

*St Botolph's Church from the North with the footbridge and waterway, courtesy of Electric Egg*

# B O S T O N C I T Y S T A T U S A P P L I C A T I O N



# SUMMARY

*“Boston, Lincolnshire has a remarkable and rich heritage that has been well documented, although many people would struggle to pinpoint its location. Some better informed people may say it is a city in America that had a famous ‘tea party’. Of course, Boston’s isolated position on England’s east coast has not helped. Because of this, the lack of knowledge has resulted in much of Boston’s real story being misrepresented or misunderstood.*

*Beginning on a muddy creek meandering through fenland marshes on its way to the Wash – that large bay on England’s east coast – where salt and whatever else the marshes could provide to sustain a meagre existence, Boston emerged in time as an important trading centre. Its relative isolation made its people self-sufficient, independently minded and often adventurous.*

*Over the intervening centuries, its people helped lay the foundations of the United States of America, map newly discovered lands on the other side of the world, tame the local fenlands and revolutionise farming and food production in the UK. They even took the lead in producing the humble ‘duvet’, essential for that good night’s sleep.”*

This is the introduction to the book ‘BOSTON, the small town with a big story’ – a fitting start to Boston’s well-supported application to achieve City status, which will provide a compelling case for this once notable town to rise again in its significance as pioneers of British values.

There is a remarkable story to be told about Boston, as Wilfred Holton, Ph.D. Founding President Emeritus of the Partnership of the Historic Boston, stated:

*“I believe that Boston, Lincolnshire should be made a City because it deserves to be much better known and appreciated in its own country and around the world. In English history, Boston contributed greatly to expanding liberties. More recently, the Boston area has developed the most productive agricultural economy in England to feed the country.”*

Boston’s ambition for City status will build great excitement in preparation for celebrating the founding of Boston Massachusetts in 2030. The words of Barry Cotton, Founder of Boston 400, summarise beautifully Boston’s ambition:

*“For years, the City of Boston in America has celebrated the story of how a group of individuals from Boston, Lincolnshire founded the Massachusetts Bay Company and established a new Boston. Unfortunately, this story is less well-known and less celebrated in the United Kingdom. After nearly 400 years, it is time that parity be established between the two Bostons by granting City status to Boston, Lincolnshire. After all, the City of Boston in America embraces Boston, England as its MOTHER CITY—not its mother town.”*

Boston’s application will not just catalogue its history and provide a record of its features; it will capture the spirit of its people, both past and current, to present a new future fit for its bestowal and honour of city distinction.



*Boston has, in addition to the permanent wayfinding monoliths, permanent finger posts throughout the town. Some of which are listed.*

# DISTINCT IDENTITY

Boston is one of the two major centres including the City of Lincoln that provide for the administrative county of Lincolnshire. It has a thousand years of history as a Wash Port and served for centuries as a nucleus of international trade and commerce. Boston provides a centre point for the newly created South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, comprising the three districts of South Holland, Boston Borough and East Lindsey.



Boston has a substantial freight and logistics sector and is significant as a food processing and wholesale hub. It has both a railway station and a port railhead. The Port is an international port bringing in steel and timber, with boats coming mainly from Europe.

Boston is situated at the lowest crossing point of the River Witham about 4 miles upstream from where it flows into the sea at the Wash. Today, about 40,000 vehicles per day now cross the river on the Haven Bridge, making it one of the busiest stretches of road in Lincolnshire.

The river through the town is tidal up as far as Grand Sluice. Boston's fishing fleet has its own Fishermen's Quay within the town. Boats are fishing within the Wash for shellfish, mainly for export to the continent.

Above Grand Sluice the wide river is used for pleasure and sport. A lock at Grand Sluice allows boats downstream and out into the sea, but upstream the river is navigable as far as Lincoln, from where it can connect to the Trent and the waterway system of the Midlands.

Boston's little known but internationally notable cluster of heritage buildings would be the envy of many an English city. St Botolph's Church is the centrepiece. It is a magnificent landmark, soaring above the Fens and visible from more than ten miles away. It is the largest parish church in England and is affectionately known as 'The Stump'. The church's scale and grandeur, with a cathedral-like interior, is testament to the town's previous wealth and status.

Boston has a major regional hospital – the second largest acute facility in Lincolnshire, serving the eastern half of the county.

There are excellent secondary schools within the town. Haven High Academy, Boston Grammar School and Boston High School for girls; all highly rated.

Boston schools are proud of their alumni and include England's Deputy Chief Medical Advisor, Jonathan Van-Tam and a former Director General of the CBI.

Its creative souls include composer John Tavener, the poet Jean Ingelow; a Hollywood film producer and world-renowned music producer and a number of successful sports-persons.

The area has been at risk of flooding throughout history, however the new £120m flood barrier, on the river near the port and completed in 2020, now gives Boston the same level of protection as London. This gives confidence for further investment in the area.

Boston is a town of diversity and home to a large cluster of migrant worker communities attracted principally to the food and land based economic sectors. Boston's population has grown rapidly over the last few years.

Between 2001 and 2017, it grew by just under 22% - greater than Lincolnshire County at 6.3%, regionally at 6.2% and nationally at 6.6%. However, various reports suggest that the figure could be as high as 55% due to the net migration of eastern Europeans. Local communities still believe there is underinvestment in Boston as a place to support the level of inward migration and the impact on local services.

Boston's greatest challenge is low skills. It ranks worst of all local authorities in England in terms of the skills domain within the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation. The number of people qualified to NVQ3 and above in Boston is over 20% points lower than the national average.

This tracks through into wages with the area having wage levels that are £130 a week lower than the England average (ASHE). The excellent facilities of Haven High Academy and Boston College are now addressing this skills issue.

There has been significant investment in Boston College through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) and the college is now ranked in the top 5 in the country, with a national reputation for innovation and high quality learning. Further investment through the Boston Town Deal will extend the college and see the design of the Mayflower project bringing nature inside, creating an open, airy and green space that the whole community can enjoy and learn in an informal, flexible and motivating environment.



Notwithstanding challenges, Boston has great social capital. It has a proud and distinguished history and a considerable international diaspora, commencing as a major player in the Hanseatic League and culminating most significantly in laying an important foundation stone in the creation of the USA. Boston Massachusetts considers itself to be the Daughter City of Boston, Lincolnshire (see supporting letters).

In addition, local men such as Matthew Flinders, Sir Joseph Banks, George Bass and Sir John Franklin played a central role in the early development of Australia as a nation. And even, Jamaica's Boston Beach, which we like to refer to as our grand-daughter, as its name comes from Boston, Massachusetts traders transporting bananas from Jamaica to the US and establishing the United Fruit Company, later becoming Del Monte Corporations. There are now links with the UK through educational ties with Boston College and the National Centre for Food Manufacturing.

*Pictured above: Port of Boston at night - Boston was second only to the Port of London during the Medieval period trading as one of the Hanseatic League Towns. Boston had the wool Staple.*

# CIVIC PRIDE

## Case Study: Empowering Healthy Communities

Covid-19 has impacted on people's health and wellbeing across the whole country but for some communities with residents sometimes described as 'harder to reach', the risk and impact is considered to be even greater. As part of our efforts to support our communities; Boston Borough Council secured £494,800 funding to deliver an exciting work programme across Boston Borough through a national fund called the 'Community Champions: Local Authority Fund'. This national fund aims to support a range of interventions to build upon, increase or improve existing activities to work with residents who are most at risk of Covid-19 – helping to build trust and empower at-risk groups to protect themselves and their families.

