

IN BRIEF

Strategy backed

A KEY council strategy to protect the countryside has been endorsed by Government planning chiefs.

North East Lincolnshire Council's Planning Committee has welcomed a decision by the Planning Inspectorate to uphold its decision to refuse permission for a massive crop store and drying facility near Healing.

This has been seen as an endorsement of the Council's Development Plan which seeks to protect the countryside from non-essential development.

As reported, developers Sir Richard Sutton Estates Ltd lodged their appeal in 2006 after the council refused to grant permission for the facility which would have occupied an area as large as a football pitch.

The building would have been about 13 metres high, rising to 18 metres in parts.

According to the report of inspector David Ward, it would have provided a visual intrusion on the character of the area.

Planning Committee chairman Coun Phillip Jackson said: "The inspector has clearly backed our development plan which was designed to protect our countryside and open spaces from developments which we feel were unsuitable for them."

● For more information about planning issues, visit www.nelincs.gov.uk

26 new homes

THE green light has been given to an application by Bellview Homes to build two apartment blocks at the former North Lincolnshire College site, off Riverhead Road, in Louth.

Redevelopment of the plot will provide a total of 26 new homes.

Senior East Lindsey planning officer Rachel Winter described the scheme as "vibrant" and likely to stimulate regeneration of the area.

She continued: "It should be an attractive development that will enhance the character and appearance of this part of Louth."

The decision by the planning committee came despite objections from the civic trust and the town council that the design was out of keeping with the existing street scene.

Stephen Wink

WE have been asked to point out that Stephen Carl Wink, the husband of Lynn Wink, who was convicted of falsely claiming more than £18,300 in benefit, found work as a temporary worker on contract through On Loan Recruitment, but did not work for them directly as a permanent member of staff.

On Loan Recruitment would like to stress that they cannot be held responsible for any individuals not declaring any payments of benefits.

We are happy to clarify the situation.

Park facelift

GRIMSBY'S Abbey Walk Car Park is being spruced up by North East Lincolnshire Council.

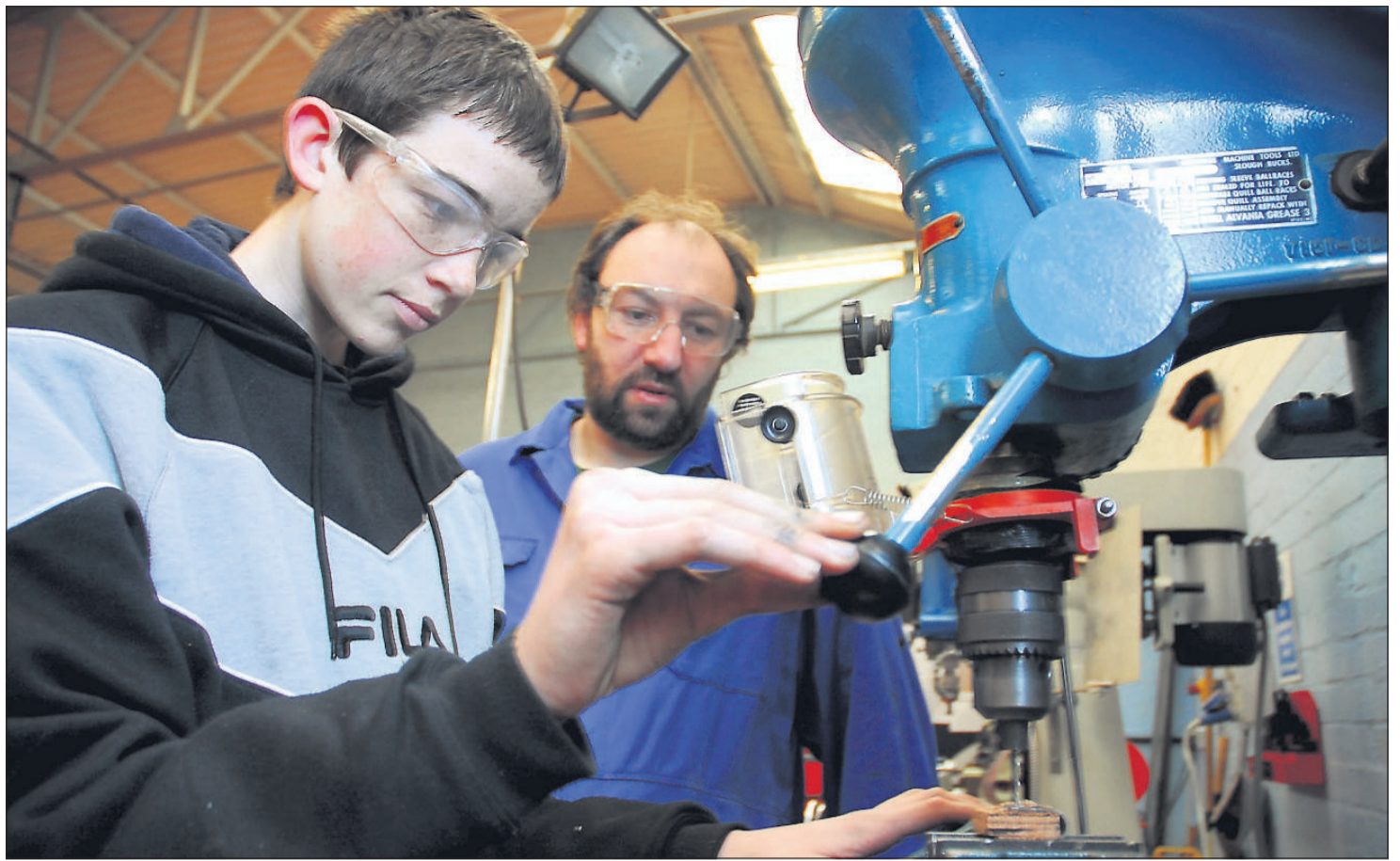
A contractor has been appointed to upgrade electrical circuits and improve lighting.

