

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT NOVEMBER 2022



E-Newsletter Issue 12/2022
With Tabitha Tuckley and Matt Baker
BBC Children in Need
Rickshaw Relay, Little Houghton
Friday, 21 October 2022

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NEWS REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

Monthly Highlights

We are still seeking sponsors to support families and individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine.

I am receiving a significant number of emails together with messages and postings on Facebook regarding the 41 Bus Route, which affects our villages along the A428 between Bedford and Northampton. On 28 October 2022, I attended a public meeting with David Boden, Business Development Director, Stagecoach at the Olney Centre, Olney. The meeting had been arranged at short notice with Stagecoach by Councillor Debbie Whitworth, Deputy Mayor, Olney Town Council. Debbie and I had been exchanging emails about the seriously downgraded 41 Bus Service on the route Bedford to Northampton and she had invited me to attend the meeting. I have included an overview of the discussion and actions in my Monthly Report. There was to be another meeting planned with the relevant Local Authorities, Community Transport Providers, and representatives from the various colleges on 17 November 2022. This is to be rescheduled as MKCC cannot make it.

Last month, I was alerted to rubble being dumped on a bridleway from Hartwell to Roade. I raised the matter with WNC, and the Street Cleansing team attended on site and established that the location of this rubble was on private land. We can only remove fly tipping from the public highway and cannot encroach on private land. Therefore, it would be the responsibility of the landowner to arrange removal. Alternatively, if we can obtain a witness, who is willing to give evidence in court, then we can consider a prosecution. However, it is preferable if the Landowner cooperates with the Council in rectifying the situation. As soon as I have a further update, I will let you know.

I have escalated the flooding and blocked drains problem in Blacksmiths Way, Hartwell. All the gullies around this area have now been checked and all are clear and operating within design intent. The mainline is clear and running; therefore, the cause of the concern is most likely due to a capacity issue rather than anything else. Blacksmith's way is on a slight slope and the camber of the road means that all the water collects in the bottom corner outside numbers 69 and 71. Furthermore, most of the gullies on Blacksmiths Way feed into the mainline on Ashton Road via this last gully. Whilst WNC is not able to increase the capacity of the main drain, they have agreed to investigate the shape of the road and the way that water flows down it. It may be that some minor patching may assist in resolving the flowing issue. I have now arranged a site visit with the engineer from Kier to meet me and the residents on 16 November 2022 to discuss this further.

I have attended several community events this month, which has given me lots of opportunities to catch up with so many of you. Please read about my community activity in my Monthly Report.

West Northamptonshire Council has submitted a suggested pattern of ward boundaries for the council area following its Council meeting on Thursday, 3 November. WNC has submitted a 77-member proposal as suggested by the Commission, but also agreed a preferred proposal of 78 members, which enabled a greater balance of representation between rural and urban areas in West Northamptonshire. The pattern of wards proposed is supported by evidence assembled from across the Council about the communities in the area and the way in which they can be most effectively represented from the next local election in May 2025. The Hackleton and Grange Park ward is now entitled Hackleton and Roade. The proposal in this area is for a three-member ward which will result in a ward of 12,893 electors by 2028. This will result in a variance of 3.27% on 78 members or 1.94% on 77 members. It is a ward bordered to the east and south by the boundaries of North Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The river Nene forms the northern

boundary. The M1 motorway runs to the east. The area is predominately rural, with no large settlements that are dominant. Connectivity is via the A428 which links Northampton and Bedford and the Newport Pagnell Road, which links Northampton with Newport Pagnell and Milton Keynes. The proposal for this area would be for a ward formed of the parishes around the A508, and Junction 15 of the M1 Junction, as well as parishes further east. The proposal would join the 18 parishes of Roade, Blisworth, Milton Malsor, Shutlanger, Stoke Bruerne, Courteenhall, Ashton, Hartwell, Quinton, Hackleton, Piddington, Yardley Hastings, Denton, Brafield on the Green, Castle Ashby, Cogenhoe and Whiston, Little Houghton and Great Houghton.

The LGBCE consultation runs until 7 November. The review is expected to end in July 2023, when the LGBCE will make firm recommendations to Parliament through an Order which will give effect to the new electoral arrangements.

Local Area Partnerships (LAP) will play a key part in the Integrated Health & Care agenda. DSN4 LAP is now operational, and it covers the Deanshanger, Towcester & Roade, Bugbrooke and Hackleton & Grange Park LAP. I represent the Hackleton and Grange Park ward. We are exploring how we might work in a collaborative way to improve outcomes for our patients and constituents within our local area and we are currently engaging with GPs in the area who have registered patients in the LAP footprint. The second meeting took place on 8 November 2022.

Parents and carers can still apply for a reception place in a primary or infant school or a year 3 place in a junior school. They can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years of age on or before 31 August 2023. The closing date for applications for places in reception and year 3 (junior school) is 15 January 2023 at midnight.

Parents, families, and school workers are being invited to help improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Northants. WNC plans to co-produce a new three-year joint strategy to address the current shortfall of specialist school places in the area and plan resources more effectively to better meet the needs of SEND children and their families. To help shape the new strategy, children, parents, school-based staff, health and care professionals and other interested organisations will be involved in the development of a new Co-production Charter.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has been awarded the 'best in the region' award for its support for the local small business community. WNC was among 250 councils from across England who entered the inaugural Federation of Small Business (FSB) Local Government Awards and was successful in winning the 'All round Small Business Friendly' regional category.

We understand that the cost-of-living crisis is affecting many of us and we want you to know that you are not alone. You may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support getting all the money you're entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support fund.

We've put together some useful information, which I have included in my Monthly Report:

A pilot scheme which helps landowners clear and prevent fly-tipping has been extended for another 12 months in West Northamptonshire. Last year the scheme was launched by Stephen Mold, the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire (PFCC) whereby private landowners could apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future.

A six-week public consultation on further main modifications to the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 commenced on Monday, 7 November 2022.

It is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers in England, Wales, and Scotland to follow strict biosecurity measures to protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. Housing measures to protect poultry & captive birds from avian flu were extended across England from 00:01 07 Nov 2022.

This means that, from this time, it is a mandatory requirement for all bird keepers across England to keep their birds housed, or where this is not practical, to take steps to separate them from wild birds. Keeping your birds undercover away from wild birds is vital to minimise the risk of them becoming infected with avian flu from wild birds. But housing alone is not the only solution – it remains essential that you follow strict biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease spreading to your birds.

We are looking to provide a network of warm spaces to support anyone struggling with the cost of living this winter. The council is targeting community groups and organisations able to provide warm, welcoming spaces and would like to help the community. The groups are invited to sign up to a register of interest on the council's website. These awards can be made to Community and Voluntary Organisations, Registered Charities and to other qualifying bodies. The funding round will be open to all applications seeking a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant (WWSG) from the value of £500 up to £1500. The grant process will close on 1 March 2023, organisations may apply only once.