Boston Borough has a particularly diverse and transient community. To really engage, empower and to build trust between and within our communities we need to understand and work with them. To ensure that the findings and work of the Empowering Healthy Communities Programme informs the way we approach and work with our community in the future we commissioned Behaviour Insights work.

Through this work we are gaining a better understanding of all of our communities and addressing the issues or problems we currently face in Boston such as, disengaged or fractured communities, and move towards inclusive engaged and empowered community, who have pride in Boston.

A Pride of Place campaign has been addressing the 'them and us' culture in Boston now and in the future. A divided Boston community is a barrier, which results in resistance to take up of initiatives as a result. The aim is to create an inclusive town with a focus on pride of place.

This is adding value to the hard work done to engage the community with the Towns Fund opportunity, which will see town centre developments to improve the town as a place where people want to be.

The objective is to stabilise and create a sense of community – the current divide is still very apparent and became more prevalent during the pandemic. We need to challenge and overcome the divide and negativity towards the town. The aim is for the community to recognise and see Covid recovery, community support and wellbeing, and economic recovery as linked.

The ambition is to move Boston to a position where it celebrates itself as being a multicultural society. Our aspiration is to bring our communities together to celebrate the best parts of all the cultures that make up the town.

**Be Boston** and **Boston Heroes** are two campaigns that we have utilised to support both the Pride of Place work and the ambition to be a City. Results have been encouraging – igniting a positive sense of change.

- [HTTPS://WWW.ITV.COM/NEWS/CALENDAR/2021-09-15/CATCH-UP-ITV-NEWS-CALENDAR-SOUTH](https://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2021-09-15/catch-up-itv-news-calendar-south)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BBC.CO.UK/SOUNDS/PLAY/LIVE.BBC.RADIO.LINCOLNSHIRE](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live.bbc.radio.lincolnshire)
- [HTTPS://WWW.LINCOLNSHIRELIVE.CO.UK/NEWS/LOCAL-NEWS/NEW-EFFORT-BRIDGE-SIGNIFICANT-NEGATIVITY-5940145](https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/local-news/new-effort-bridge-significant-negativity-5940145)
- [HTTPS://WWW.LINCOLNSHIREWORLD.COM/HERITAGE-AND-RETRO/HERITAGE/CAMPAIGN-AIMS-TO-TACKLE-SIGNIFICANT-NEGATIVITY-ABOUT-BOSTON-3391924](https://www.lincolnshireworld.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/campaign-aims-to-tackle-significant-negativity-about-boston-3391924)
- [HTTPS://BOSTONVIBE.CO.UK/2021/09/18/COUNCIL-LAUNCHES-BEBOSTON-CAMPAIGN-TO-INSPIRE-COMMUNITY-PRIDE/?UTM\\_SOURCE=RSS&UTM\\_MEDIUM=RSS&UTM\\_CAMPAIGN=COUNCIL-LAUNCHES-BEBOSTON-CAMPAIGN-TO-INSPIRE-COMMUNITY-PRIDE](https://bostonvibe.co.uk/2021/09/18/council-launches-beboston-campaign-to-inspire-community-pride/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=council-launches-beboston-campaign-to-inspire-community-pride)

# Igniting a positive sense of change

A selection of our #BeBoston campaign supporters



# CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

## Case Study: Transported

Transported is a strategic, community-focused programme which aims to get more people in Boston Borough and South Holland enjoying and participating in arts activities. The programme is overseen by the Centre of Culture and Creativity at the University of Lincoln, and is funded by the Creative People and Places fund from Arts Council England.

This programme has engaged with thousands of local people and visitors to the area. There has been an exciting programme of cultural participation in a range of arts activities including:

- Boston Buoys trail - 1,5,6
- Boston fish trail
- Horizon sculpture Scotia creek - 2

- Etched in time trail - 3
- Carved maritime memorial
- Station to Stump trail - 4
- On your doorstep community garden
- Reflector sculpture Frampton Marsh
- Witham Way Country Park carved trail
- Eternal memories water feature Boston Crematorium
- Windsor crescent stone carvings
- Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre fish railings
- Boston Bargate market banners
- Boston Heroes art on bin lorries
- Fenside Community centre portraits
- Boston Hanse group flags
- 100 community designed deck chairs
- Swineshead Bridge pageant banners
- Wishing you were here banner artworks

## Events

An active cultural arts programme has complemented Boston's thriving event calendar. The Boston Town Area Committee supports a number of events throughout the year, and along with new initiatives like the Boston Book Festival and the re-opening of St Botolph's and Blackfriars Arts Centre, have proved a catalyst to welcoming visitors and residents back into Boston following the devastating impact of the pandemic on local businesses.

The crowning glory of Boston's eclectic mix of events, is the long-standing Boston May Fair. Its origins born from when Boston was an extremely important and wealthy town and port in the medieval period with large, busy markets and internationally important fairs. **Trade between Boston merchants and the Hanseatic League (from**

### Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic States) made the town second only to London in economic importance.

Fortunes were made by merchants based mainly on their export of wool and import of timber and luxury goods including furs, wines, spices, glass, silk and dried fruits. These rare, exotic and expensive imports were sold at Boston's fairs and markets attracting widespread attention.

The Boston Fair began in 1125 and became one of the most popular in Europe. It was so important even Law Courts in London closed so their members could attend. During the Fair, a 'Pie Powder' Court existed to settle disputes immediately. If you were caught selling bad or underweight goods you could face punishment by being placed in the stocks and pelted with rotten vegetables or something less pleasant!



# HISTORY OF BOSTON

## 1125 - May Fair

The earliest recording of Boston May Fair. Held during the first week of May, it is one of the few remaining fairs in the country still held in the town centre and is an important event in Boston residents calendars.



## 13-14th Century - Port

Only London was richer and more important than Boston as a port. Boston's wealth was based on wool being a staple port for the wool trade by Edward III. The town was sending three million fleeces a year abroad.



## 1308 - Markets

Boston is granted a charter for weekly Wednesday and Saturday markets which are still held today in the wonderfully striking medieval Market.



## 1309-1520 - The Stump

The stump began being built in 1309 and was completed in 1520. The tower is 272 feet 6 inches high, making it the tallest parish church in England. Views from the top of the tower reach 32 miles, with sights of The Wash and Lincoln Cathedral.



## 1450 - Hussey Tower

The ruined Hussey Tower is all that remains of a medieval brick-fortified house. It was occupied by John Hussey, 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford until he was executed in the Lincolnshire Rising.



## 1630s - The Great Emigration

Emigrants from Boston founded Boston Mass, the first public school in America and Harvard

## 1607 - Pilgrim Fathers

Some of these Separatists arrested in Boston, delaying their escape to Holland and then to America in 1620 on The Mayflower.



## 1819 - Maud Foster Windmill

Built in 1819, the windmill is unusual due to its odd number of sails. It was owned by Thomas and Isaac Reckitt and is now the most productive mill in the country.



## 1800s - Industrialisation and Prosperity

# INTERESTING HERITAGE, HISTORY AND TRADITIONS:

Boston has an exceptionally rich history and heritage. In the last 50 years, at least 50 books and learned papers have been published. There is evidence of Roman, Saxon and Viking settlements; this is shown by the many “hills” in the area created by the salt-extraction industry, which continued for c.1600 years.

It was the Normans who founded the town because it provided a sheltered port, facing the Continent and with easy river access to many parts of the country. It very quickly became a prosperous trading centre and its trade rivalled that of London. Boston was a key node in the Hanseatic League of pan-European trading cities in the Middle Ages.

