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## Green light for the Boston Barrier flood defence

The Environment Agency's £100 million Boston Barrier – which will better protect more than 14,000 properties from tidal flooding – has been given the green light by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Michael Gove, and HM Treasury.

Cllr Michael Cooper, Leader of Boston Borough Council said: "What a great Christmas present for Boston and all who live and do business here under the constant threat of flood. This is a truly massive investment in Boston, and a truly massive investment in confidence in Boston as a place to live, do business and grow families and businesses. After the catastrophe which was the 2013 flood this will give us the best protection from flooding outside London. People here will be able to sleep easy on the stormiest of winter nights. This is a huge green light for growth and the future prosperity of Boston."

The tidal barrier will feature a moveable gate across the River Witham (also known locally as The Haven), together with a new control building to operate the barrier, new flood defence walls on both banks, and a replacement gate across the entrance to the existing Port of Boston wet dock.

The Barrier will make Boston one of the best-protected areas from flooding outside of London.

The Secretary of State has now approved the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to grant powers to construct and operate the barrier, and work is set to begin in January.

The Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said: "Not only is this fantastic news for the 14,000 home and business owners who will be better protected from flooding – Boston's new state of the art defences will help attract investment, benefitting the wider area.

"This is just one of many flood schemes being built in Lincolnshire and we are investing £229 million over six years to better protect communities across the county."

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said: "The Boston Barrier scheme is an inspiring example of collaborative work between the Environment Agency, councils, businesses and the local community. I am pleased that it will help to protect more than 14,000 homes and businesses from the kind of flooding the town experienced in December 2013. I look forward to the finished scheme."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2jec8xO>



Artist impression



Week 35 winner – Read more at <http://bit.ly/2ngHd3i>

### ALL your calendar 2018 pictures

EVERY SINGLE ONE of the eligible photographs submitted for the Boston Borough Calendar 2018 are now on our website. They show our wonderful town and borough in all its historic magnificence – you certainly love the Stump! Many thanks to all who embraced this idea and sent your favourite pictures in. A small panel of judges will now draw up a shortlist and then you will have the final say on the 12 to be chosen for the calendar – one for each month of the year. The finalists will appear on Boston Borough Council's Facebook page (Boston Borough Council) for voting on Monday, December 11. You will have a week to cast your votes. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2iYVbL5>



### Make savings on your fuel bills

Christmas can be an expensive time of year... and when it's cold and the family is all at home for the holidays and the heating is on for days on end the fuel bills can soon rack up. So make it your early New Year resolution to think about what you might be able to do to save on your fuel costs in 2018.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2inAdS7>

### Last Christmas bid to get you to donate this Christmas

Boston Borough Council deputy leader and finance chief Aaron Spencer is used to dealing with the serious side of local politics... but he also has a much less serious side and has released his second Christmas fundraising video. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2iitAQ5>



### Let's talk turkey

With two thirds of UK households choosing to have roast turkey for their Christmas dinner, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is offering tips on how you can safely prepare turkey at home.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2BP30aM>



### Boston Festive Market

Sunday, December 17 at 9.30am to 2.30pm in Boston Market Place.

- \* Market with Christmas entertainment
- \* Visit from Ice Queen and Jack Frost
- \* Free family crafts
- \* Festive food stalls
- \* Free afternoon screening of Elf in the Stump starting at 2.30pm

### Magic happens... find the Central Park fairies' homes

Sssshhh! There are fairies snoozing in Central Park. They need to get their rest in – they have a busy time coming up helping Santa and the elves over the Christmas period. Their secret little homes in Central Park are only revealed very occasionally – and one of this year's magical days is Saturday, December 9, when the tiny front doors to their homes will appear. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2n9N8Mv>