WNC is getting ready for harsher weather conditions as Kier Highways, the council's highways provider, deploys its fleet of gritters to take on precautionary gritting routes.

The contractor activated winter working protocols in mid-October, with the season set to run through to April next year. The gritters, which are powered by sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), will cover 1102 miles (2473km) of the council's road network - which is the distance of driving from Northampton to Venice. The Council has reserves of 5,500 tonnes of salt, with nearly 900 grit bins across the region filled for use on public roads and footpaths. The fleet of gritters uses HVO with immediate effect, which reduces the carbon produced from combustion engines by up to 90% compared to diesel. The move demonstrates Kier Highways and WNC's shared commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Around 450 year six children from Northamptonshire schools attended on one of three dates in October at the Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre. The event called the Young Citizens Scheme was run by West Northamptonshire Council's Community Safety Partnership and supported by Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The aim of the programme is to help children to become better citizens, be safer in their schools and communities, online and on the roads.

To celebrate International Women's Day 2023, we will be creating an exhibition to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II. We are looking for local stories, photographs and videos from people describing how the Queen was an inspirational woman and what she meant to you.

Having read my article about making children safe around schools on Facebook, a Denton Resident suggested an idea to improve road safety around schools by rerouting the morning refuse collection outside Primary Schools because it is a cause of disruption and an unnecessary hazard. I investigated his suggestion, and I was advised that all of our routes are subject to risk assessments and collection from vicinities of schools should not be done between 08:30 – 09:30 and 14:30 – 15:30. As a result of my enquiry and his suggestion WNC has spoken to all the drivers who cover Denton and reminded them of this

Councillor Stephen Clarke
Member for Hackleton and Grange Park
West Northamptonshire Council
stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk

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and have asked the supervisors of the team to monitor this by using the vehicle tracking system fitted to the vehicles. Well done, Chris Brice for alerting me to this.

All the Best, Steve

PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Update on Highways A428, Denton and Billing Road, Brafield



As you know I have secured a reduction in the speed limit on the A428, and I am awaiting details of the project plan. On 30 September, Highways informed me that they have not yet heard back from Milton Keynes Council concerning our proposal about the new reduced limit and have therefore taken the decision to progress with the new limit up to the county boundary.

Stagecoach 41 Bus Route

I am still receiving a significant number of emails together with messages and postings on Facebook regarding the 41 Bus Route, which affects our villages along the A428 between Bedford and Northampton. I have asked WNC to reconsider the impact of the proposed service revision with a view to resolving the problem being caused by these changes. It will be a difficult problem to solve as Stagecoach has already announced the scrapping of certain bus routes despite local government securing an extension to the Bus Recovery Grant earlier this month. I have since heard from Nick Henstock, Assistant Director for Highways and Transport, Place and Economy Directorate who informs me that WNC are considering how the Council can best support bus services within the Council area as part of the bus service improvement plan, and as part of this work we will consider the connectivity of rural communities and the possibility of alternative models to provide sustainable and cost-effective services.

Unfortunately, the service is run by Stagecoach on a commercial basis and therefore we are unable to make decisions about any changes to services. The Council does provide support to some bus services, however the amount of money available for this is finite and we cannot continue to support services at any cost if they are not viable.

WNC have a cross party members working group helping shape the bus services improvement plan and I will keep you informed as this work progresses. An Initial Request for Information has been sent to all town and parish councils. Following the study there will more opportunities to give your views through a formal WNC consultation on the proposals but to inform our work on the review we are seeking your initial views on the following questions:

- Is your community served by a local bus service and if so are residents satisfied with the service?
- Evidence of any barriers to bus use in your community (excluding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic) – for example concerns about frequency, routes, destinations, times, fares?
- What do you think could be done to make bus use more attractive?
- Do you have any ideas or options which you believe should be included within the review?

All information should be provided to the SCP project manager, Lucy Crann by Friday 2nd December.

lucy.crann@scptransport.co.uk

I am committed to try to obtain a satisfactory resolution as Service 41 with a single departure from Northampton to Bedford in the morning and one in the evening cannot be described as a bus service. You would need to leave Denton at 6.54 am and return at 7.35 pm.

Meeting with Stagecoach on 28 October 2022

At 3.00pm on 28 October 2022, I attended a public meeting with David Boden, Business Development Director, Stagecoach at the Olney Centre, Olney. The meeting had been arranged at short notice with Stagecoach by Councillor Debbie Whitworth, Deputy Mayor, Olney Town Council. Debbie and I had been exchanging emails about the seriously downgraded 41 Bus Service on the route Bedford to Northampton and she had invited me to attend the meeting. I was pleased that Councillor Phil Larrett, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste at West Northamptonshire Council attended the meeting too.



I arrived early and I was able to meet with Debbie beforehand and then talk to some of the residents from villages at the Northampton end of the route such as Denton and Yardley Hastings. I caught up with Councillor John Quilter, Chairman, Yardley Hastings Parish Council and Councillor Steve Holden, Denton Parish Council. Both spoke passionately about the impact of the changes to the timetable for the 41 Bus Service on their residents.

Other parishes were represented including those at the Bedford end of the route, namely Olney and Lavendon, and surrounding villages. There was a cross section of members of the public, roughly 50 altogether including parents, students, elderly and all those dependent on buses to get to work, college, school, the shops, and medical appointments. I was very familiar with the problems that the demise of a regular timetable was going to make from Monday to a significant number of people who had already written to me about the impact of these changes on their lives.



David Boden opened the meeting by trying to explain why Stagecoach had reached the decision to make such drastic changes. Post Covid, Stagecoach had 863 loss making services across the UK. When confronted with the need to make changes to the 41 Bus

Service, which was making a £120k loss, he approached Milton Keynes Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to enquire as to whether they were prepared to subsidise the service. The response from both Milton Keynes and West Northamptonshire Councils had been that there was no money. Bedford Council did provide a sum equal to a third of the costs, which was why Stagecoach had been able to retain the services between Bedford and Turvey. He reiterated that he did not expect to make a profit with a rural bus service but it did need to cover its costs.



Having established that the Unitary Councils were unable to support the service, David had spoken to Northampton College as colleges receive a block grant, which also included the cost of providing transport.

However, the college had made it clear that they were unable to provide any support. He informed us that he had not discussed matters with other Colleges or Universities.

The first half of the question-and-answer session was quite heated as the pent-up emotion in the room started to erupt. Parents were really concerned about just how safe it would be for pupils waiting in the dark at the Northampton bus station until 19.20 pm. Some villagers had no access to shops, medical facilities and would now be totally isolated.