The most prominent building from this period is, of course, St Botolph’s Church, funded from the wealth of this Hanseatic trade.

Four friaries were founded here, as well as 19 religious guilds. In 1390, Henry Bolingbroke, shortly prior being crowned King Henry IV, mounted a crusade from Boston to Eastern Europe, capturing the town of Vilnius.

Records show Royal Charters granted to Boston; moreover Boston holds original copies of these and other related documents. The first was by King John in 1204, granting the right to hold fairs and markets. This continues today both with the twice weekly markets and the annual May Fair. The annual Beast Mart in the “Mart” Yard of Boston Grammar School and the May Fair held in Boston’s Market place, are both proclaimed open using identical words from this charter.

In 1545, King Henry VIII granted Boston a charter of incorporation, allowing the Borough of Boston to be self-governing. Boston maybe unique in having an almost complete set of Council minutes since that date.

Subsequently, in 1568, when England was threatened by invasion, Queen Elizabeth issued a charter granting the Mayor of Boston the title of Admiral of the Wash, with the responsibility of defending the port from attack. To this day, the Mayor of Boston continues to hold this title.

Boston and the surrounding area became staunchly Puritan after the reformation. A group of Puritan “separatists” were imprisoned in Boston when trying to escape to Holland. Some of these subsequently sailed from there to America on the Mayflower in 1607. Boston gradually became a centre for Puritans and by 1633 about one third of its population had emigrated from England to Boston in America. Cromwell briefly stayed in Boston on his way to winning the nearby Battle of Winceby in 1643.

The construction of the Grand Sluice in 1766 enabled large tracts of the inland fens to be drained and cropped. Grain was then shipped from Boston to London and other large cities. This started Boston’s second period of prosperity which lasted nearly 100 years. The town was the first in Lincolnshire to be industrialised. Iron and featherworks were two prominent businesses and there was a boom in banking.

Boston has a nationally significant cluster of heritage buildings (590 in the town and its hinterland – Historic England 2021), many of them dating from the Georgian period. With this number of listed buildings, Boston compares very favourably with many existing cities such as Hereford.

Comparing a range of heritage cities to Boston it has a better ratio of people to listed building than both Lincoln and Hereford as indicated below:

City	Population	Listed Buildings	Ratio
Lincoln	100,160	724	138
Hereford	60,415	592	102
Boston	41,340	590	70
Ely	19,090	304	63
Carlisle	75,306	1508	50
Ripon	16,363	391	42
Lichfield	32,877	916	36
Salisbury	44,748	1446	31
Truro	18,766	610	31
Chester	90,524	3281	28

(Source Historic England 2021)

Railways came to Boston in 1847, and Boston became a major railway centre until Doncaster took over in 1853. The river from Boston into the sea was straightened and deepened and the wet dock opened in 1882. Many of the existing houses near the station and the dock date from this period.

In the last century, a notable feature of WW1 was that Boston was used for the exchange of Prisoners of war. During the 2nd world war, “The Stump” once again became a notable navigation aid, this time for incoming aircraft.

## Notable Bostonians

Many people have been drawn to Boston over the centuries. Some of those listed below have made their mark in the wider world; in fields ranging from the Church, exploration, Academia, Science and the Arts.

**John Foxe (1516-1587)** was an historian and martyrologist born in Boston, most famous for his book of Christian Martyrs. Queen Elizabeth ordered that every Parish Church should have two books. The Book of Common Prayer by Cranmer and The Book of Martyrs by John Foxe.

**John Cotton (1585-1652)** was an academic and notable Puritan cleric. He became vicar of St Botolph’s in 1612 and he led the Puritan movement in the area. He fled to Massachusetts in 1633 to escape arrest and was made teacher at the first Church in Boston, New England, where he was a pre-eminent theologian.

**Richard Bellingham, Simon Bradstreet, Thomas Dudley and John Leverett:** These four men from Boston were central to the founding of Boston in America; each at some stage becoming either Governor or Deputy Governor of Boston in New England. During the first 58 years of this new colony, this position was held by one of these men for all but four years.

**Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643)** was born in Alford but came regularly to Boston to hear John Cotton preach, becoming part of his inner circle. She emigrated with him and all

her family to America where she preached and became a pioneer of free speech; both for women’s and human rights.

**Herbert Ingram (1811-1860)** came from a very humble background in Boston, becoming a printer. Ingram made big changes to the way news was presented by using woodcut illustrations and went on to found the London Illustrated News. On his return to Boston from London, Ingram devoted time to the betterment of the Town. He provided the town with its first supply of fresh water. His Statue is sited near the stump.

**Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878)** was a prominent Gothic Revival Architect with a home in South Street where he lived for the part of every year. Scott completed 800 commissions including the Victoria and Albert Memorial outside Buckingham Palace and the frontage of St Pancras Station.

**Jean Ingelow (1820-1897)** was an internationally renowned poet, novelist and children’s writer who moved to Boston, when she was 14, with her father who was a banker. She is famous for her poem “High Tide on the coast of Lincolnshire”.

**Catherine Booth (1829-1890)** became known as the ‘Mother of the Salvation Army’. When young she became secretary to the Boston juvenile Temperance Society. Following her move to Brixton she married William Booth and they founded the Christian Mission in Whitechapel that became the forerunner of the Salvation Army.

**Jonathan Van-Tam (b.1964)** with family origins in Vietnam, was born in Boston and educated at Boston Grammar School, (where his father was a mathematics teacher) and then Nottingham University, specialising in epidemiology. He was appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England 2017, a position that he holds to date and that has thrust him into the limelight nationally during the COVID-19 epidemic. He has recently been honoured locally with the Freedom of the Borough of Boston.

# VIBRANT AND WELCOMING

**St Botolph's** has been a place of community throughout its history, from the markets being held in the nave to large community celebrations.



## Boston Connected Project:

- Community lunches bringing people together through sharing meals together. This was well attended with over 250 at the final lunch, seeing all members of the community sit together and talk, sharing each other's stories;
- Shared Bites cookbook, recipes by the people of Boston, for the people of Boston. A diverse range of recipes from all over the world provided by various members of the community;
- A Multilingual Chapel was formed in the Lady Chapel with resources in various languages and items placed such as holding crosses which do not need language.

## Bo the Boston Church Mouse:

- A children's book about a mouse travelling to Boston and finding a place of welcome. A second book was written about Bo exploring Boston to find other species of animals, but highlighting their friendship despite their differences.
- This book has been used in Brixton, Lambeth to highlight social cohesion.

## Service of Friendship:

- Following the Brexit result, we hosted a Service of Friendship to highlight welcome and inclusion in our community.

## Christmas Market & Light Switch on:

- St Botolph's has been a part of the Christmas Market & Light Switch on event since the beginning of its current format. In 2021 over 4,000 visitors enjoyed free entertainment provided in partnership with Boston Borough Council and local choirs.

An ambitious events programme is continuing, with 2022 seeing the nationally recognised 'Museum of the Moon' and Creation & Children's Festivals.

The volunteer programme has been highlighted by the National Heritage Lottery Fund as an example to be used with other projects in the country.

St Botolph's is an all-inclusive space where all are welcome, regardless of their background. We are a church that seeks to be a Place of Hospitality: A Place to Belong + A Place to Believe. Throughout our history we have been a beacon of hope and welcome.

## Boston Visitor Economy

During the summer months around 70% of Boston's visitors are coming from the nearby large coastal resorts to the open-air Markets and over 50,000 visitors are welcomed into St Botolph's Church.

