

## TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY

### 1) Do you feel your Town or Parish Council has all the tools it needs to run properly and be successful?

Louth Town Council runs very well generally with the resources available. It has an excellent staff structure (Clerk and Admin Assistant) that manages all day to day running and budgets are managed well. It would be very helpful if all at ELDC understood that town and parish councils do not run in the same way that the District Council does. Often staffing levels are minimal, as are hours worked. Neither officers nor Councillors have the same delegated authority as those at ELDC and as meetings are not always every month this does mean that the earlier information can be provided, the better and timeframes need to be longer.

Resources are available for assistance / advice with various bodies of support, legally and administratively. However, the Council feels strongly that more support, better updates, information dissemination, communication / two way dialogue is needed between Louth Town Councillors and ELDC and LCC strategic leads and officers regarding subjects such as planning, town centre, markets, investment in Louth, town businesses, out of town retail, vitality and viability of Louth, grants, economic growth, green spaces, tourism and promotion of Louth / Wolds. The Town Council would also like ELDC and LCC to consult with it, listen AND respond to its comments in respect of major town decisions.

The Town Council considers itself fortunate to count 3 District Councillors within its number. It feels that their views on Louth should carry more weight with ELDC.

### 2) Do you undertake any training for the role? If so, what was the best training you undertook and what other training would help support you in carrying out your role?

Training is available through the Lincolnshire Association of Local Council's (LALC) for councillors needing additional guidance on fulfilling their roles, for example new councillor training, finance, chairing meetings. It is felt councillors do need encouragement to take up opportunities for training, when joining the council. This could be expanded by offering formalised inductions. Generic planning training is provided by LALC, but more specific training focussed on ELDC planning processes would be of much more benefit to ensure Councillors understand how ELDC works and the 'reasons' that can be used when deciding to oppose or support an application. In general it is thought that strategic discussions would identify gaps in knowledge and understanding.

### 3) How supported do you feel generally as a parish / town council to fulfil your role?

Given the role of a Councillor on Louth Town Council receives no remuneration and Councillors have other work commitments, training needs to be available and / or online at various times of the day (AM / PM / Evenings). Specifically, a better understanding of ELDC process, would make LTC more effective. Councillors do feel there is a divide, mostly due to the lack of communication between Councillors and ELDC Leadership.

### 4) Do you believe you get sufficient support from East Lindsey District Council to support you in being successful? What else can ELDC do to help you succeed in your roles?

More interaction with ELDC on matters such as planning, town centre, markets, investment in Louth, town businesses, out of town retail, vitality and viability of Louth, grants, economic growth, green spaces, tourism and promotion of Louth / Wolds would be of benefit. It would be good to see a more unified position on issues between LTC / ELDC especially planning decisions for the majority of applications.

Officer presence. Engagement with portfolio holders / strategic leaders re. direction of travel, aspirations and needs of both LTC and ELDC would be helpful and in the case of Planning would benefit the process.

Councillors would really like to see the return of quarterly face to face meetings between themselves and strategic leaders, which are of an informal nature, where questions can be asked and information freely exchanged. It would also be beneficial for Councillors to have a key contact at ELDC. Someone they can contact for 'quick' advice / answers on ELDC related issues.

### 5) What is your Town / Parish most affected by (most complaints or concerns)? Do you feel you have sufficient knowledge in the matter to help resolve these concerns?

The issue with the biggest impact is planning and often responses from LTC seem to be ignored. More training and more interaction are essential.

### 6) Do you have any further comments / issues you would like to raise?

Communication is key to our success, so that the voice of Louth residents is heard. LTC would like to see a relationship be built between the two Councils. Please find solutions.