But the second part of the meeting was more about looking at what could be done to provide a service on this route. David apologised for the manner in which this decision had been made and the lack of notice that families had received in relation to the changing service. He took on board the real issues that had arisen because of Stagecoach's decision and promised to work with interested parties to find an alternative solution.

The following actions were agreed:

- The last bus of the day would always be a double decker bus to ensure that no pupil would be left behind at either Bedford or Northampton bus stations.
- Those who have an interest in contributing their support to reaching a solution would meet to explore alternative options. This would require representatives from the Local Authorities, Colleges, Universities, and other Community transport providers in the area.
- There would be an investigation of other grants from CIL/ S106 monies, SEN Transport grants, Health and Social Care Non-Emergency Transport grants and other Community Bus operators including Northampton Door to Door, Ability and Cogenhoe Village Hopper.
- A "Total Transport" investigation by mapping all transport needs and destinations with a view to identifying potential solutions to the rural transport problem.
- Establish a partnership of Town and Parish Councils along the route.
- Reconsider the increasing numbers going to Bedford School and various colleges.
- Consider whether the losses on the 41-bus service are Northbound rather than Southbound.
- Look at a fast service, not diverting along the way such as the "Little Red Bus".



David was asked what the cost would be to retain another bus for a full year, and he confirmed that it needed an additional £120k. He said that the best they could do in the future would be a 1 and a half hourly service.

He was asked if Stagecoach could defer the decision for another month to provide time for the meeting of interested parties to take place. A member of the audience pointed out that it would only be a risk of £10k or thereabouts and that it would provide some much-needed notice to those passengers who would be impacted from Monday morning, some of whom had already paid for a bus pass which was no longer being honoured by Stagecoach. David said that he could not reconfigure the service for Monday morning. However, he did say that subject to an appropriate subsidy and the support of the Local Authorities he could fix it with the Traffic Commissioner to resurrect a service in 2 weeks.

Debbie agreed to convene a meeting with the Local Authorities, Colleges and Parish Councils and other interested parties next week.

Councillor Phil Larrett confirmed that WNC would play a role in these discussions and that they had a Consultant looking at rural bus service improvement plan that would report back in January /February 2023.

The meeting lasted over two hours and although no solutions were identified there was a commitment to meet to explore options in the next few weeks. I had hoped that we might gain a stay of execution but that was no longer possible.

Bridleway from Hartwell to Roade

This month, I was alerted to rubble being dumped on a bridleway from Hartwell to Roade. I raised the matter with WNC, and the Street Cleansing team attended on site and established that the location of this rubble was on private land. We can only remove fly tipping from the public highway and cannot encroach on private land. Therefore, it would be the responsibility of the landowner to arrange removal. We did not observe any asbestos type of waste, as was originally suggested, but we have said that we would be happy to arrange a meeting at the site at a mutually convenient time.

Hartwell Flooding and Blocked Drains

I have received emails from a resident in Hartwell regarding ongoing flooding and blocked drains in Blacksmiths Way. WNC now have multiple images regarding the ongoing flooding issue. The resident has reported that these photos show the bad camber that has been introduced on Ashton Road entering Amberly Road causing all flood water to now pour down Amberly Road instead. They also show the extent of the flooding the residents have had to endure since issues have been introduced. I have been advised that 13 reports have been raised and they have called the emergency line on 3 occasions. Yet our engineers respond the day after the flooding and then close off the incident. Clearly rainwater is not soaking away adequately, and we need to investigate a more permanent solution. I have now arranged a site visit with the appropriate engineer from Kier and the local residents on 16 November 2022 to discuss this further.

Proposed changes to Northampton Rail Freight Order

The screenshot shows a planning application notice from SEGRO. The header includes the SEGRO logo and contact information for the Planning Department. The main text is titled 'SECTION 153 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008' and 'REGULATION 6 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (CHANGES TO, AND REVOCATION OF, DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDERS) REGULATIONS 2011'. It details a 'NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO MAKE A NON-MATERIAL CHANGE TO THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER' for the 'Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 (S.I. 2019 No. 1338) (The DCO)'. The notice states that the application seeks to make changes to the DCO which are not material. It lists the proposed changes and provides information on how to view the application, including a website link and contact details for the Planning Inspectorate. The notice also includes a deadline for representations: 'Please note that the deadline for the receipt of representations by the Planning Inspectorate is 11.59pm on 26 September 2022.'

On 11th August 2022, SEGRO issued a letter regarding the Northampton Gateway development. The letter serves as a notification of the consultation period for the proposed changes to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Order, which may allow the developers to begin using the warehousing units ahead of the completion of the rail/freight interchange. This is a significant change to their original order. Rt Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP has issued a copy of her response to the non-material change to Northampton Gateway, Rail freight Interchange project consultation. It can

be found on her website. On 26 September 2022, West Northamptonshire Council wrote to the Planning Inspector about the



Consultation to the Development Order Ref. TR050006 regarding SEGRO (Junction 15) Ltd's proposed change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 (S.I. 2019 No. 1358).



Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment stated:

“For the reasons set out below, the Council cannot support this proposed variation to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 and would therefore request the application is not approved.”

- A. Uncertainty over when the rail freight interchange will become available
- B. Ambiguity with the warehouse floor space figure specified for prior occupation

C. Any further variations must be a matter for the Secretary of State not the Planning Authority as it would be considered ultra-vires.

We are still awaiting the outcome of the consultation.

Mud Kitchen Café Farmers’ Market and Craft Fair



On Sunday 6 November 2022, I attended the Mud Kitchen Café, Farmers’ Market and Craft Fair at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall, York Avenue, Cogenhoe, NN7 1NB. It was lovely to meet so many of you including Sean, Paula, and Alice Gadney, as I made my purchases. It was lovely to talk to Anna, who is an Artist from Ukraine and to see her working on her craft. Don’t forget to support the next one on Sunday 11 December 2022 from 10.00am-3.00pm, when there will be even more Christmas goods on sale. The market offers the best in fresh, local, homemade, and handmade produce from a variety of local traders. The Mud Kitchen Café



is committed to encouraging residents and visitors into the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall to help support the local economy and showcase some amazing local independent businesses.

South Northamptonshire Art Trail 1-9 October 2022

South Northamptonshire Art Trail took place from 1-9 October 2022. The Trail was founded 10 years ago when other open studio events in Northamptonshire had folded. On the trail you find art and craft forms as diverse as wood turning, sculpture in all sorts of materials. Traditional and contemporary painting in oils, watercolours and acrylics, jewellery making, textile arts, ceramics in many forms, blown, cast and fused glass, and chainsaw carving. The Art Trail was at 18 venues across the South of Northamptonshire and 42 artists were exhibiting this year.



Art Trail, Blisworth

Each year I have visited the event in Blisworth in support of local artists. On 5 October, I visited the Art Trail at St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Blisworth where, I met several friends. I managed to chat to Maureen Smith and Anne Marie Newton from the village. Maureen and I had a good catch up and I heard everything about the children's art workshops she had been running each day. She takes her inspiration from the countryside and the structure of old buildings. Anne Marie has a passion for Pottery and started watercolour painting later in life.