Boston's Guildhall has an international profile due to the American associations with the Pilgrims, its medieval history and Australian connections.

The Maud Foster Windmill is one of the largest working windmills in England.

Fydell House was built in the early 1700s, and its American Room was opened by US Ambassador Joseph Kennedy in 1938.

Other sites of interest include, Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston Belle, Walking Tours, We'll Meet Again WW2 Museum and the unique Bubble car museum – one of its bubble cars recently made an appearance on prime time TV, thanks to Strictly Come Dancing contestant, Robert Webb meeting his dance partner by driving in a bubble car into Boston's market place.

A network of medieval lanes and market place give Boston a local distinctiveness with a high number of independent retailers. There is a good mix of local and international food and drink on offer, reflecting Boston's cultural diversity and migrant populations, as well as local favourites Boston Sausages (which also feature on London's Borough Market).

Boston is set in the agricultural heart of Lincolnshire and often referred to as the Capital of the Fens. It boasts a range of water based attractions including the Boston Marina, RSPB Frampton Marsh and Frieston Shore and leisure opportunities for fishing boating, walking and cycling.

## Boston attracts:



Visitor numbers: 1.5m  
Economic impact: £91.8m  
Employment: 1,138 FTEs

(Impact of Covid-19)

Visitor numbers: 733,000  
(87% were day visitors)

Economic impact: £45.8m  
Employment: 585 FTEs



Source: STEAM, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd

The popular Water Rail Way links Boston to Lincoln with a walking and cycling route that has a series of artworks along the way.

Boston's visitor economy was impacted by the pandemic, yet is focussing on strengthening its offer through the Town Deal investment and working in partnership with the County's Destination Management Organisation, Destination Lincolnshire, to take advantage of opportunities of Green and Active Tourism thanks to its natural environments, wildlife and waterways, as well as aligning with VisitEngland's Escape the Everyday campaign.

Working with Destination Lincolnshire, VisitEngland and Cultural organisations, it is developing an ambitious programme of celebration to mark 2030 – the 400th anniversary of the founding of its sister city in America.

*"Your bid supports the vision to attract and delight international visitors to Boston." - Destination Lincolnshire DMO*

# RECORD OF INNOVATION

Throughout its history Boston has attracted free thinking people and pioneers. As a result the area has made some major contributions to the world we know today. There are some outstanding examples.

In the 17th century people from here took their democratic ideas to America and laid the foundations of democracy. It was the ideas of Revd John Cotton that lead to the establishment of a school in Boston, New England, based on the free Grammar School of Boston, England. Boston Latin School and Harvard University can be considered as our legacy to the World.

Here are some quite different examples of Boston's innovation:

The mechanism of the threshing machine to separate grain from the ear was developed here, in Boston, by the Howden and Tuxford families. This is principally the same mechanism used in a modern combine harvester which has transformed agriculture throughout the world. A more recent example is the development by Fogarty's of the now commonly used Duvet.

Boston was one of the principal ports in Medieval Britain during 12th-15th century; originally being a transshipping port for Lincoln. In 1204 it was second only to London in the value of goods shipped and duty revenue raised. The buildings and infrastructure of this time reflect the commercial activities within the town and the wealth produced. In 1369 Boston became one of eleven designated "staple towns" for wool in England. Wool produced in a wide area had to be sent to Boston to be weighed and sealed. At this time Boston put out an average 10,000 sacks a year of wool, a third of England's total wool exports, meaning that by 1332 Boston was the 4th wealthiest provincial town.

Major drainage and flood protection schemes and innovations are a feature of the history of the area and this continues today. Developments here influenced water

management engineering in many countries. Attempts to drain the Fens north of Boston started with the cutting of the Maud Foster Drain in 1568-1569 from Cow Bygge to Boston Haven. The construction of the Grand Sluice in the 1760's enabled the Witham to be straightened and made navigable again up to Lincoln. This also held back tides and increased scour of silt through controlled manual release of fresh water. This was a trigger to Boston becoming industrialised and was followed by an even larger engineering project; the straightening of the Haven between the Boston Town and the open sea in the Wash.

The modern dock was constructed between 1882-1884. The facilities there were steadily improved, with the instalment of a fish market, ice-houses and workshops for the various companies that were based out of the dock. In 1897 the dock was one of the first in the country to be lit by electricity.

The Boston Deep Sea Fishing & Ice Company was formed on the 17 August 1885, coinciding with two revolutionary innovations for the fishing industry that came about that decade. These were steam powered trawlers and the discovery of a cheap method for production of ice. The fleet was moved to Fleetwood in 1936 to be nearer the cod fishing waters of Iceland.

Black Sluice Pumping Station was constructed at the outfall of the South Forty Foot Drain in 1946. The station was equipped with three Ruston five-cylinder vertical diesel engines, each with 900 HP. This was a step forward in managing flood risk mechanically.

Some of first engineering works in Lincolnshire were established in Boston; by William Howden c.1803 and by William Tuxford in 1826. In 1841 Howden built the first movable steam powered threshing machine at his Phoenix Foundry, as also the portable steam engine for installation in vessels navigating the River Witham.

Tuxford pioneered the development of the steam-driven threshing machine, starting

his business in Boston Market Place c.1830; constructing the first steam-powered combined thrashing and dressing machine. His threshing machines, as well as portable steam engines and traction engines, were sent to countries all over the world.

Boston had an intensive feather industry, and at one point housed five of Lincolnshire's nine feather bed manufacturers. In 1876 F.S. Anderson and Co. built their factory (with its iconic swan) on Trinity Street, becoming the largest feather factory in the country. Fogarty's took over as the main feather business in the 20th century, and in the 1960's began to produce the continental quilt, now known as the Duvet and which has changed the bedding arrangements of the nation.

The first private bank in Lincolnshire was Garfit's Bank founded in 1774, with premises on the High Street.

William Wade Johnson (then aged 17) started as a market gardener in 1820, selling seeds from his allotment on a stall in Boston market. His work heralded transformation of seed production. Johnson then founded W.W. Johnson and Son Ltd which went on to become the country's largest privately-owned seed company.

The foundations of innovation still resonate through Boston today.

## CASE STUDY: LOCAL TRANSPORT PILOT

The rural nature of the wider Borough and much of Lincolnshire necessitates use of private cars, but Boston is currently favoured as the town in Lincolnshire for the pilot use of e-buses in a bid to make transport more sustainable and reduce emissions.

## CASE STUDY: BOSTON BARRIER

This gives Boston the same degree of flood protection as the Thames barrier gives London. In addition, flood protection downstream of the Barrier is being increased by the Haven Banks Scheme, which is raising all the banks of the river. This supplements the flood defences already in the town.

Drone footage of the Barrier can be found here:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/d171my0yb69gtfw/drone%20flyby%20upstream.mp4?dl=0>

A timelapse of construction here:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/ddt9t8cs2vfnktj/Full%20barrier%20timelapse%202.19\\_1%20logo.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ddt9t8cs2vfnktj/Full%20barrier%20timelapse%202.19_1%20logo.mp4?dl=0)

The Barrier raising timelapse here:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/ffqx4qe9rviu3ln/YouCut\\_20211104\\_124202550.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ffqx4qe9rviu3ln/YouCut_20211104_124202550.mp4?dl=0)

## CASE STUDY: PLANT & BEAN

Plant & Bean, innovation from inward investment: In December 2020, Boston attracted a developer and manufacturer of high-quality, plant-based food products. The company Plant & Bean opened Europe's largest plant-based meat production facility in the UK to facilitate efficient product manufacture and distribution across Europe, helping brands to meet fast-growing demand for plant-based protein.

