

## **Report to Downham Market Town Council**

**Borough Councillor Josie Ratcliffe**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### **Lidl Supermarket Application**

On 4<sup>th</sup> April I addressed the Borough's Planning Committee in favour of the Lidl supermarket application for Bexwell Road in Downham Market, and I highlighted the 325 comments that have been submitted in favour, and only 21 against. Thank you to everyone who used the Planning Portal to record your preference and your views.

There are concerns over traffic and the impact on nearby homes of course, and the application will return to the Borough's Planning Committee for final approval after more details and planning 'conditions' have been agreed, and following negotiations regarding Lidl's offer of up to £50,000 towards improvements in the town centre.

### **Bin Collections**

This week's Black bin and food caddy collection day is **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** due to the bank holiday. Next week will be Tuesday as usual, but then the Early May Bank Holiday means the following collection will be **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**.

There's a big change from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May** when most homes in Downham Market will change to a different bin collection day. Serco reviewed all rounds across West Norfolk to reduce miles travelled by each vehicle and provide a more reliable service, so instead of ten lorries collecting in Downham Market on Tuesdays, two lorries will collect from a fifth of the town each weekday. New bin collection calendars will be posted to each house.

### **Working Together to Support War Refugees**

Services in West Norfolk are coming together to support war refugees as they arrive in the Borough to make sure they don't experience additional hardship on top of the trauma they have been through. The Borough Council is funding a part-time support worker for migrant charities **Access** and the **Hanseatic Union** and has an emergency grant scheme which will be administered by the council's **Lily** service.

I know of three households so far, in and around Downham Market, who have welcomed their guests under the "Homes for Ukraine" hosting scheme. Facebook group [Downham Market welcomes Ukrainians](#) is open to all supporters and potential hosts. We can provide advice about the Home Office's visa scheme, which is frustratingly slow and complex, but there are many local people and organisations keen to help guests feel welcome, get into work or education, and learn or improve their English which is valued internationally.

### **Chance to help shape Norfolk cycling and walking route plans**

Norfolk County Council has launched a survey for residents to suggest new cycling and walking routes, and ideas to encourage people to take up more active forms of travel. Take part in the survey from **5 April-30 May** at: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/activetravel](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/activetravel)