

## **Kingsley Parish Council**

### **Developments at the LMC Garage at Sleaford**

Mr Roger Powell, MD LMC of Farnham Ltd, invited Kingsley Parish Council to visit the Garage in Sleaford to hear about plans for the future of the site. Cllrs Coury and Rigden visited the site on 13th September.

Mr Powell explained that the car manufacturer Citroen is changing its model and sales strategy essentially to have two ranges of vehicles – the basic C series and a more ‘upmarket’ DS Automobile range of vehicles. Citroen requires dealers, that wish to represent both brands, to have two distinct showrooms, one for each range of vehicles.

In order to retain the franchises at Sleaford, LMC will need to develop a new showroom and a planning application for this will be submitted later this year. At the moment the garage has permission to develop the workshop at the back of the current showroom. Consideration is now being given to use this workshop area as the new showroom/offices and develop better integrated workshops on the land to the South of the filling station. This will replace a number of current portacabins. Interestingly (and perhaps surprisingly) there are some 48 people employed on the site by LMC (which does not include the petrol filling station which is not part of LMC).

There have been questions and concerns in the village about the new enclosure and bunds that has appeared to the South of the garage towards the Sleaford traffic lights. It was explained that this will be used by LMC to provide an area for parking cars, and the bunds were constructed as a security precaution whilst planning was being obtained. This land extends from the garage to the cement works near the traffic lights and was used in the past by the War Office as a dump for old buildings from Aldershot Barracks and old military equipment. This car park will be accessed from the current garage entrance and round the back of the showrooms and workshops and not straight from the A325. There will, however, be an access onto the A325 for emergency use.

Mr Powell said proposals for the new parking area will include landscaping to improve the environment and the bank of the River Slea which runs behind the garage.

The Council appreciated the visit and will make detailed comments on the proposed development during the formal consultation period when the planning application is submitted to EHDC.

Cllrs Coury and Rigden  
Kingsley Parish Council