# GOVERNANCE

Three councils have officially launched a new Partnership aimed at delivering ambitious growth and regeneration plans to 300,000 of its residents. The South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership is made up of South Holland District Council, East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council.

The Partnership will have greater access to Central Government funding and will be in a better position to identify and secure investment for growth and regeneration in strategic infrastructure. Despite working as a Partnership, each council will continue to hold individual democratic sovereignty and be accountable to their local areas.

Chief Executive Rob Barlow said creating a “one team approach” across the Partnership will pay dividends to residents. “I’m proud to say that we are the first council partnership of its kind in the country and the shared management team that is now in place will start working on plans to deliver our capital programme to residents as well as improving the existing services we already have in place.”

In a joint statement, each Council Leader – Gary Porter from South Holland District Council, Craig Leyland from East Lindsey District Council and Paul Skinner from Boston Borough Council – believes the new partnership is excellent news for residents and businesses in the area. “Today’s launch of our new three council strategic partnership marks the start of an exciting new journey – it is the largest (geographical and population) three-way sharing in the country and one we are extremely proud of.”



served by One Team

## CASE STUDY: IMPACT OF INWARD MIGRATION

In November 2017, Boston Borough Council was awarded £1.4 million by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to deliver a programme of activity aimed at mitigating the impact of inward migration and building community capacity and resilience in Boston. It was intended to respond to the problems caused by high immigration into localities as identified by Local Authorities and to deliver benefits to the established resident population. Boston Borough Council and its partners brought together this national and local context to develop ‘Inclusive Boston’. The proposal submitted to the Fund covered the following themes: English language support; Rogue landlords initiative; Migrant rough sleeping initiative; Data and evidence gathering; Service integration; Cohesion; Synergy across the above themes. Based on the achievements of the projects as a whole, this gives a social return on investment of: £4.05 for each £1 invested. This based on dividing the total social value set out by the cost of delivery: £1,069,693.

## CASE STUDY: BOSTON TOWN DEAL



The Towns Fund is part of the government’s plan for levelling up. In Boston the Town Deal is led by the Boston Town Deal Board with support from Boston Borough Council as the Accountable Body.

Neil Kempster, Chair of the Boston Town Deal Board, and Land and Development Director of Chestnut Homes, explains: “In such difficult and challenging times, the Town Deal provides a fantastic opportunity to attract significant government funding to make a real difference to the local economy in Boston. It has provided the platform for stakeholders from all sectors to work together to formulate a Town Investment Plan, which will deliver key projects to enable the town to kick-start economic growth and act as a catalyst for future investment. With a particular emphasis on the skills agenda and raising the aspirations of the people of Boston, the Town Deal aims to build on the unique and historic nature of the town to deliver a better future for everyone.”

Delivering our vision in Boston’s Town Investment Plan is built on three pillars: Skills and Aspirations, Sustainable Economic Growth and Pride in Place. The successful £21.9m Town Deal will see investment into the following 7 projects:

1. **Mayflower** - botanical gardens will provide a haven for the whole community and provide space for voluntary services, careers advice and support skills development – led by Boston College.
2. A new **Leisure provision** connected to the Mayflower and Boston College. Led by Boston Borough Council and in partnership with Boston College.
3. **Centre for Food and Logistics** - Led by the University of Lincoln in partnership with Boston College, the project will develop a food trade and logistics skills, knowledge and innovation hub with local, national and global outreach.
4. **Boston Train Station** – a new community/retail café facility by developing the redundant unit between the ticket hall and the existing restaurant unit, providing a new welcoming hub to the centre of the station building. Led by EMR.
5. **Healing the High Street** (including Shodfriars Hall) – transformation of Boston’s historic town centre and key gateway to visitors through a comprehensive town centre regeneration programme – led by Heritage Lincolnshire.
6. **Blenkin Memorial Hall** - repair, renovation and redevelopment for multi-purpose community use. Led by St Botolph’s.
7. **St Botolph’s Library and Lighting** – the development of the medieval library and an upgrade and redesign of the lighting of St Botolph’s Church interior and exterior.

# ASSOCIATIONS WITH ROYALTY

King John granted Boston a charter in 1204, however it did not make Boston a full borough. Supposedly on 2nd October King John left Grimsby then travelled south to Spalding, Louth and Boston, burning and sacking everything in his path.

A patent was granted for the market in 1218. It was one of only three fairs at which the king's prizes would be paid. The patent stated that it should run for 8 days following the feast of St John the Baptist (24 June).

Henry III was a valued patron of the town, in 1227 orders were issued for the preparation of the king's shops in readiness for the fair and £400 was issued to the royal tailor for the purchase of robes. Wine for the royal household came through Boston in convoy to prevent its theft.

Boston's wine trade enjoyed considerable royal patronage – Henry II's cellars were stocked from Boston in 1175 and many purchases were made on the behalf of Henry III, with 56 tuns in 1229 costing just over £74 and 35 tuns in 1241. During the early years of Edward I's reign 400 large containers of wine left Boston for the royal cellars at Lincoln, Chester, Nottingham and Sherwood.

Between 1242 and 1255 Henry II purchased Scandinavian falcons from Boston and in 1261 he gave the merchants of Douai and Lyon a bond for the purchase of cloths for the kings wardrobe.

Stockfish (slated and dried fish) was purchased from Boston in 1325 for Edward II's table.

The lands belonging to the Franciscan Friar (Greyfriars) was reserved for the King but the land was eventually passed to the Corporation in 1545 when Boston was incorporated through permission of Henry VIII.

Unlikely that there was a Wednesday market before the charter granted by Henry VIII in 1545, which also stated that no market could be held within seven miles around the borough.

In 1553 Queen Mary made a grant of the Erection Lands to the Corporation to enable the Corporation to support the bridge which had fallen into such a state of disrepair that it needed 'daily reparations'. The bridge fell on 22nd Sunday 1556.

The royal household used G. Cheevin's Gold Medal Rapid Water Filters. The Cheevin & Son business starting water ceramic filters with a patented unleaded design in the 1860's out of Pump Square.

Princess Anne has become a regular royal visitor to Lincolnshire with several connections. She is patron of the Boston Stump Restoration Trust and the Princess Royal Sports Arena in Wyberton bears her title.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

Many of the surrounding villages within the Borough have fine grade 1 listed churches, and there is a plethora of iconic buildings reflected in the diversity of places of worship, including:

- Methodist Chapels both within the Town Centre (most prominently the Centenary Methodist church) and in many of the villages;
- St Mary's Roman Catholic Church;
- Muslim mosque;
- Eastern Orthodox Church;
- The Salvation Army Citadel;
- Baptist Church on High Street;
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;
- Restore Church;
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses;
- United Reform Church;
- Mindful of being centre offering yoga and mindfulness.

# DISTINCTIVE FEATURES:

## Royal Charters and related matters and customs

There have been a number of charters granted by monarchs That are celebrated locally; in no particular order:



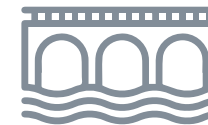
**Boston Grammar School** marks its **Charter Day**, with a service each year in St Botolph's. It also celebrates the opening of "**Beast Mart**" each year in the School Yard – which is also known as the "**Mart Yard**". Boys (Students) are traditionally granted a half day holiday after this has been formally declared.



**Boston's May Fair** was also granted by **Royal Charter**. The proclamation (read by the Town Clerk) at the opening of the fair is (essentially identical to the one read at **Beast Mart**. Boston's May Fair is the largest street fair in England and is always declared open by the Mayor.



