel to be used for this restoration work, with no cost to the council. However, the funding is only available until the end of the financial year, making it a time-sensitive matter.

The only requirement for the project is access to the meadows for the gravel delivery and placement.

Cllr Fancourt emphasised that while some residents have expressed concerns that the area may resemble a beach, the purpose of the project is purely to restore the original gravel path, making it safer and more pleasant for visitors.

Proposal 8 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the donation of the gravel is accepted

Proposer	Cllr Ed Fancourt	
Seconder	Cllr Andrew Croft	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

440. Outside Bodies Reports

Outside Bodies Report by Councillor Allibone

Citizens Advice Report

Citizens Advice Stamford has seen a 20% increase in demand, assisting 604 clients in 2024. Cases are becoming more complex, with 3,087 issues addressed, averaging over five per client, marking a 45% rise. Additionally, 76 individuals received help with simple queries, supported by 20 volunteers.

Resource constraints limit the generalist advice service, and upcoming financial pressures from rising National Insurance contributions may force service reductions unless additional funding is secured.

Focus on Energy Advice

A key priority in the coming months is energy advice, addressing the link between heating and health. Citizens Advice will run Energy Days to provide essential support, and any assistance in promoting these initiatives is welcomed.

441. Biodiversity Grant Funding - APPENDIX E

A Biodiversity Grant Funding update was provided, confirming that the Environment Agency has allocated funding for tree planting and landscape restoration in Stamford, focusing on Stamford Meadows, the River Welland, and local playing fields. The funding must be utilised before the end of the financial year. Key initiatives include carbon capture through tree planting, urban cooling, flood prevention, erosion control, and wildflower meadow expansion. Collaboration with SKDC's tree officer, environmental groups, and local organisations is ongoing.

Element 1 - Wildflower Planting in the Cemetery:

The first element of the biodiversity grant proposal was discussed, focusing on the designated wildflower area within the cemetery. It was noted that the Cemetery and Allotments Committee had previously agreed that this section, located near the compound, is unsuitable for burials due to tree roots and ground conditions. As part of the cemetery extension project, it was decided that this area would be maintained as a wildflower meadow to support biodiversity.

Recommendation:

Proposal 9- It was **RESOLVED** to approve that element 1 is accepted

Proposer	Cllr Bret Allibone	
Seconder	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
For	14	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	1	Cllr Pitt
Motion	CARRIED	

Element 2 – Bird & Bat Boxes

The second element of the biodiversity grant proposal focused on expanding bird and bat boxes to enhance biodiversity in appropriate locations. Bird boxes are already in place at the cemetery, and this initiative aims to build on those efforts. While introducing bat boxes in allotments presents challenges due to tenant use, concerns were also raised about their potential impact on pollinators, as bats primarily feed on insects essential for crop growth. As a result, alternative locations, including the cemetery, recreation ground, and other open green spaces, were identified as more suitable sites for installation.

Proposal 10 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that element 2 is accepted

Proposer	Cllr Bret Allibone	
Seconder	Cllr Jane Kingman	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Element 3 – Hedging between Town Meadow and Freemans Meadow

The third element of the biodiversity grant proposal focused on adopting a sustainable approach to maintaining the area while ensuring key access points remain intact. The previous Council had agreed that, due to frequent damage and ongoing replacement costs, this method would provide a more effective long-term solution for preserving the space.

Proposal 11 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that element 3 is accepted

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Habib Rahman	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Element 4 – Riparian tree planting on River Welland

The fourth element of the biodiversity grant proposal focused on tree planting along the riverbank to address erosion and site degradation. A previous tree loss near the SKDC car park caused significant damage to the riverbank, highlighting the need for stabilisation efforts. Councillors agreed that suitable water meadow species should be selected to withstand the conditions and support long-term sustainability. Consideration was given to the height and spread of proposed trees, as well as the ongoing maintenance costs involved. To enhance effectiveness, it was suggested that shrub planting and native grasses be included to provide immediate soil stabilisation while trees establish themselves. Concerns were raised about young trees potentially being washed away before taking root, prompting discussions on short-term erosion control measures. The willow species was identified as particularly beneficial due to its rapid growth and adaptability to wet conditions.