I missed meeting June Hawkins as she wasn't there on Wednesday. But I saw her beautiful botanical paintings in watercolour. Other displays included Allan Page's low temperature ceramics, Andy Jordan's landscape oil paintings, Hilary Spurrier's landscape and wildlife photography, Andrew Carter's abstract and dynamic photography, Maggie Burgess-Wood's watercolour painting together with her stone carving and Trisha White's hand dye silk. Blisworth always has a greater number of artists

exhibiting than the other locations on the Art Trail. Perhaps this is because, Blisworth has several Arts and Crafts Groups, and they have an Annual Art Show held on the first May Bank Holiday weekend at the Village Hall which is incredibly popular.

Art Trail, Hartwell

On 6 October 2022, I visited the South Northamptonshire Art Trail at St John the Baptist Church, Ashton Road, Hartwell, NN7 2HU. Angela Smith had a good display of her polymer clay and beadwork jewellery. Fiona Abel Smith had a fine collection of polymer clay sculptures and other art works, and she was providing polymer clay demonstrations throughout the day. Vikki Stacey had several Fused and Cast glass sculptures, bowls, plates, and pictures. Susan Cross was working on a few weaving projects, and she had several items on display.



There was quite a different collection of exhibits to those in Blisworth. This reflected the talent of the local artists. All the artists were demonstrating their skills and the Trail was certainly about making as well as exhibiting. Whilst watching the artists in action we enjoyed coffee and homemade cake in a beautiful setting.

Mud Kitchen Café & The Community Help Desk



On Thursday 6 October 2022, I visited the Mud Kitchen Café with the Community Help Desk and caught up with Deborah Rush, Clerk to Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council. We spoke about several current issues, and she updated me on the new support group for those living with dementia (or similar



conditions), places are strictly limited, so you are being asked to register your interest for more information.

It started on Monday 10 October 2022 at the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall. It will be called the Forget-Me-Not Social Group and it will meet on the 2nd Monday of each Month from 1.30-2.45pm. There will be several planned activities and an opportunity for carers to support and chat to each other. So please make others in the community aware of this new group.



Coffee Morning Little Houghton, Church

After the plant and Bulb sale at the Coffee@Carey on Saturday 8 October, I went along to the monthly Coffee Morning at Little Houghton Church. It was very busy, and I was able to catch up with friends. It's a great way to get the village together and raise funds for the church. There are always refreshments, a raffle and good company. Look out for the Christmas Musical Concert with the Musica Charity Choir on 3 December 2022. All proceeds for Church Funds.



PCSO Community Surgery

On Sunday 9 October 2022, I met Matthew Taylor, PCSO, South Northants at his Community Surgery at Foxfields Country Park Pavilion, Foxfield Way, Grange Park, Northampton, NN4 5BE. We were able to catch up and I was able to chat to a couple of families from Grange Park.



If you were unable to attend Matt's Surgery then you can still contact him by email, telephone or via the Northants Police website. TowcesterArea NeighbourhoodTeam SouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk Website: www.northants.police.uk, where you will find a range of services accessible online, including reporting non-urgent crime. To report information confidentially about crime please visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555 111.

For any matter that requires an urgent response please call 999.

Rickshaw Relay Challenge

WNC wished Northamptonshire's Tabitha Tuckley, who took place on the BBC Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge with TV presenter Matt Baker in the county on 21 October 2022 the best of luck.



Starting in Wellingborough, the route took in Little Houghton, Northampton, Rothersthorpe, Milton Malsor, Blisworth, Greens Norton and Towcester before crossing the finishing line at the home of British Motor Racing, Silverstone.



We all stayed tuned to BBC Radio Northampton for updates throughout the day, and found more information about the challenge at <http://ow.ly/NuLJ50LfmPm>

Rickshaw Relay, Little Houghton

I arrived at Little Houghton just before 10.30am as we were expecting to see the BBC Children in Need, Rickshaw Relay with Northamptonshire's Tabitha Tuckley and Matt Baker ride through in the next half an hour.

We were following them on live.opentracking.co.uk throughout. At this stage the App indicated that they were somewhere near Ecton. Gradually the residents assembled, as did the children from the Primary School and the Day Nursery. They all had their specific vantage points and prepared to wait.



They waved at the Village Hopper at 11.12am and the WNC Food Waste lorry at 11.27am, but still no sign of the Rickshaw Relay. The children sang songs and practiced their waving and cheering but still they waited. However later when the App suggested that Tabitha and Matt were somewhere around Crow Lane the sign indicated the Rickshaw wasn't moving, which could just have meant that there was a poor mobile signal. By then, it was so close to the Causeway Bridge and the last little lap to Little Houghton, that the children were all very apprehensive and excited.



Just as it started to rain, and many umbrellas were unfurled the advance party (film crew) drove past at 11.32am. In fact, when they finally arrived unannounced ten minutes later the primary School, the Day Nursery and all the residents gave them a rousing reception.

Meeting with Nigel Wagstaff, Chairman, Cogenhoe United Football Club

On 26 October 2022, I met Nigel Wagstaff, Chairman, Cogenhoe United Football Club (known as The Cooks), Maddie Ark, Cogenhoe Early Years Tutor and Jon Bailey, Chairman of Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council at Compton Park, home of the Cogenhoe United Football Club.



On Saturday 15 October, the first team played the 10th league game of the season and Gomes 94th minute equaliser denied The Cooks three points at home to Lutterworth Town. In addition to the first team, 'The

Cooks' have Mini's which is a squad of 4, 5, and 6 year old players making their first steps in football. Then they have the Under 8s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s and a Vets Team.

Nigel known as Waggy gave us a tour of the facility and spoke about his vision for the football club to become better utilised by the local community and a business plan to improve the whole club. They have been granted financial support to enhance all of their pitches and Waggy has lots of ideas to use the club as a venue that can be hired out for various events. The Clubhouse is a refurbished facility and they have experience of hosting all types of functions and also offer this great facility to businesses and other clubs/societies for daytime meetings, away days, or any informal or formal gathering. They offer tea, coffee and other refreshments.

In improving the club and its facilities, Waggy intends to make football accessible to all including girls football.

It is an incredible asset for the village with a great history. The club joined the Central Village League in 1951 and floodlights were installed in 1992. The ground currently has a capacity of 5,000 of which 100 are seated and 200 covered.

I look forward to hearing more about their plans and following their progress in the months ahead.

