



# Review September 2004

Caistor Development Partnership (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'.

As a consequence of this the Caistor Development Partnership was set up and 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 on a monthly basis.

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'.

Having obtained a mandate from the people of Caistor, 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](http://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.

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.

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. It is interesting to note that Heritage Lottery appointed a monitoring officer to advise and monitor the second bid.

The proposed THI area is located within the Caistor Conservation Area and includes 34 of the Grade II Listed Buildings in the town.

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. Four of these buildings have been 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 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 £1.5 Million. 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 its implementation, administration and the accounting arrangements. West Lindsey District Council will advise on all planning and conservation matters. A steering or 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 steering group on grant applications.

In addition to the above a CDP project group has been created 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)

and 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 now includes:-

- Core Funding for Caistor Development Trust
- Economic Study of the Town
- Multi-Use Centre
- Caistor Design Statement

- Resource Centre
- Town Hall Refurbishment
- Walks around the Town (in conjunction with Caistor Society)
- Community Website
- History of Caistor
- Old Photographs and Photographic Record on the Internet
- Critical Buildings
- Environmental Improvements
- Credit Union
- Caistor Western Relief Road
- Refurbish Wesley Room (in association with the Methodist Church)
- Community Newspaper/Radio Station
- Sports & Social Club Extension, Brigg Road
- Mediaeval Fish Ponds, Navigation Lane
- Sites of Archaeological Significance
- 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. The study will produce a 'Business Plan' which the CDP will use to seek additional funding to encourage investment in the town.

PLEASE NOTE: Many of the documents mentioned in this leaflet are available on the [www.caistor.net](http://www.caistor.net) web site.