Proposal 12 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve that element 4 is accepted

Proposer	Cllr Bret Allibone	
Seconder	Cllr Ed Fancourt	
For	14	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	1	Cllr Pitt
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

Element 5 – Tree Avenue on Vence Walk

The fifth element of the biodiversity grant proposal considered the planting of trees along the footpath on the meadows; however, this was strongly opposed due to concerns regarding safety, accessibility, and long-term maintenance. The current spacing between furniture is 8 meters, ensuring sufficient access for emergency vehicles, but the proposed tree planting would reduce this below the required minimum of 3.7 meters, potentially obstructing access for fire and ambulance services. Given that the site is surrounded by water, maintaining clear emergency routes is crucial.

Additionally, concerns were raised about the impact on CCTV coverage in Bath Row, an area already identified as a hotspot for antisocial behaviour. Reduced visibility would limit surveillance effectiveness, increasing security risks for the public. Furthermore, the 20-meter spread of oak trees would enclose the footpath, reducing sightlines and blocking street lighting, creating an increased risk to public safety, particularly at night.

There were also maintenance and liability concerns, including the risk of falling branches, which would increase insurance costs and pose hazards to pedestrians. Additionally, leaf debris could accumulate on the footpath, making it slippery and necessitating regular clearance to prevent accidents. Given these combined issues, councillors expressed strong reservations about planting trees in this location.

After thorough discussion, it was agreed that this proposal would be deferred for further review. Alternative locations, such as Uffington Road playing fields, were suggested, where tree planting could provide noise reduction and windbreak benefits without compromising safety, access, or visibility. The committee will reconsider this element in consultation with stakeholders to ensure an optimal solution that balances biodiversity goals with public safety and site functionality.

Proposal 13 - It was **RESOLVED** to defer element 5 to the next Climate & Environment Committee meeting

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Rhea Rayside	
For	14	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	1	Cllr Pitt
Motion	CARRIED	

442. To approve payments and receive financial reports Bank Balances

Proposal 14 - It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the bank balances as of Tuesday, 31 December 2024 (latest statement(s))

Account ending 0019 £ 22,098.51
 Account ending 9485 £ 24,732.35
 Investment Account 35LS £ 103,020.45

Account ending 3260 £ 409,521.55
 Investment Account CCLA £250,000
 Petty Cash £ 112.64

And It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Summary of Payments noted:

Voucher Nos.	Total Payments
598-697	£ 59309.52

Initialed by Chair

Proposer	Cllr Kelham Cooke	
Seconder	Cllr Jonathan Waples	
For	15	Cllrs Allibone, Brewin, Cooke, Copley, Croft, Díaz- Muñoz, Fancourt, Kingman, Lott, Pitt, Rahman, Rayside, Sawyer, Waples, Wotherspoon
Against	0	
Abstained	0	
Motion	CARRIED	

443. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.06pm. It was noted that the next meeting is the Town Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 7.00pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

Initialed by Chair

Appendix A

Reports in Public Session at Full Council on Tuesday, 28 January 2025



Stamford Civic Society

Conserving and enhancing our historic town

Stamford is an outstanding stone town in Lincolnshire

Stamford is England's first Urban conservation area

It has over 600 listed buildings ranging from remnants of medieval monasteries to fine 18th century town houses

In 1967 Stamford became the first conservation area

In 1960's many people were concerned about the conflict between the pace of change and the need to preserve the historic character of the built environment. This led to the Civic Amenities Act in 1967 that introduced Conservation Areas.

Thanks to some determined people, Stamford was able to demonstrate that the special quality of its historic core deserved the protection of Conservation Area status.

Once an area has been designated, permission from the local planning authority is required for changes which might affect the special character of the area.

The aim is to protect the quality and special interest of the neighbourhood or area as a whole rather than just specific buildings.

New technologies and changes to the way we live and work mean that it is often easier to demolish old buildings and build new ones. We can lose the character of our neighbourhoods. Many of our historic towns developed over the centuries and can not cope with the huge increase in traffic.

Conservation aims to balance the essential character of a valued townscape and the requirements of modern living.

The opening of the A1 in 1960 helped ease traffic congestion, new houses were built on the outskirts of the town, national retailers came to the high street and plate glass shop fronts were installed which meant the traditional shop fronts were destroyed.

In 1977 The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments published

An Inventory of Historical Monuments – The Town of Stamford

This is the definitive record of the 600 scheduled conservation buildings in Stamford

The Stamford Civic Society Committee of seven members

Sub committee – planning

Approximately 80 members and 12 corporate sponsors

Work

We Act as consultees - LCC. SKDC. STC .RCC

Initialled by Chair

We work with the interests of Stamford at the forefront of all that we do

Projects.