<https://www.cogenhoeunitedfc.co.uk>

Denton Coffee Morning 28 October 2022

On 28 October 2022, I visited the Denton Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church. It was good to catch up with Pat, Sheila, Alison, Mary, Susan, and others. I missed Doug who wasn't there today. But there was a



small team busy fixing the net of poppies to the church tower. It is a cascade of thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies, which was hung from the church tower last year. Residents of Denton had lovingly made the flowers of remembrance, which have been hand-sewn onto a camouflage net. The eye-catching cascade was hoisted onto St Margaret's Church tower again on Friday in good time for Armistice Day. I was able to collect my two Rotary shoeboxes, which I had agreed to

return filled to Pat as soon as possible. The Rotary Shoe Box Scheme has been operating over 25 years and they have delivered over one million boxes. The boxes only cost £2.00 each and there are four types of content expected. Child, Baby, Teenager and Household.

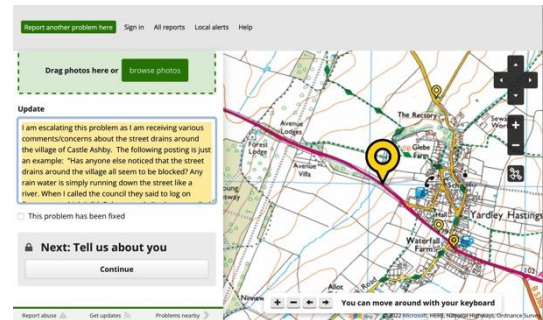
Whilst in Denton, I heard more about the impact of the changes to the 41 Bus Service, and I confirmed that I would be attending the meeting in Olney later that day. Susan Wilson was there from Castle Ashby together with several other volunteers who had been working on the Food Larder in Castle Ashby and Denton and they were expecting Miranda Wixon for a meeting to discuss the rebuilding of the Food Larder in Denton and Cogenhoe, which would support the surrounding villages. I managed to speak to Miranda briefly as I needed to leave for my meeting in Olney later. However, I wished them all the best for a successful reopening of the Food Larder in the very near future.

Street Drains Castle Ashby

I have escalated a problem with the street drains around the village of Castle Ashby as requested. As soon as I hear anything further, I will provide you with an update.

CONSULTATIONS

Upper Nene Valley



This is a survey undertaken in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, Bedford Borough Council, and the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust. We are currently undertaking a project to understand how people use the Nene Valley for recreation, so we can understand the impact on the important wildlife habitats in the area. As part of this an online survey has been developed. If you go out into the valley to walk,

run, cycle, fish, birdwatch, row, or indeed undertake any other activity it would help us for you to be involved in the survey. You should only complete the survey once and can do so at any time. The survey will be open until December 2022 and it should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=164399705185>

New pattern of wards for West Northamptonshire Council to be sent to Boundary Commission

West Northamptonshire Council will be putting forward a suggested pattern of ward boundaries for the council area following its Council meeting on Thursday, 3 November.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently carrying out a ward boundary review ahead of the authority's next elections in 2025. The last electoral review in Northamptonshire took place in 2011 and WNC's current electoral arrangements are based on the divisions of the former county council. There are 93 councillors serving across 31 wards.

LGBCE carries out the review in two stages, the first stage determines the electorate for 2028, which is 325,511 and the number of councillors required to serve the population which the LGBCE have suggested should be 77. These figures provide an average number of electors per councillor.

During the second stage the Commission consult on the pattern of wards and the number and names of wards. The Council sent out a survey to all members and set up a working group to help prepare their suggested proposals as part of the consultation.

At its meeting this week the Councillors decided to submit a 77 proposal as suggested by the Commission, but also agreed a preferred proposal of 78 members which enabled a greater balance of representation between rural and urban areas in West Northamptonshire.

Councillor Suresh Patel, Chairman of the Council's Democracy Standards Committee and the Local Boundary Review Working Group said:

“The opportunity to influence the pattern of our democracy does not come around often, but it is important when it does that the people who understand the area take part in the consultation and submit views about how the area should be represented. The criteria require a balance between ensuring that there is an equal level of electors per councillor, and the need to ensure that the ward pattern reflects local communities.

The pattern of wards that we have proposed is supported by evidence assembled from across the Council about the communities in the area and the way in which they can be most effectively represented from the next local election in May 2025.

The LGBCE consultation runs until 7 November and people can submit their views to the West Northamptonshire | LGBCE Site:
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/.../northa.../west-northamptonshire>

The review is expected to end in July 2023, when the LGBCE will make firm recommendations to Parliament through an Order which will give effect to the new electoral arrangements.

The review consultation process for West Northamptonshire Council is as follows.

- First consultation on warding arrangements: 30 August 2022 – 7 November 2022
- Consultation on draft proposals: 7 February 2023 – 17 April 2023
- Publication of final proposals: 4 July 2023 (later if further consultation needed)

For information about how reviews work and the consultation for West Northamptonshire Council please visit the dedicated section for West Northamptonshire on the Local Government Boundary Commission web pages:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/northamptonshire/west-northamptonshire>

For information about how reviews work and the consultation for West Northamptonshire Council please visit the dedicated section for West Northamptonshire on the Local Government Boundary Commission web pages:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work>

Or you can give your views by email or by post using the contact details below:

Email address: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Postal address:

Review Officer (West Northamptonshire)

LGBCE

PO Box 133

Blyth

NE24 9FE

For queries about how to take part in the consultation please contact the Review Officer (West Northamptonshire) using the details above or by telephone on 020 7276 1102.



FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

In Year Finances

Earlier this month, WNC set out the precautionary steps it was taking to manage the financial pressures that are affecting many local authorities across the country because of the continuing cost of living crisis, rising inflation rates and the lasting impacts of the pandemic.



The Cabinet report highlights in-year pressures of £7.6 million and flags predicted further pressures which the Council may experience over the rest of the year. Included within the report are the actions that are being taken to manage these pressures and help to improve the position. Work to manage the financial picture is ongoing across the Council, with senior managers and Cabinet members continually

monitoring the budget and spend for the authority. Staff across the Council are supporting this work by following stricter spending controls, delivering transformation of services, and identifying where further savings and efficiencies can be made.

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../Revenue...>

Cutting energy bills for households and businesses

Support for Households: Energy Price Guarantee

On 8 September, the Prime Minister announced the Energy Price Guarantee. The Energy Price Guarantee will ensure that a typical household in Great Britain pays an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill, for the next 2 years, from 1 October 2022, with an equivalent scheme in Northern Ireland from November. The consumer saving will be based on usage, but a typical household is expected to save at least £1,000 a year (based on current prices from October). Energy suppliers will be fully compensated for the cost of the Energy Price Guarantee. Based on 2019 median consumption, houses will save around £1,000 a year, and flats will save £700 a year. £150 of this saving will be delivered by temporarily transferring the cost of environmental and social costs, including green levies, to the Exchequer for 2 years. This will mean customers don't bear the costs, but benefit from the low-carbon electricity generation.