The Mayor of Boston holds the ceremonial rank of "**The Admiral of the Wash**"; granted by Queen Elizabeth. This gave him the responsibility for defending the **Port and the Wash**.



Boston can appoint "**Freemen**". A Freeman of Boston is entitled to drive his sheep over the Town Bridge.



**RAF Coningsby** was granted the Freedom of Boston, which entitles them to march through the town with fixed bayonets.

*Aerial view of the west side of Boston from St Botolph's Church  
Photo by: Chris Vaughan Photography*

# BOSTON PROFILE



# OUR POPULATION

*Low tide at night, with St Botolph's Church, Town Bridge, Assembly Rooms and the old Fish Market, and Warehouses. - Photo Credit Dean Fisher*

Boston is a European melting pot for people and enterprise, it is an active port drawing on the historical traditions of England as global maritime nation. It has a current population of 70,800 (ONS 2020).

In population terms Boston would fit comfortably within the family of small heritage cities using the population for the Built Up Area, effectively the town boundary, as the denominator from the 2011 census as evidenced in the table below:

City	Population
Lincoln	100,160
Chester	90,524
Carlisle	75,306
Hereford	60,415
Salisbury	44,748
Boston	41,340
Lichfield	32,877
Ely	19,090
Truro	18,766
Ripon	16,363
Wells	10,536

Boston has a bigger population than: Lichfield, Ely, Truro, Ripon and Wells all of which are signature small heritage cities and it has a population which is on a par with Salisbury.

Boston is projected to grow rapidly in terms of its population. ONS (2018) predict that the population of the borough will be 82,615 by 2043. A growth from 2018 of 14% compared to a projected growth for England of 8.5% and Lincolnshire of 9%. Lincoln which is the other city in the county has a projected growth rate of 3% and is projected to have a population of 102,514 in 2043.

Boston has become home to a settled population of successful migrant workers and families and almost 50% (44.7) of live births in the area are to non-UK born mothers. This puts the area much more on a par with other major city centres of enterprise such as London, Birmingham and Manchester and centres of learning such as Oxford and Cambridge (both of which have over 50% live births to non UK born mothers), than its hinterland. (ONS 2020).



# OUR ECONOMY

The core driver for economic growth in Boston is food. Boston is an international food hub. For every one job in food processing in England there are 5 in Boston. There are now relatively few major settlements in England that are so strongly associated with one core industry which defines them in such a positive way. (BRES 2020),

Its location and connection to both the Port of Boston and rich surrounding agricultural heartlands of the UK, make it central to the UK Food Valley - an ambitious project which aspires to put Greater Lincolnshire at the heart of a global top 10 food production cluster, by pioneering sustainability through innovation. At its launch in November 2021, it was stated: "We have an international reputation for growing and processing high-quality food, and we're home to one of the largest concentrations of agriculture, food manufacturing, storage and distribution in Europe, with a focus on and infrastructure for technology and innovation."

Boston and the surrounding area has also embraced the trend for convenience prepared food and is now home to large businesses such as Plant & Bean and Gousto which are at the forefront of a revolution in how people buy and consume food. Also aligned to the Port, Metsa Wood UK one of the UK's largest importers of finished and unfinished wood products have recently invested over £3m in the Boston site creating over 60 new jobs for local people.

Boston is a hard working town, we benchmarked Boston's relative economic performance against the following comparator towns based on its nearest local authority audit family group:

- Carlisle
- Corby
- Dover
- Great Yarmouth
- King's Lynn
- Mansfield
- Redditch
- South Hams
- Wellingborough

It had the lowest proportion of benefit claimants as a percentage of 18-24 year olds and the third lowest proportion of claimants as a proportion of 16 – 64 year olds. (DWP 2020).

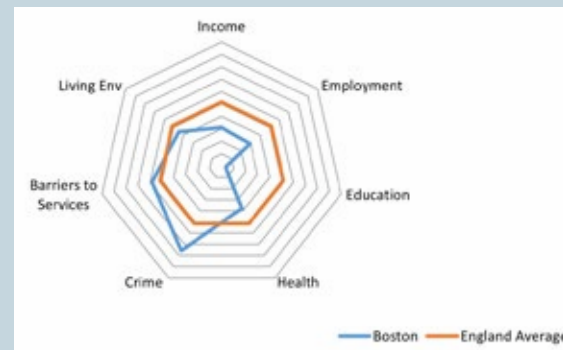
Boston has a jobs density of 0.82, the ratio of jobs to workforce, which is very much on a par with national comparators. The East Midlands figure is 0.81. This suggests a relatively positive pattern of the number of people who live and work in the area and relatively modest numbers of people commuting to work elsewhere.

Notwithstanding these strong points Boston does have significant deprivation and City Status would be a considerable spur to recognising and helping to build civic pride in overcoming a number of these challenges:

Across England, 316 local authority district areas are ranked within the Indices of Deprivation. The median rank is therefore 158. Boston's ranking in relation to each domain is set out in the table below:

Domain	Boston	England Average
Income	92	158
Employment	85	158
Education	1	158
Health	113	158
Crime	237	158
Barriers to Services	180	158
Living Environment	135	158

The relative position of Boston is shown graphically in the radar chart below. Where the blue line (Boston score) is inside the red line (England median) Boston performs worse than English norms, where it is outside it performs better.



Low levels of  
**CO<sub>2</sub>**  
emissions per head

**6.4**

housing cost to salary ratio vs national average of 8



Lowest  
**10%**  
in terms of skills ranking across towns in England



**BOSTON'S POPULATION**  
**22%**  
RISE DUE TO INWARD MIGRATION

Ageing population is  
**21%**  
compared to national average (18%)



Average salary is  
**£130**  
per week less than national average

High usage of  
**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**



**WORLD CLASS**  
heritage assets



Boston Barrier - Photo Credit Environment Agency

# OUR ECONOMY CONT..

The only areas where Boston performs better than the English median are in Barriers to Services and Crime. For education, Boston has the lowest score out of all English authorities. There is a strong causal inference between this and the low rank (bottom 40%) of the borough in terms of income. Wages in Boston are £139 per week lower than the GB average (ASHE 2020).

Boston has a very significant rented sector when it comes to housing, reflecting the large international component of its population. In the benchmark with the cipfa family group settlements it had the highest proportion of rented housing stock.

These challenges in terms of deprivation have a major negative impact on the performance of the area. This level of deprivation, much of which is masked by Boston's relatively modest population scale and isolated nature in an estuarine peripheral location in the East Midlands, is more comparable with core cities and very large towns than the hinterland of Boston. It again demonstrates the challenges on a relative scale which are more akin to a city than a rural town. There is a very wide literature which demonstrates how civic pride and

external recognition can function as powerful drivers for addressing challenges of this level.

Boston is also the major service centre for the East of Lincolnshire. It has a service role for the local community which support a hinterland that is far wider than its core population, giving it the functions of a City.

It has an acute hospital which serves a catchment of approaching 300,000 people.

The latest retail study (Town Centre Retail and Capacity Study 2013 – Applied Planning) identified that whilst the population of the town was 41,340 its retail catchment is more than double that figure and can be argued to be around 100,000 making it the largest centre in South East Lincolnshire, with connections into Greater Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Boston is the only rail hub in East Lincolnshire and it serves around 200,000 passengers per year making it a major local interchange.

The Port of Boston is a major freight and logistics facility in the Wash and handles around 200,000 tonnes of short sea shipping freight from Europe per year.