Church floodlighting, benches – recreation ground. Sheepmarket

Blue plaques 2022 –

Henry Burton,(photographer) Jack Pick,(Motors) Colin Dexter.(crime writer)

2023 - Coronation Celebrations, shop window competition

2024. Welcome archway – Sheepmarket

Events

Members and guests

Next – April 2nd. RAF Whittering Gary Waterfall BEM Air Vice Marshall retired

Membership.

£10 per person

Support Stamford and its preservation

Appendix B

i. **Lincolnshire County Councillors Report:**

Lincolnshire County Councillors are invited to provide a report at this point Key points highlighted in the report:

• **Lincolnshire County Council & South Kesteven District Council Councillor Report by Councillor Cleaver**

This month I have attended the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee at LCC, and Cabinet at SKDC

Transport - The electronic real-time bus service information board will be installed in the bus station shortly.

New bus stops have been installed across Stamford around the Town Hopper route. These all display timetable information and it is hoped that this initiative will further enhance usage of the service.

A new bus stop is being added inside the front of Cattlemarket car park as part of the improvements there. This is designed serve the railway station. One bus company has agreed to modify its routes to include this stop, and one company has declined to do so.

SKDC is not planning any increases for next year in the charges paid by bus companies for using the bus stations.

Figures show that the free parking periods offered in the run-up to Christmas were used on 7,670 occasions in Stamford and across Stamford & Grantham it appears that this generated a 20% increase in car park use.

Yesterday, despite December's unanimous decision at full council, LCC's Highways Scrutiny Committee refused to set a timetable for the adoption of a clear policy on 20mph zones across the county.

I am trying to have lighting installed along the footpath down the side of the A1 slip-road between Empingham Rd and Sidney Farm Lane.

Education – New figures show an increase of 20% over the last year in the number of children being home educated across the county.

Health – I still await firm assurances from NHS Lincolnshire that the new GP premises mandated through the S106 agreement on Stamford North will be brought into use.

The last day for taking part in [NHS Lincolnshire's consultation on Healthcare provision](#) in Stamford is Friday 31 January.

“Devolution” and Local Government Reorganisation – We await the letter which is being sent to all districts and counties by the Minister asking us to prepare reorganisation plans. Until we see this letter it would be unwise to speculate any further on the future. However, SKDC's leadership has made it clear that it would welcome SKDC and Rutland being part of the same new authority. I should be happy to hold a separate briefing for STC members on this subject a week or two after we have received the minister's letter.

It is still expected that the election for the first Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will take place on 1 May alongside the scheduled Lincolnshire County Council elections.

Leisure – The Stamford Leisure Pool saw a 17% increase in usage in 2024. Following public concerns stricter supervision of cleanliness has been introduced. SKDC is proposing no increase in membership charges in the coming year.

Initialled by Chair

Arts – Stamford Arts Centre saw a 12% increase in ticket sales in 2024.

Market – The market continues to thrive, and SKDC is proposing no increase in charges to stall holders in the coming year.

Planning – Quarry Farm and Stamford North were given outline planning consent this month. Against officers' advice, the SK Planning committee agreed that the developer should provide all of the highways mitigation monies requested by LCC, but stated the RCC should provide one third of it due to Quarry Farm resident's use of LCC roads. RCC has not responded to this request. RCC & SKDC now need to agree joint infrastructure funding arrangements across the two sites. SKDC's Local Plan revision has been slightly delayed by the publication of the government's new National Planning Policy Framework, under which SKDC's housing target has increased from 687 to 895 homes per year. This will make it difficult to avoid the "Stamford Gateway" site on Empingham Road being redesignated from employment use to housing. The next consultation stage of the plan revision will take place after the elections in May. I would again urge the Town Council to ensure that the Stamford Neighbourhood Plan is revised to keep it in line with the SKDC plan.

Economic Development – On Thursday 30th May, SKDC is holding a 'Meet the Buyer' event, designed to give local businesses an opportunity to learn about council procurement, particularly in light of new regulations due early next year. This event is also designed to give local Stamford businesses an understanding of potential council contracts coming up they may be interested in.

