

Saxilby with Ingleby Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Annual Report: Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council Chair's Report

The last year has seen a great deal of change within the parish council. Many long-term projects have come to a close or made significant steps forward, allowing the council to progress projects that have been waiting in the wings.

Since last year's annual parish meeting, we have welcomed Councillor Stephen Bowden, Councillor Hazel Wheatley, and Councillor Kate Truscott, whilst saying thank you and goodbye to Councillor Hughes and Councillor Ashton-Derry. We currently have two vacant seats on the parish council, and would welcome applications from any residents who are interested in representing the village and making decisions regarding council and parish matters.

The council currently has three committees and four working groups. Members of the public also sit on working groups which drive forward projects.

MUGA

I am delighted to report that the long-awaited Multi Use Games Area build is well underway and is expected to complete in June. Funding was secured from Lovell Homes, the FCC Communities Foundation, West Lindsey District Council, Saxilby Sports Hub, and Lincolnshire Co-op, allowing the build to commence in March of this year. The court will be bookable online with free community slots and as teams being able to hire the facility.

We look forward to opening this £150,000 facility for members of our community to enjoy and benefit from.

NDP

Following a successful referendum for the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review, the Plan is due to be formally accepted by West Lindsey District Council at the end of June. The steering group has worked tirelessly to undertake a thorough and detailed review of the plan, and over the last twelve months, it underwent rigorous scrutiny from statutory bodies, independent examiners, and residents of our village. Once accepted by West Lindsey District Council, the Plan will replace the 2017 version, and its policies will be used to determine planning decisions in the parish alongside other planning policies.

Saxilby Waterfront

This year also saw the council's Saxilby Waterfront Working Group formally conclude, having been set up in 2017 and achieving its core objectives. Volunteers have now set up an independent community group to maintain improvements in the Bridge Street Conservation Area.

Two final elements of the project – installation of the new information boards, and installation of heritage style street lighting - are due to complete in the summer.

Thanks to the dedication of group members, the area has been removed from Historic England's Heritage At-Risk Register, which is a fantastic accomplishment that the volunteers can be incredibly proud of.

Leasing

This year has also seen the final milestone in leasing land and buildings from Saxilby Public Recreation Ground Charity. The council has signed a 25-year lease for the play area, the MUGA, and the wheeled park, alongside a 25-year lease for St Andrews Community Centre. This approach was supported by residents in public consultation, and ensures that the parish council can continue offering vital services to the community including the library, room hire, and sports changing rooms.

The lease also gives the charity financial stability, allowing them to care for the recreation ground and safeguard this much-loved open space.

Community Engagement

We have engaged with community members by introducing regular councillor 'meet and greet' sessions before Full Council meetings, and continuing to attend the monthly village coffee morning, with comments being fed back and actioned through the council's committees.

Events

Our events group have supported and led a range of community events, including celebrations for VE and VJ Day, and a successful yard sale in September, with another planned for the end of June. The council were delighted to be involved in the church's poppy cascade campaign, hosting a number of workshops which contributed to the creation of over 7,500 knitted, crocheted and crafted poppies, which formed a stunning cascade down the bell tower of St Botolph's Church for Remembrance.

Following a successful trial session in October, the events group has now introduced a regular volunteering morning at the burial ground, which has so far been well attended by members of the public and councillors.

Family Fun Day

Our second Family Fun Day, held on Saxilby Public Recreation Ground in August, was a great success with an estimated 2,600 visitors enjoying the afternoon. The event was supported by volunteers from the community, and a great number of local community groups, charities, and businesses attended. Plans are underway for this year's event.

Grants and Fundraising

Once again, the council has been in a position to offer opportunities for grants and funding, and over £2,000 was awarded to local sports and community groups to support their fundraising activities, including:

- Supporting insurance payments for Saxilby with Ingleby Good Neighbour Scheme, St Andrews Bowls Club, and Saxilby Waterfront Group
- Purchasing training equipment for Saxilby Tennis Club and Saxilby Cricket Club
- Supporting Saxilby Athletic Football Club to host the Dutch Exchange Project

We have also initiated opportunities for fundraising. A bra bank has been installed in the library, raising funds for Against Breast Cancer with around 150 bras collected to date, and we once again collaborated with Saxilby with Ingleby Good Neighbour Scheme to raise money at the MacMillan Coffee Morning. The events group have also collaborated with Saxilby Sports Hub to hold fundraising events in support of local organisations, including Saxilby Village Hall and Wildline Wildlife Sanctuary.

Library

Our library continues to thrive with the support of many volunteers. Members and borrowing continue to increase. Volunteers have arranged and hosted author talks and regular children's storytime sessions during school holidays, and have recently introduced extended opening hours on a Friday evening. Thank you to all the committed volunteers who give up their time to enable this important service to continue in the village.

Community Speed Watch

At last year's meeting, I announced that our Speed Watch initiative would return in 2025. I am pleased to report that regular sessions are now taking place, monitoring speeds on Mill Lane. Our aim remains to install speed indicator devices on Mill Lane, and at June's Full Council meeting, council will consider allocating Community Infrastructure Levy funds (which come from housing developments) to this. This will allow the Community Speed Watch group to focus their efforts in other parts of the village, where concerns over high-speed traffic have been raised.

Thank you to the small group of volunteers and councillors who have been pro-active in helping to make Saxilby's roads safer.

Around the Village

The council have continued to invest in facilities in our community. Working alongside local football teams, the changing rooms at Mill Lane have been improved with outdoor maintenance, painting, and installation of new shower screens.

At St Andrews Community Centre, the entrance foyer has been improved with new flooring.

Work has been carried out at Saxilby Waterfront Public Facilities: the boaters sluice has been replaced, building has been reroofed, and the windows and doors have been replaced - with painting to be completed on them.

As grass cutting slows grounds work on projects, work will continue in the autumn, including preparing and re-painting the building exterior and refurbishing the public toilet and boater shower.

Tree management work has taken place around the village and we are now into our second year of designating 'no mow' areas to increase biodiversity around the parish.

We are also working with local organisations including Saxilby Public Recreation Ground Charity and Saxilby C of E School to encourage planting of hedgerows to support nature corridors.

The council is continuing to seek donated resources to enable the re-installation of the community mosaic, created by schoolchildren in 2012, which unfortunately had to be removed from its original location on the flood wall due to the surface being unsuitable in the long term and tiles falling off.

Looking Forward

In the midst of projects coming to a close, we have turned our attention to progressing the Westcroft Green Space redevelopment.

Our grounds team have completed preliminary work in the area, including hedge maintenance, path repairs, and native tree planting

The council has undertaken a seven-week public consultation to learn more about residents' visions for the area. Draft sketches have been produced, and contractors have visited the area to give initial quotes and guidance. Further public consultation will take place in 2026, to inform decisions regarding play and fitness equipment.

In the coming months, the council's new business plan will be shared, with revised objectives, projects, and priorities, based on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and community evidence.

A full refurbishment of the Function Room here at St Andrews Community Centre is being planned to make it more welcoming for room hirers and improve energy efficiency. I'm sure you will agree, it is ready for some TLC!

Much progress has been made in the last year and this is set to continue into 2027.