*"We are just one example of the many young and entrepreneurial companies that have been founded and have flourished in Boston. I can only imagine what could be achieved on a commercial and economic basis should the town be successful in its bid for city status."*

**JAMES MITCHELL -  
SPORTS BIKE SHOP**



*"Generating positive interest in Boston will create and encourage economic growth and will support it to be a leading visitor destination."*

**NEIL KEMPSTER - CHAIR OF  
BOSTON TOWN DEAL**

*"The town represents pride in place and the aspirations for a better future. Our long standing reputation for attracting international students would be enhanced by the status of a city, a vicarious circle to promote the town, the region and the country."*

**CLAIRE FOSTER - BOSTON COLLEGE**



*"Metsa Wood UK continues to grow in a competitive market and it has been great to announce recently our expansion plans for our Boston site both in the infrastructure and local people."*

**LEE APPLEBY - UK OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, METSA**



*Boston Train Station - Direct service from Nottingham through to Skegness*



# PUBLIC GREEN SPACES, SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES

In the last 20 years about 800 hectares of brand new nature reserves and Country Parks have been created within four miles of the town centre. These are all public amenity areas that largely have 24/7 public access. The 160 hectares created by Boston Borough Council and the Boston Woods Trust are on the outskirts of the town and most are in easy walking distance for many residents. The 650 ha of reserves created by the RSPB are adjacent to the sea marsh and together attract 75,000 visitors per annum.

Boston Borough Council maintains a diverse range of green open spaces that are accessible for all to enjoy, including two country parks; Witham Way and Havenside. These riverside parks are important habitats for nature and provide many benefits including encouraging healthy outdoor activities. They create a sense of community, provide safe spaces for play and recreation, walking, cycling and many other outdoor pursuits.

**Witham Way Country Park** is a haven for local wildlife with a mosaic of woodland, grassland and scrub. The park is situated approximately one mile from the town centre and include a range of habitats to attract insects and other wildlife as well as bird boxes for owls. In addition a community orchard was planted to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2012. The Park is fully accessible to all, offering a network of hard-surface pathways suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There is a car park but access can also be gained using the Water Rail Way which runs along the adjacent river bank between Grand Sluice and Anton's Gowt Lock.

**Havenside Nature Reserve** is situated on the outskirts of Boston, and is a designated Local Nature Reserve. This park overlooks the tidal, salt water stretch of the River Witham, known as The Haven. It is linear in shape and can be accessed on foot by the seabank path, starting near some of the industrial sites below the Port. There is a mix of rough grassland with scrub and brambles, cattle grazed meadows, shallow seasonal ponds, estuary and mud flat. Salt marsh plants such as sea lavender and glasswort colonise the mud and it is home to oyster catchers and barn owls to bats and common seals.

The two reserves created by the RSPB are at Freiston Shore, to the north of Boston, and at Frampton Marsh, just to the south.

At **Freiston Shore** the RSPB has worked with the Environmental Agency to convert 66 hectares of coastal farmland into tidal salt marsh, benefitting birds that have lost such tidal habitats elsewhere in the UK.

As a result the most important estuary for waterfowl in the UK has been created. There are excellent views to be found, especially on the salt water lagoon at high tide - often attracting wading birds in their thousands.

**Frampton Marsh**, just 4 miles from Boston's centre, is one of the best places for wildlife in the UK. It is at the leading edge of visitor and habitat nature conservation planning. Facilities include a visitor centre, more than 3km of accessible footpaths to explore and three hides. These two sites together attract visitors coming from all over the UK and beyond.

*Boston Woods by Tracey Yeates*



*Cycle path, Boston Marina through to Lincoln*



*Horizon - through the Structures on the Edge Project this permanent installation links Boston to the Netherlands, Boston MA, Plymouth UK and Plymouth America. Navigational themed features to engage visitors and residents within the viewing platform - connecting people to place.*



*Boston West Golf Course, one of three golf courses in the area. Photo Credit Rachel Rollinson*



# PUBLIC GREEN SPACES, SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES CONT..

Boston Woods Trust is a local charity that has created woodland on the outskirts of Boston. There are two major areas of woodland, The **Sir Joseph Banks County Park** comprises over 80 acres of woods and parkland. It includes a well-established **Westgate Wood** and the younger **Jenny's Wood** and **Oak Wood**. There is also a large wildflower meadow.

**Fenside Woods** is made up of 23 acres of Beech Wood has been seeded with English bluebells and planted with daffodils. To the south is **Pioneer Wood** with its pond and small amphitheatre whilst the area on the north side is home to Beech Wood Green Burial site. There are also some wonderful chainsaw carvings and the children's play trail.

The third stage of the Boston Woods project will be **Dion's Wood Nature Reserve**: This is now under development and the 14ha will be open to the public in 2022.

There are also many other large areas of open space around the borough including 11 play areas. **Central Park** is in the heart of the town and was established in Victorian times. It boasts a range of facilities including a wildlife garden, bird aviaries, flower and shrub bed, a Victorian garden, outdoor gym equipment, basketball hoops, football goal posts, Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), skate park, play area (including wheelchair swing and wheelchair roundabout), community growing space (fruit and vegetables), picnic benches, refreshment kiosk and toilets. Litter is picked daily. The Park is host to many successful events throughout the year, including the popular Outdoor Cinema.

Garfit's Lane Recreation Field is an oasis on the southern side of the town that provides space for dog walking and ball games as well as a well-equipped children's play area and all-weather multi-games area. It is surrounded by mature trees.

Also there are several sites of allotments both within the town and in the surrounding parishes; all very popular and some with waiting lists.

*"Part of what makes Boston special is its history, geography, in particular its position next to The Wash and the UK's most important estuary for wild birds, a landscape which has helped to shape the town over the centuries."*

STEVE ROWLAND - RSPB

## CASE STUDY:

**A recent £1,000 councillor grant to the Willoughby Road Allotment Association in Boston has created a peaceful and reflective space for hospital staff, plot holders and public to sit and enjoy.**

Boston Central Park the Art Deco Gardens.  
Part of a permanent art installation with floral beds.



Children's play area and multi-games pitch, Garfit's Lane recreation field.

The new Jakemans Community Stadium, part of the wider project known as The Quadrant



# PUBLIC GREEN SPACES, SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES CONT..

Boston Borough Council maintains eight football pitches which are hired by many local football teams. The **Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex** with gym boasts cardiovascular machines, such as treadmills, cross trainers, bikes all with integrated televisions and iPod connectors. With over 60 stations including resistance machines and free weights, there is the option of personalised training and structured fitness class timetable. A relaxation area leads to the main leisure pool for general swimming, aqua-fit, 50+ activities and swimming lessons. The 25-metre leisure pool, baby pool and 45-metre flume are ideal for either keeping fit, relaxing or having fun with the family. In addition, there is a training pool utilised by local swimming clubs.

The facilities at the Peter Paine Performance Centre include three grass football pitches, badminton courts, table tennis, basketball courts, a dance studio, two sports halls, AstroTurf pitch and an outdoor multi-use games area - all of which are available for hire. There is also gym facilities, which are available on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The **Princess Royal Sports Arena** provides extensive sport and recreational facilities designed for total inclusion and access to all. Facilities include a new fully equipped gym with functional areas, a group exercise studio with over 40 classes per week, spin studio, swimming hall with swimming pool, jacuzzi, steam room and sauna, outdoor athletics track, Indoor hall with 60m running track, badminton courts, 3G area and 5 a side pitch.