• **Lincolnshire County Council Councillor Report by Councillor Cooke**

Highways and Infrastructure Cllr Cooke provided an update on ongoing and upcoming highways projects in Stamford:

- **Ryhall Road Resurfacing:** The resurfacing of Ryhall Road is scheduled to take place in September 2025. This will address existing wear and tear and improve road safety in the area.
- **Conduit Road Consultation:** The County Highways Manager is scheduled to visit Stamford next week to assess various areas, including Conduit Road. There has been a proposal to remove a small number of parking spaces to ease congestion. While this is not intended to introduce a one-way system, further consultation with residents will be undertaken to explore viable solutions to the concerns raised.
- **Meetings with Residents on Ryhall Road, St Leonard St, and Little Casterton Rd:** Discussions are ongoing regarding highways improvements in these areas. A consultation is currently underway on the reduction of speed limits on the far end of Little Casterton Road as it approaches Stamford. The aim is to reposition speed signs further back to better alert drivers as they approach the town, particularly when coming up the hill where visibility is reduced. This measure also seeks to improve pedestrian safety, as requested by local residents.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

- **Mayoral Election:** The mayoral election is confirmed to take place on 1st May 2025, as scheduled.
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** An announcement regarding priority areas for local government reorganisation was anticipated but has not yet been made. It is expected within the next few days. At this stage, Lincolnshire County Council is not expected to be included in the immediate reorganisation process, meaning that County Council elections will proceed as planned on 1st May.

Transport and Public Services

Initialled by Chair

- **Improved Bus Stops:** Stamford is set to receive upgraded and covered bus stops, ensuring better shelter for passengers during adverse weather conditions.
- **CrossCountry Trains Update:** CrossCountry Trains has confirmed that all trains will be refurbished soon. The updates will include plug sockets, improved Wi-Fi, new seating, and air conditioning. However, the long-standing campaign for increasing service frequency to two trains per hour remains ongoing, and further discussions will be required.

County Council Meetings and Business Support

- **Business and Committee Engagement:** Cllr Cooke attended the Adults and Community Scrutiny Committee last week and the Environment and Economy Committee this morning, where Katrina Pierce of the Federation of Small Businesses presented on local business engagement. She will also be hosting business support workshops in Stamford, with details to be advertised shortly. The aim is to assist and strengthen the local business community, ensuring high levels of participation.

County Council Budget and Council Tax

- **Budget and Council Tax:** The County Council's budget meeting is scheduled for next month, during which a 2.99% council tax increase has been proposed. While this increase remains below the maximum allowable rate, it is intended to balance financial prudence with the economic pressures currently faced by residents.

Appendix C

ii. South Kesteven District Councillors Report:

South Kesteven District Council Councillor Report by Councillor Max Sawyer

Street Lighting and Road Maintenance

Cllr Sawyer provided an update on key infrastructure concerns within South Kesteven:

- **Street Lighting Issues:** Several streetlights on Priory Road are currently out. Residents are reminded that all streetlights have a reference number, which helps identify whether they fall under the jurisdiction of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) or South Kesteven District Council (SKDC). Residents are encouraged to report any faulty lights using the reference number to ensure a quicker response.
- **Pothole Repairs:** Ongoing complaints about potholes on Casterton Road, particularly opposite the entrance to Vence Close, have been raised again. Cllr Sawyer has written to Richard Davies at LCC regarding the issue and awaits a response.

Parking and Footpath Issues

- **LCC Parking Permit System:** Concerns have been raised about the usability of the new LCC parking permit system. A resident reported difficulties in obtaining a season ticket, stating that the previous system was significantly more user-friendly. Cllr Sawyer will raise this matter for review to improve accessibility.
- **Overgrown Footpaths:** Reports have been received regarding overgrown vegetation obstructing pathways, particularly on Ryhall Road near the former Homebase car park, as well as at Sergeant's Court. These issues have been notified to the relevant authorities.
- **Sweeping and Waste Management:** Elm Street has been reported as needing street sweeping, and persistent problems with bins being left on the footpath in Blackthorn Road (part of Rutland Heights) have also been raised with SKDC.

Tourism and Public Spending

- **Brown Tourist Signs for Stamford:** The installation of brown tourist signs to promote Stamford has been met with mixed reactions. While there is consensus on the benefit of such signage, Cllr Sawyer expressed concern over the high cost of £40,000 for two signs. The funding for these signs comes from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is allocated by the central government. While Stamford is entitled to benefit from this fund, Cllr Sawyer has questioned whether the expenditure is justified. He has stated that if given the opportunity to vote on the matter, he will oppose it—not because Stamford does not deserve the signs, but due to the excessive cost and the potential for better allocation of these funds to other pressing local needs.

