

YOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL

On 6th May we go to the polls to elect a county councillor for the Welton Rural Division. Four candidates have been declared and the **NEWS** contacted all of them to provide some information about themselves. Each was asked to say, briefly, who they were and why we should vote for them. They were also asked whether or not they are in favour of a unitary authority for Lincolnshire, (i.e., a single tier local authority that would take over the responsibilities of both county and district councils).

Dave Bond (Labour Candidate)

Gainsborough Constituency Labour Party replied on behalf of the Labour candidate, Dave Hill, as follows: *Dave is away at the moment and apologises because he is not able to write the article at present. Thank you for the request though and we hope to be able to respond for the next election.*

Mrs Sue Rawlins (Conservative Candidate)



I am 61, a self-employed accountant for the past 30 years. I formerly lived in Welton with my family; presently our home is in Buslingthorpe near Market Rasen. As a county councillor since 2009, I have chaired the county's Audit Committee and with fellow colleagues, independent of party politics, have challenged the way in which the council's systems operate. I have also represented the council on the Management Committee of the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), of which the council is a member, and have ensured it delivers good value for the council.

With your support, I'll be able to uphold the interests of the local community at Lincolnshire County Council. In particular, together with my Conservative colleagues, I am committed to:

- Keeping council tax low and continuing to campaign for increased funding from government.
- Supporting business to keep existing jobs and create new ones.
- Keeping the area moving by encouraging walking and cycling and investing in local road repairs and improvements.
- Promoting well-being by supporting the elderly and vulnerable.
- Focusing on flood protection and relief.
- Protecting the environment by cutting carbon emissions and increasing recycling.

On balance I would support a unitary authority for Lincolnshire.

Mrs Diana Rodgers (Independent Candidate)

Brought up in Lincolnshire, I trained at Princess Christian College, Manchester, and supervised nursery-age children at home and overseas. As a mature student, I studied with St Nicholas College, London, and became head of department in an international school. During my 22 years in Welton, I have concerned myself with health and wellbeing: through the Community Health Council, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, and the Royal British Legion. And I have represented our community's interests on the district council for 13 years. I have been married for 50 years, and have two children and four grandchildren.

In 2008, I was first elected as a district councillor, with party political sponsorship. In 2011 I was re-elected, but this time as an independent member. After my experience of the previous three years, I had formed the opinion that local government should serve local interests, and not political interests, and that councillors should live or work in the community that they represent. It seems clear that Welton Rural Division cannot continue to absorb new housing developments without improvements to health, education and the roads and these are the issues that I would take up as an independent county councillor.

With the prospect of financial savings and efficiency, I am in favour of a unitary authority; but a decision would depend on size, structure, and level of representation.

Neil Taylor (Liberal Democrat Candidate)

I am a retired vice principal. Worked in agriculture and archaeology. Served for 20 years as a West Lindsey District Councillor. Mayor and town councillor for Market Rasen. A former parliamentary candidate, I twice fought the constituency, which includes Welton, winning a silver and bronze in the 90s. A passionate supporter of Europe and the environment. Have spent the last year delivering food parcels and hot meals to the isolated and elderly.

A vote for me is a vote for action, not words. I believe in modernising institutions into the 21st century. On being elected to West Lindsey I introduced a paper which changed the committee structure completely, so it could serve the electorate both more effectively and efficiently. I did the same for the town council.

If elected I would vote to overturn the county ban on wind turbines. I would only support bus companies that ran their vehicles on hydrogen. I would support landowners who allow and improve footpaths across their land with grants. Where housing developments increase the numbers of children, I would support new schools and infrastructure being built.

I do not support a unitary authority for Lincolnshire due to its size and sparsity of population.

Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner

We will also be voting on 6th May for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner. There are five candidates:

- Peter Escreet, Reform Party
- Marc Jones, Conservative Party
- Rosie Kirk, Labour Party
- Ross Pepper, Liberal Democrats
- David Williams, Lincolnshire Independents