This support is in addition to the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme available to all households. This will be paid in 6 instalments from October. An additional payment of £100 will be provided to compensate for the rising costs of alternative heating fuels for those UK households who are not able to receive support for heating costs through the Energy Price Guarantee. The most vulnerable UK households will continue to receive £1,200 of support (including £400 from the Energy Bills Support Scheme) provided in instalments over the year.

Support for businesses and non-domestic properties

Through the new Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS), the government will provide support with energy bills for all non-domestic consumers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including charities and public sector organisations). This 6-month scheme will protect them from soaring energy costs by providing a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices. It will apply to energy usage for all non-domestic energy users from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. Equivalent support will be provided for non-domestic consumers who use heating oil or alternative fuels instead of gas (further detail on this will be announced shortly).

In Northern Ireland, the scheme will be established on the same criteria and offering comparable support, but recognising the different market fundamentals

Government will publish a review into the operation of the EBRS in 3 months to inform decisions on continued support after March 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/beis-in-the-growth-plan>

Cost of Living Support

We understand that the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us and we want you to know that you are not alone. You may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support getting all the money you're entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support fund.

We've put together some useful information in the links below to help you:

- Household Support Fund
<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/claiming-benefits/household-support-fund>
- The government recently announced an extension of the scheme supporting vulnerable households, including pensioners and those with children.
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/benefits> View available benefits and see if you are eligible.
- <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk>
- Retail deals and discounts to help families over the summer holidays have been launched by the government as part of the Help for Households Campaign. These deals have been signed with various businesses, including Asda, Morrisons, Amazon and Vodafone and are designed to reduce costs at the checkout, help provide entertainment and ensure access to necessary services for families during the summer holidays and beyond. Find out how you can access help with bills, childcare, transport costs and more.



Community Support

In addition to the support we can provide, such as benefits, housing and discretionary schemes plus the distribution of government support funding when available, residents can also contact a range of local organisations including the following:

- Citizen's Advice (CA) can help provide advice and guidance for residents struggling with the cost of living – local contacts below:
- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/central-east-northants/contact-us/>- 03444 889 629 /

03444 111 444

- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-oxon-south-northants/> - 01327 227721
- <https://www.communitylawservice.org.uk> - provides specialist advice and casework on fuel poverty, debt, welfare benefits, housing (evictions and repossessions) and immigration - **01604 621038**
- <https://www.nationaldebtline.org> – Freephone **0808 808 4000**
- <https://goodfoodwnorthants.org/foodaidalliance.html> – an alliance of nearly 40 food aid providers - organisations such as foodbanks, social supermarkets, and community lunch clubs, amongst others - who have come together to collaborate in helping people in food poverty in our area.
- <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk-get-help-to-buy-food-and-milk>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/housing-private-sector/energy-saving-service>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing>
- <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/adult-social-care/disability/Pages/mental-health.aspx>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/free-employment-support>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/libraries>
- <https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>
- [https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators – claim what you’re entitled to](https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators-claim-what-you-re-entitled-to)
- https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/#help_with_childcare_costs
- <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> - Get help with summer holiday childcare costs
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment-> You may be able to get help with the cost of living if you’re receiving certain benefits or tax credits
- <https://www.northamptonshire-carers.org/?locale=en>
- Help with heating: <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk> runs a bulk oil buying scheme to help people in off-gas areas get cheaper heating oil. They can also link you to a <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/good-neighbour-schemes>
- in your area and signpost residents in rural areas to the many services available to them from other organisations
- <https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/communicating-help-for-households-and-cost-of-living-payments/>
- <https://www.ncf.uk.com/give/-povertyhurts---northamptonshires-cost-of-living-crisis-appeal> Northamptonshire Community Foundation are encouraging local residents that can afford to do so to donate all or part of their energy rebate to their #PovertyHurts appeal to help those who need it.
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>
- <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2716...> Centre for Sustainable Energy’s top DIY tips to save money on your energy bills
- <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice> - Centre for Sustainable Energy Home energy advice
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy> – Impartial and independent energy advice
- <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-help-if-you-cant-afford-your-energy-bills>
- <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/energy-company-obligation-eco/energy-company-obligation-eco-support-improving-your-home/faqs-domestic-consumers-and-landlords>
- <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>
- <https://www.northamptonshireenergysavingservice.org.uk>
- <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/>

- <https://spencercontact.com> Northampton Furniture Re-use Charity
- <https://www.daventrycontact.org> Daventry Furniture Re-use Charity
- <https://www.loveyourclothes.org.uk> – Refashion and upcycling
- <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>
- <https://www.trusselltrust.org> - Nationwide food bank search
- <https://www.towfood.org.uk> – Community larder and fridge

Daventry District Council Offices to be sold off

Daventry District Council's offices will be sold off following last year's restructure of local government in Northamptonshire.

West Northamptonshire Council's cabinet agreed to dispose of the old Daventry District Council building. It is part of the first phase of relocating council services to a new hub, which will cost about £2m. A meeting of the cabinet heard it was "undesirable" for the authority to have the offices.

Last year, West Northamptonshire Council replaced Daventry District Council to form a unitary authority, along with the Northampton borough and South Northamptonshire district. Since then the old district authority office on Lodge Road has been left mostly empty.



The cabinet agreed that unless the council receives a "compelling offer" it would be marketed and sold either as a freehold for the whole building, or leasehold for all or parts of it. It is hoped the building will be vacated by the end of March next year.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Owners must now follow Bird Flu Prevention Measures

An increase in bird flu cases has led Great Britain's chief veterinary officers to declare a prevention zone across the whole island. It is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers in England, Wales and Scotland to follow strict biosecurity measures to protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said.

The measures include keeping free-range birds within fenced areas and for keepers with more than 500 birds to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, changing clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and cleaning and disinfecting site vehicles regularly. The largest-ever outbreak of bird flu in Great Britain has seen 190 confirmed cases since late October 2021, with over 30 of those confirmed since the beginning of the month.



"Bird keepers have faced the largest ever outbreak of avian flu this year and with winter brings an even more increased risk to flocks as migratory birds return to the United Kingdom," the chief veterinary officers for England, Scotland and Wales said in a joint statement.

"Scrupulous biosecurity and hygiene measures are the best form of defence, which is why we have declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across Great Britain, meaning that all bird keepers must take action to help prevent the disease spreading to more poultry and other domestic birds.

"The introduction of an AIPZ means regardless of whether you keep a few birds or thousands, you are legally required to meet enhanced biosecurity requirements to protect your birds from this highly infectious disease."

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said the risk to public health from the virus is very low. The Food Standards Agency said avian influenza pose a very low food safety risk for customers and advised that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Housing Measures to protect poultry and captive birds being extended



Housing measures to protect poultry & captive birds from [#AvianInfluenza](#) are being extended and will be in force across England from 00:01 07 Nov 2022.