Appendix D

iii. Police Report: Councillor Sawyer delivered a report on behalf of the Police.

Police Report Delivered by Councillor Max Sawyer

Anti-Social Behaviour

- A decrease in incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) has been noted in Tolethorpe Square. The victim of previous incidents has been visited by a crime reduction officer, and recommendations have been made to SKDC to help manage and deter further issues.
- The police have liaised with Stamford Welland Academy and the College to issue a communication appeal to young people, warning that persistent disruptive behaviour will lead to formal police visits.

Youth Disturbances

- Reports have been received regarding youths knocking on doors and running away, particularly in Alexander Road. While a resident suggested this issue may have been featured on BBC Look North, local authorities have not identified it as a major concern.

Neighbour Disputes

- Ongoing tensions between neighbours on Lambeth Walk have resulted in community protection notices being issued to both parties. SKDC has been contacted, as both individuals involved are SKDC tenants.

Vehicle Thefts

- A rise in vehicle thefts has been observed in the area. In some instances, properties were burglarised to obtain car keys, while in others, offenders used electronic devices to intercept signals from keyless entry systems.
- Residents are advised to store keys in Faraday boxes to reduce the risk of electronic key cloning.

Shoplifting

- There has been an increase in shoplifting incidents, with police actively working with retailers to gather CCTV evidence and identify offenders.
- Many perpetrators targeting Stamford High Street appear to be from outside the local area.

Unexpected Death Investigation

- Regarding an unexpected death on Northumberland Avenue, police inquiries have been carried out sensitively, and a press release has been issued.
- A man initially taken in for questioning has been released without charge.

Cllr Sawyer concluded by encouraging residents to report any suspicious activity to the police and SKDC to ensure ongoing community safety.

Appendix E

Biodiversity and environmental projects

Bids have been submitted for funding for the following projects. Support has been sought and received from a number of District Councillors, including Max Sawyer, Richard Cleaver, Rhea Rayside and Jane Kingman, and community groups including Team Stamford, Stamford Litter Pickers, Stamford in Bloom and Stamford College. Together with members of Stamford Youth Council and Stamford Climate Action Group, we will seek volunteers from local schools, the college and scouts groups across the town. Advice has been received from the following individuals who will provide ongoing support:

- Andrew Igoea, SKDC Tree Officer
- Peter Glassey, Burghley Head Forrester
- Paddy Bigham, Environmental Consultant

1 Wildflowers at Stamford Cemetery

Sowing native wildflower seeds in the area marked below.



2 Bird & bat boxes

Boxes constructed by Stamford College to be placed at various Stamford locations, such as Stamford Cemetery, the Recreation Ground and allotments. These could also be provided to schools and residences who are interested in putting up boxes.

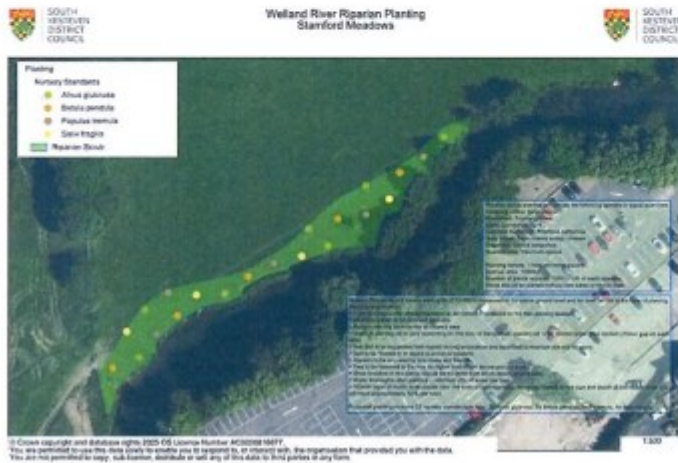
3 Hedging between Town Meadows and Freemans Meadows

Planting of hedging to replace the old, damaged fencing.