The work will be carried out on all levels until May.

● For more information, contact the council's car park office on (01472) 325851.

Charities step in to fill shortfall in education project funding

● Daniel Drakes, a pupil from Queen Mary Avenue Infants School, shows his skills as he is watch over by workshop mechanic Michael Guthzeit.



Vital lifeline rescues youth skills scheme

A HANDS-ON educational programme has been saved after receiving crucial funding from two London charities.

The North East Lincolnshire Motor Project, in Grimsby's King Edward Street, provides engineering and mechanics training for 450 young people, aged eight to 16.

The Henry Smith Charity and The Peter De Haan Charitable Trust have given £43,000 and £21,000 respectively to the project, which works in partnership with The High Sheriff's and Humberside Police Tribunal Trust.

Project manager John Bell said: "Having been turned down by the Lottery for the third time in as many years, this funding was critical for the continuation of this very successful project."

He said the project worked with schools to provide practical training for pupils finding academic subjects difficult.

By GARETH PARRY-JONES

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Jason Cook (14) said he went to the Motor Project after his school realised he had good practical skills.

He said thousands of youngsters had received training and many had moved into vocational careers.

Will Hanson (14) said he would definitely like a career as a mechanic after his time at the project.

The project also reconditions motorcycles seized by Humberside Police.

Mr Bell said these were shipped to The Gambia where they were used by teachers and police officers.

Director of the Tribune Trust, Geoff Ogden said: "The work of the Motor Project is crucial to North East Lincolnshire when there is much negative talk of anti-social behaviour and exclusion."

He said there had been little support locally but now the project's immediate future was secure he hoped local funding would be more forthcoming.



● Looking at one of the reconditioned motorcycles are, from left, Daniel Drakes, Jason Cook, John Bell (manager), Michael Guthzeit, Will Hewson and Aaron Beacock.

For information

For further information on the Motor Project contact (01472) 590660 or visit www.motor.project.btinternet.co.uk.

For information about the Tribune Trust you can contact Geoff Ogden by phone on (01482) 334833 or by email at ogden@hobson341.karoo.co.uk

Life in secondary school

PUPILS gave younger children a taste of life at a Grimsby secondary school.

Members of Wintringham School's student council hosted pupils from feeder schools for a day.

They gave a guided tour and invited them into their meeting.

Assistant headteacher Moira Goy said: "The idea is to let the pupils at feeder schools see what a day at a secondary school is like.

"Our kids are telling them what kind of issues they discuss in their council.

"At the moment, the school

council is looking at what the uniform should be like for the new academy school, what charity events they can hold and what extras they might like on the lunch menu.

"Every tutor group in the school is represented on the council. We are a listening school."

Pupils from Nunthorpe Community School, Grange Junior, Lisle Marsden CofE Primary and Woodlands Primary attended.

Georgia Hockaday (10), from Nunthorpe Community School, said: "I have learned about all the different lessons they have."



● Pupils who attended the student council day, from left, Jessica Moore, Georgia Hockaday, Bradlee Cullen (12) and Naomi Webb (13), both of Wintringham School, Molly Rushby (11), of Woodlands Primary School and Lauren Gyce (nine), of Lisle Marsden CofE Primary School.

Jessica Moore (11), who is a pupil at Grange Junior School, said: "I have learned about how their school is set up and about their student council.

"In our council we talk about how we can make our school better. We've got some money to spend on the environment and we're thinking how to improve the play area."