## CASE STUDY:

A new Women's Self Defence Class has launched at the Leisure Complex, after receiving funding from Active Lincolnshire and Sport England. Following public requests for this type of class the classes are led by local martial arts teacher and have proved very popular. One of the ladies who attended the class said: "This has been great for building my confidence."

This is recognised the best athletics stadium in the East Midlands and was built with facilities for disabled athletes.

**Boston Tennis Club** is one of the best in the country and has recently twice been voted winner of the National Tennis Club of the year Award.

**The Jakemans Community Stadium** with excellent sporting and conference facilities, is the home of Boston United and was opened on the outskirts of Boston in 2021. Boston Town FC play at Tattershall Road and there are other amateur clubs around the Borough.

Other sporting activities and facilities include: Rugby, which has its home beside the airfield in Wyberton Fen. There is a well-equipped club which hosts national rowing trials on the river. There are indoor bowls, ten pin bowling, martial arts, angling and a plethora of facilities and clubs in neighbouring villages.

Boston College's **Peter Paine Performance Centre** offers modern sporting facilities available for commercial hire to members of the general public, as well as local sport teams.

## CASE STUDY: 3G PITCH (PICTURED)

The latest addition is a new state-of-the-art community sports facility in the centre of Boston after funding was secured by one of the town's secondary schools. Haven High Academy initiated the £900,000 project to base a 3G sports pitch, including associated facilities. Following contributions from the Boston Town Deal's accelerated funding, the Boston Witham Academies Federation, the Football Foundation and the Medlock Trust, the new pitch facility promotes various kinds of sporting and physical activity, while bringing together groups of all ages and abilities with aims of improving wellbeing levels in the area.

*Councillor Nigel Welton, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development at Boston Borough Council, said: "The new 3G pitch will bring huge benefits to schoolchildren, local sports clubs and community groups, and is part of our aim to make sure first-class sporting and leisure facilities are available in Boston. We are very grateful to the contributions our partners have put in to support this project of grassroots sport. This is a great addition to our fantastic sporting facilities on offer in the borough and is another great example of the investment in our communities to improve people's health and wellbeing. It was clear from talking to our communities that a new all-weather pitch was a real priority for the town. At the moment teams are travelling out of town, even across the Lincolnshire border, to play on all-weather pitches and that isn't right."*

## CASE STUDY: BOSTON MARATHON UK

This is run as near as possible on the same day as the one in our daughter city in the USA. So far there have been five, and the event itself features a full and a half marathon, as well as a 5k Fun Run for beginners. It has rapidly become recognised as one of the leading small Marathons in the country. It is run entirely by volunteers and limits numbers to 2000. It now attracts runners for many countries from across the world including the USA and China.

## CASE STUDY: MONOPOLY BOSTON, UK EDITION

Following the success of the recent Boston Trump Cards to raise Boston's profile, Boston Big Local and Boston Borough Council's Empowering Healthy Communities fund worked together to create a Hasbro-branded Boston Monopoly UK game which is due to be launched on 11th December 2021.



# SHOPPING CENTRES

Unlike most town centres seeing retail closures, Boston has welcomed the opening of **Rebos Department Store**, a new flagship shop for the town which boasts beauty, fashion and homeware products, as well as gifts, a restaurant and a cafe. Rebos owner said: “We were able to employ more people (around 50) to join the new store and it’s such a unique location, the best in any town. We hope bringing Rebos to the town centre will help other businesses to grow. We appreciate the support from the people of Boston.”

**Waterfall Plaza** is a shopping mall situated off Strait Bargate in the centre leading on to **Pescod Square** which is a shopping precinct in the heart of Boston. It links together Wide Bargate and Mitre Lane and incorporates the historic Pescod Hall. There are 18 stores which cover in excess of 93,000 square feet of retail space and a 377-space car park. The Pescod Square team are always trying to think of fun and exciting events that visitors and shoppers will enjoy.

In addition, the area boasts a selection of out-of-town retail parks including **Boston Shopping Park** and **Alban Retail Park**. There are plans to continue the successful development of **The Quadrant**, home to Boston United, new homes and a growing hospitality offer.

**Market Place** Trading fairs or “marts” have been held in Boston since at least the 12th Century - the earliest historic record of a fair or “mart” is in 1132. It ran from St. Botolph’s Day (12th June) to 24th June. In 1218 a Patent was granted for Boston’s Fair. The earliest maps of Boston date from that time and the “Market Place” is indicated on them in its current location. In 1545 Boston obtained its Charter of Incorporation from Henry VIII, via his son Edward VI. On 1st June John Robinson took office as the first Mayor of Boston, the 12 aldermen were sworn in and the Recorder and Town Clerk appointed. Amongst his other roles the Mayor was declared “Clerk of the Market”. The original document beautifully illustrated and with its impressive royal seal, is kept in the Guildhall in South Street. The charter contains the following reference: “We have granted also... unto the said Mayor and Burgesses, and their successors, that they and their successors, for ever, shall have a free Market twice a week, that is to say, upon the Wednesday and Saturday...”



*Boston Market - Chartered to be held every Wednesday and Saturday.*

*Pescod Square - one of the commercial shopping areas in the town. Picture by Electric Egg*

# SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

David Fannin, Chief Executive Officer of the **Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service** explains Boston's commitment to the areas voluntary sector: "The community and voluntary sector contributes an essential ingredient to Boston's long-term plans for growth, resilience and renewal. The sector touches the life of communities and residents in many ways. It is a foundation for growth for some, a pathway to better things including jobs, and a provider of support for others. It brings investment into the area and provides social return on that investment. Partnerships, projects and activities benefit the place, its heritage, environment and communities, and every aspect of the wellbeing of its people. The sector uniquely connects the past to the future and tackles the opportunities and challenges of the present to nurture a cohesive, confident civil society. Our inclusive growth agenda is bringing increasing focus and energy to this sense of purpose. We are fostering joint working that will increase capacity and nurture strong foundations, building social fabric and boosting resilience, not just in Boston but in the coastal fenlands sub-region. City status will provide Lincolnshire with a jewel in the south and the community and voluntary sector will be at the heart of this."

Boston Borough Council directly supports local community groups providing an officer to facilitate the **Boston Town Area Committee** (BTAC) Small Grant Scheme which has awarded grants totalling £114,083.34 over the last 16 years.

We also directly support the **Boston in Bloom Partnership** by providing Secretariat support. The group is made up of volunteers that develop projects with a horticultural theme across the town centre of Boston. They have been entering the campaign for 8 years and this year has seen them achieve their 6th gold award. Their most notable project to date has been working in partnership with Transported Arts and funded by Boston Big Local to develop a trail of navigational buoys across the town which links to Boston's maritime heritage.

The Chairman of the group, Mrs Alison Fairman was awarded Freeman of the Borough in 2016 for her contribution to various community organisations across the Borough and in 2020 was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for Services to the Community of Boston.




















*"Boston in Bloom works to improve our town for residents and visitors, we have made a difference, and city status would endow the town with new opportunities."*

*ALISON FAIRMAN - BOSTON IN BLOOM*

*Autumn tree in Stump grounds with fingersigns for location purposes*



# GETTING AROUND BOSTON TOWN

-  Bus Station
-  Coach Park
-  Railway Station
-  Car Park
-  Cycle Parking
-  Tourist Information Centre
-  Museum
-  Cinema
-  Theatre
-  Library
-  Leisure Boats
-  Aviary
-  Play Area
-  Leisure Complex
-  Shopping and Hospitality
-  Market and Outdoor Events
-  Attractions