4 Riparian tree planting on River Welland

A dense planting of trees alongside the water course slows the speed at which water enters the channel by increasing the riparian roughness. The trees also act as a barrier preventing sediment, pesticides and fertilisers entering the water. Shade provided by the trees creates habitats for aquatic life and cools the water. The rooting systems help stabilise the bank, protecting it against erosion, ultimately helping to prevent flooding downstream. Trees slow the rate of run-off from the land by increasing soil infiltration through rooting. Riparian woodland reduces siltation by protecting soils and river banks, increasing the capacity of the channel to contain floodwater. This planting is urgently needed to prevent further erosion on a vulnerable section of the town Meadows.



5 Tree avenue on Vence Walk

Trees to be placed alongside existing street furniture and lighting columns, 4 metres back from Vence Walk with gaps of 15 metres, maintaining vehicle access, sight lines and visibility.

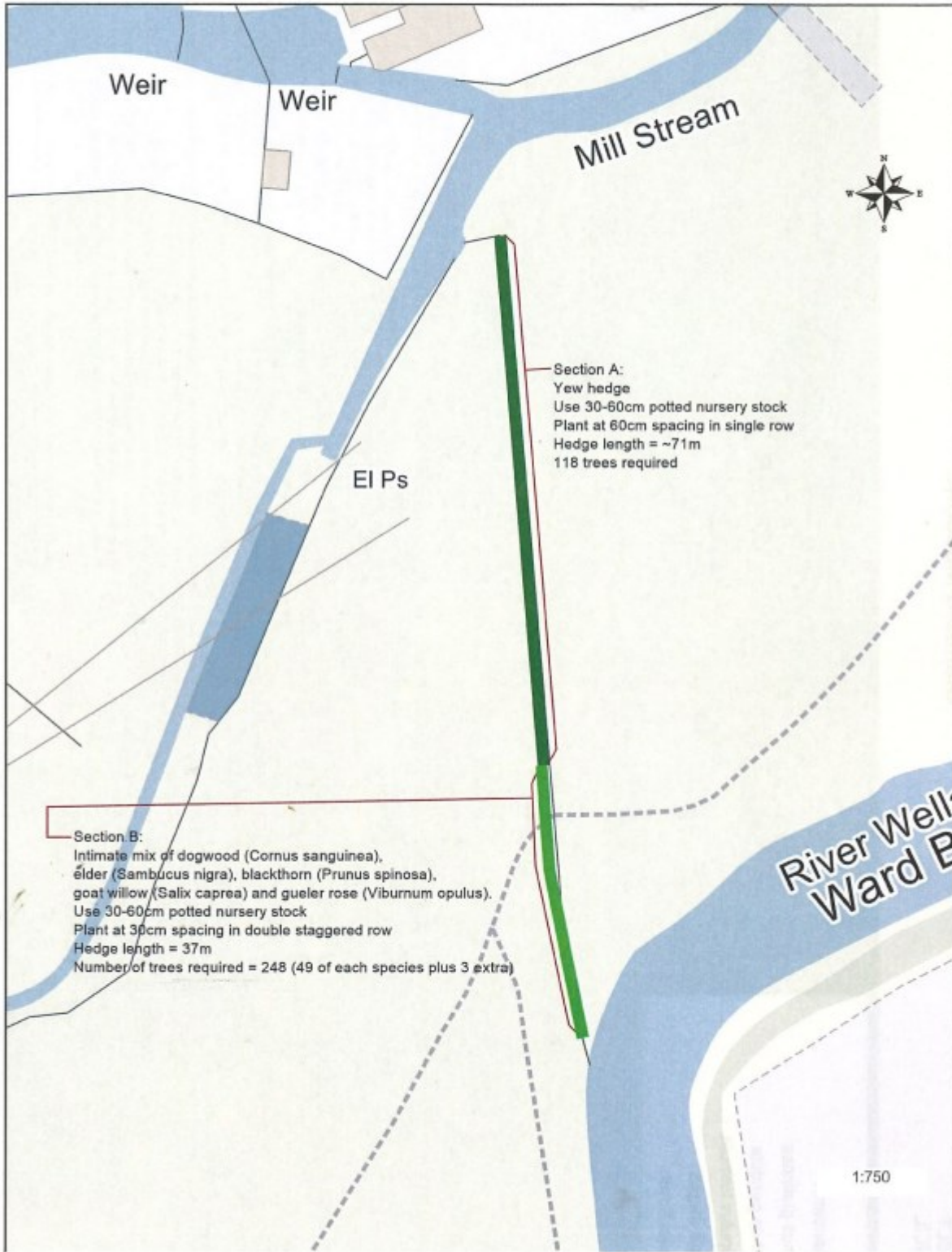


Consultation with community groups and residents prior to planting.