This means that, from this time, it is a mandatory requirement for all bird keepers across England to keep their birds housed, or where this is not practical, to take steps to separate them from wild birds.

Keeping your birds undercover away from wild birds is vital to minimise the risk of them becoming infected with [#AvianInfluenza](#) from wild birds. But housing alone is not

the only solution – it remains essential that you follow strict biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease spreading to your birds. Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/.../avian-influenza-housing-order-to...>

Changes to Elections Act

The Department has released an update on the timetable for putting in place changes to the Elections Act for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities recently. The new Act brings in several changes to the way we vote, as well as to campaigning and the rules on campaign spending and funding. WNC elections team is working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure these changes are put in place in West Northamptonshire, and was recently advised of several updates to the implementation plan, which are summarised below:

- 1) The introduction of voter identification has been moved from December 2022 to January 2023. This requires voters to present some form of photo ID at polling stations to receive their ballot paper. Voter Card application service is expected to go live in January 2023 and will be first used in any elections from May 2023.
- 2) Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy measures will now be put in place after May 2023. These rules, which will place added restrictions on who can hand in completed postal votes, will most likely come into force in Autumn 2023.



- 3) A new Voter Card, or Electoral identification Document, could include added security features. This will be based on market testing and input from government experts, balanced with the need for a secure document that can be quickly produced and dispatched in potentially high volumes. More information will be available in due course.
- 4) The Voter Card application deadline will be six working days ahead of a poll. This will enable central production and delivery management, removing pressure on local authorities in the immediate lead-up to a poll.

More information about the changes being brought in as part of the new Election Act can be found on the Electoral Commission website

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/.../elections-act>

Scam Alert

People are being warned to look out for scam emails and texts claiming to offer discounts on energy bills. Several different false messages are circulating now, including some that appear to be from the energy regulator Ofgem. If you wish to report a scam or seek advice, contact WNC Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

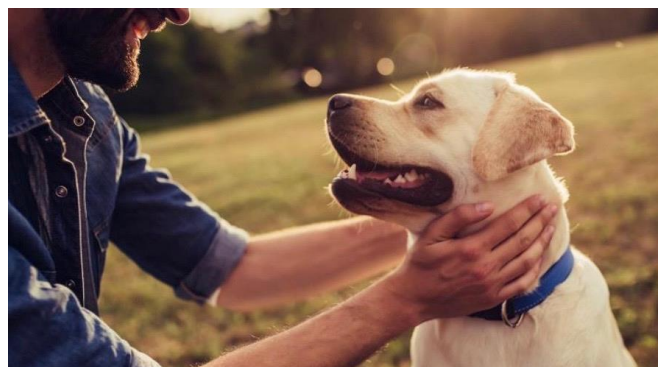


New Public Spaces Protection Order

New rules, which encourage responsible dog ownership and ban smoking in specific public open spaces, came into force across the Daventry and South Northants areas on Tuesday 1 November 2022.

The Public Spaces Protection Order lasts for a period of three years, and means dog owners could be fined £100 if they fail to:

- Pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly
- Carry the means to pick up after their dog
- Prevent their dog from entering public places from which dogs are excluded, including children's play areas, schools, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas and bowling greens
- Keep their dog on a lead when in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards, memorial gardens, allotments, car parks, sports grounds, fields and pitches - when in use for authorised sporting activity
- Put their dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer It also:
- Restricts a person from walking more than four dogs at any one time
- Prohibits smoking in: children's play areas, schools, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas, and bowling greens. The new PSPO gives us the ability to ensure that the public can use and enjoy these public spaces and will help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live and work.



RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)



RSN AGM & Rural Assembly 14 November

As the WNC Member Representative on the RSN, I will be attending the RSN AGM & Rural Assembly on 14 November online.

RSN Seminar: Rural Health & Social Care

I will be attending the Rural Health and Social Care Seminar on Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

RSN Seminar: Rural Economies

I will be attending the Rural Economies Seminar on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Appeals

Since my appointment, I have kept you informed as to the progress of the major Appeals in South Northamptonshire. The update for this month is as follows:

- Hartwell, land North of Ashton Road-Dismissed
- Blisworth, land South of Station Road-Dismissed
- Blakesley Hill, Greens Norton-Dismissed
- Greens Norton, land off Mill Lane-Withdrawn
- Milton Malsor, land East of Lower Lane-Dismissed
- Blisworth, land off Northampton Road -Dismissed.
- Yardley Gobion, land at Asana Lodge Appeal-Inquiry 8 February 2022 for 3 days-Cancelled
- Yardley Gobion, land East of Northampton Road-Allowed.

Six Week Public Consultation Northampton Local Plan Part 2

A six-week public consultation on further main modifications to the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 commenced on Monday, 7 November 2022.



In July 2022, West Northants Council (WNC) consulted the public on Proposed Modifications to the Plan as Planning Inspectors considered that these modifications were necessary to make the plan sound.

Having reviewed the comments received on the proposed modifications, the Inspectors recommended that further Main Modifications should be consulted on.

Main Modifications involve changes or insertions to policies and text that are essential to enable the plan to be

adopted.

This consultation relates to two sites. The further main modification proposed for the site at The Green, Great Houghton provides additional details on access and connectivity arrangements.

The further main modification proposed for the site at Ransome Road reduces the number of dwellings to be provided on the site.

At this stage in the plan-making process, the Planning Inspectors can only consider representations relating to these further main modifications.

Documents relevant for this round of consultation can be found at:

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/.../northampton-local-plan...>

While previous documents can be found at:

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/.../northampton-local-plan...>

Both will be useful while considering responses to the consultation which ends at midnight on Monday, 19 December 2022.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/place/northampton-local-plan-part-2-further-modification/>

Hardcopies of the documentation and response forms will be available at the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall in Northampton and council-owned libraries, Northampton Town Council and some parish council offices across the town.

The Local Plan Part 2 is a major planning policy document that will help guide planning decisions throughout Northampton up to 2029.

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, Spatial Options Consultation

The council is preparing a new local plan, known as the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP), to review and replace the strategic policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (Local Plan Part 1), which was adopted in December 2014. A consultation on potential spatial options was undertaken between October and December 2021 and at the Planning Policy Committee 28 June 2022, when the Committee considered a report which provided a summary of the responses received to the consultation.

The spatial options consultation envisaged a plan period extending up to 2050 to reflect the time covered by the anticipated spatial framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. In response to representations received and in the light of increased uncertainty regarding the production of a spatial framework for the Arc, the committee agreed to reduce the plan period for the WNSP to 2041. In addition, the timetable for the preparation of the WNSP was updated and this was addressed by a revised Local Development Scheme. It envisages the approval of a draft plan for public consultation by the end of the calendar year to enable completion of further technical work and further member engagement. The Plan is expected to be adopted by March 2024.

