



Review June 2005

Caistor Development Partnership (CDP) now comprises 27 members representing all sections of the Caistor community including residents, business people, town councillors, district councillor, county councillor, schools, youth club, Caistor Society, Sports & Social Club, Police and the Methodist Church. The CDP meets regularly every two months.

The CDP came about as a result of a series of public meetings held in Caistor Town Hall between October 2000 and February 2001. At the February 2001 meeting the townspeople of Caistor agreed **'That the residents of Caistor support the formation of a working group to promote the development of the town'**.

MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE

On 15th February 2001 the CDP submitted an expression of interest under the Market Towns Initiative to the Countryside Agency. As a result of that submission a letter was received from EMDA which suggested that there were 'issues identified in the application that the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) might be able to fund from one or other of their regeneration programmes'.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Also in February 2001, the CDP organised a Community Survey and forms were distributed to every household in the town. The results of the survey are available on the www.caistor.net web site but briefly the top 3 priorities were identified as:-

1. Encouraging the economic development of the town
2. Improving the appearance of the town
3. Reducing crime and vandalism

Following the survey the CDP created and published a number of strategic documents such as:-

1. **'A STRATEGY FOR CAISTOR'** which spells out clearly what the CDP's intentions are.
2. **'CAISTOR ECONOMIC REVIVAL - CONSULTANT'S BRIEF'**. A strategy for the economic revival of the town which was approved by EMDA.

TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE (THI)

At an early stage, contact was made with Tim Bissett, the Chief Executive Officer at Groundwork (GWL) Lincolnshire and in May 2001, GWL submitted a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on behalf of the Caistor

Development Partnership. This initial bid was unsuccessful but HLF was sufficiently interested in helping to revitalise Caistor that they offered a sum of money, up to £25,000, for GWL to engage a consultant to advise on a resubmission of the THI bid. **It is interesting to note that Heritage Lottery appointed a monitoring officer to advise and monitor the second bid.**

The THI area is located within the Caistor Conservation Area and the actual scope of the bid was agreed by the monitoring officer in October 2001 and includes 105 buildings in and around the Market Place. Thirty four of the buildings are Grade II Listed. Four buildings were identified as being critical to the project and will be targeted because of their potential to initiate the regeneration process through realising their potential contribution to the appearance of the area.

The CDP was involved in creating the brief for the THI Consultant who was appointed by Groundwork Lincolnshire in March 2002 to advise on the Heritage Lottery bid.

The second bid was put together in a very short timescale and was submitted to HLF at the end of May 2002. The total bid was for £2.47M and it was anticipated that this would result in funding of £1.5Million. In the event the total funding obtained was £1.62 Million. This will pay for the administration of the scheme and provide a 'common fund' from which property owners can apply for grants to assist them with repairs & renovation, heritage detail and bringing vacant space back in to use. The level of grant will vary from up to 60% to up to 90% according to the type of work undertaken. The heritage work attracting a higher percentage.

The funding for the THI bid is coming from the:-

- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)
- West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)

Groundwork Lincolnshire will be the 'lead' organisation for the THI project and will be responsible for it's implementation, administration and the accounting arrangements. West Lindsey District Council will advise on all planning and conservation matters. A working group comprising 2 representatives from each of Groundwork Lincolnshire, West Lindsey District Council and Caistor Development Partnership has been set up to operate the scheme. A full time conservation / project officer will advise property owners and the working group on grant applications.

CDP PROJECT GROUP

In addition to the above a CDP project group comprising representatives from:-

- Caistor Development Partnership (CDP)
- Groundwork Lincolnshire (GWL)
- East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
- West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)
- Lincolnshire Enterprise (LE)
- Lincolnshire Development (LD)

- University of Lincoln
- South Humber Business Advice Centre (SoHBAC)

was set up in June 2001 and now meets in Caistor on a regular monthly basis to monitor progress on the THI and other projects with which the CDP is involved. The range of projects includes:-

- Core Funding for Caistor Development Trust
- Economic Development of the Town
- Multi-Use / Resource Centre
- Caistor Design Statement
- Business Incubation Units (new businesses)
- Development of Enterprise Units at North Kelsey Road Industrial Estate
- Walks around the Town (in conjunction with Caistor Society)
- Community Website
- History of Caistor (in conjunction with Caistor Society)
- Web based Historical Photographic Record
- Environmental Improvements
- Caistor Western Relief Road
- Sites of Archaeological Significance including the Mediaeval Fish Ponds in Navigation Lane
- Community Wi-Fi Network

ECONOMIC STUDY

In pursuance of the economic revival of the town the Caistor Development Trust (CDT), with financial support from EMDA, engaged the University of Lincoln to carry out an economic study of the town. A 'vision' workshop was held in November 2003

The study has produced a 'Business Plan' which the CDP will use to seek additional funding to encourage investment in the town. This document has been approved by the directors of the Caistor Development Trust and is being circulated to all local authorities and funding agencies in the local area and beyond.

Copies of this document will be made available to Caistor Town Council, West Lindsey District Council, members of the Caistor Development Partnership, potential employers and developers to encourage the economic revival of the town.

BROADBAND

The Caistor telephone exchange has now been enabled and ADSL (Broadband) is now available through a number of providers using existing telephone lines with download speeds of up to 2 Mbs. This effectively removes the 'lack of broadband' barrier to new companies considering setting up business in Caistor and helping existing businesses to stay now that the technology is here.

DOCUMENTS

Many of the documents mentioned in this leaflet are available on the www.caistor.net web site.