Stamford Town Council Stamford Meadows - Proposed West Boundary Hedge

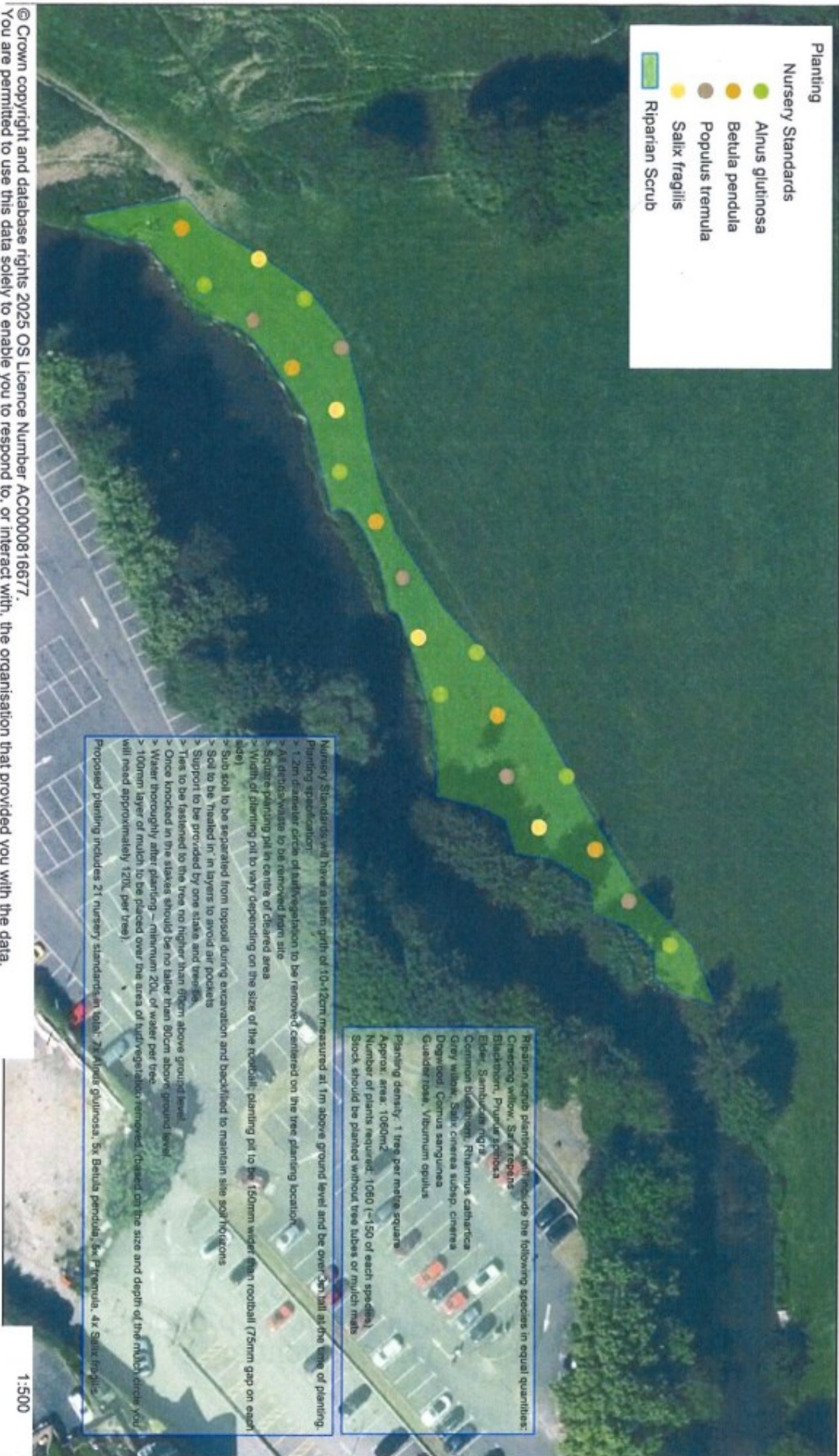


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Welland River Riparian Planting Stamford Meadows



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Stamford Town Council Stamford Meadows Planting Plan (Make Space for Nature Grant)



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