HOUSING

West Northants Housing Strategy

Councillors have approved a fresh strategy for improving housing for residents across West Northamptonshire whilst tackling issues including homelessness and the cost-of-living crisis.

At a meeting on Friday, 23 September members of the Council's Cabinet agreed to progress proposals for the new strategy which sets out plans for the next three years and supports the Council's vision.



The strategy focuses on four themes which plan to tackle a number of key issues including a need for more affordable housing, reducing homelessness, addressing cost of living increases and recognising a need for more housing to meet the needs of our growing aging population.

The themes set out in the strategy are:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities

The strategy was developed following a public consultation earlier this year involving local community members, voluntary and charitable organisations and wider stakeholders, with overall feedback presenting strong support for the themes and priorities.

West Northamptonshire is a growing area, with a population of 425,700 (2021 Census) residents, it is anticipated that the population will grow by 7% up to 2030, and the number of households is set to grow by 12% by 2030.

Within that, the population aged 65 year and over is expected to grow by 9% which represents 76% of total population growth.

The full Housing Strategy can be viewed on the WNC website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy>

Rogue Landlord pays heavily for unlicensed HMO in Wheatfield Road, Northampton

The owner of a property in Wheatfield Road, Northampton has paid a £2,750 civil penalty after failing to licence their home in multiple occupation (HMO).

In December 2021 officers from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Private Sector Housing Team visited the property following complaints from the public. The inspection identified that four people from two separate households were occupying the three-bedroom property. This made the property a licensable HMO under the Council's Additional Licensing regime.

The inspection also identified offences under the Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England)

Regulations 2006. The offences relating to the provision of information regarding the landlord or properties, maintenance of means of escape from fire, and maintenance of common parts of the property.

For more information, visit the WNC webpage on HMOs.

<https://hmolicensing.northampton.gov.uk>



Rogue Landlord pays heavily for unlicensed HMO in Ivy Road, Northampton

The owner of a property in Ivy Road, Northampton has paid a £12,400 civil penalty after failing to license their home in multiple occupation (HMO). In March 2022 officers from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Private Sector Housing Team attended the property under a Housing Warrant following complaints



from the public.

The inspection found that four people from four separate households were occupying the three-bedroom property. This made the property a licensable HMO under the Council's Additional Licensing regime.

The inspection also identified offences under the Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006 relating to the

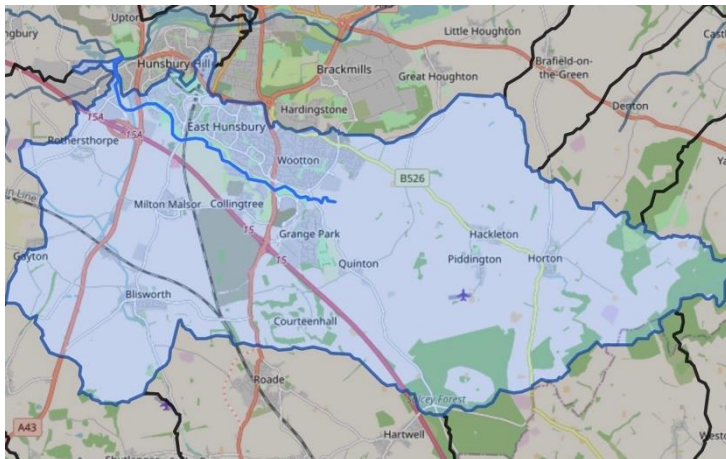
provision of information regarding the landlord or properties, maintenance of means of escape from fire, and maintenance of communal living areas. The conditions found during the inspection were determined to be so hazardous; an Emergency Prohibition Order was served declaring the property unsuitable for habitation. For more information, visit the WNC webpage on HMOs.

In June WNC launched a review of HMOs in Northampton, which has seen the council engage with stakeholders to analyse current policies concerning HMOs while also identifying ways to apply best practice from elsewhere in the country.

ENVIRONMENT

Resilience And Innovation Northants (RAIN) Project

Some time ago, I advised you about the WNC Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. The Resilience and Innovation Northants (RAIN) project, led by West Northamptonshire Council in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, is funded by the Government's Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation fund and is one of 25 projects nationwide learning and developing new approaches to improve flood resilience and manage flood risk over the next 5 years. The project will be working with communities within the boundaries of two river catchments: Harpers Brook in North Northamptonshire, and Wootton Brook in West Northamptonshire.



Of 358 reports of flooding across Northamptonshire since detailed records started in 2012, 237 were for the Wootton Brook area, which includes Collingtree, Wootton, East and West Hunsbury, Hunsbury Meadows and Hackleton. WNC will be working with these communities to trial flood resilience measures at three different scales: across the catchment, within the community, and at individual property level. At catchment level we will look for areas to slow the flow/hold the water back higher up the catchment,

reducing the flood risk lower down using natural flood measures. At community level we will work to help them build resilient communities who are prepared for all types of emergencies, and at property level we will work with owners to help them understand their risk and what they can do to minimise disruption and costs of flooding.

Over the last year we have been formally engaging and building partnerships for the project and preparing our business case, which is required by funders to secure the grant. Now we are awaiting approval of this so that we can move into the delivery stage of the project.

Currently, we are undertaking procurement exercises to secure partners/providers for delivery of specialist areas of the project (such as Property Flood Resilience measures) and the necessary support for evaluation of the project's innovation. This procurement process can take up to 6 months for a project of this size and complexity, but it is necessary and essential to ensure public money is spent appropriately.

WNC are reaching out to Parish Councils who have communities that lie within our catchments to gauge interest and help us identify the various stakeholders, organisations and community groups who can help us reach as many people as possible in each community. We want to ensure we can reach and support those in the catchment who have been previously devastated by flooding or are at risk. We appreciate that many residents in the catchments have been badly flooded and want to see swift action on all aspects of flood risk management, including this project. However, this is a five- year project, and we are bound to

specific conditions of the fund to undergo due process and we hope you understand the time scales involved.

The boundaries we can work in for this project are river catchments, not ward boundaries so please have a look at the maps to see what extent of Hackleton and Grange Park is included. If you would like to learn more about the exciting RAIN project taking place in your area, please email RAIN@westnorthants.gov.uk and we can ensure you are kept up to date as we begin delivery and reach milestones.

Sustainability Goals



With our council's ambitious goal of being net zero for CO2 emissions by 2030, we're backing up that commitment with the appointment of two new project officers to our Sustainability Team. Felicity Parker and Eugene Tom now complete the team, working alongside our Sustainability Officer Joely Slinn and Sustainability Manager Martin Wilson.

Good work has already been carried out through workshops in which they discussed the pathway to net zero through each directorate, to shape a sustainability workplan and what the next steps should be. We've also

made good progress on gathering data to establish a baseline for Council emissions which will provide key information on where our efforts should be directed and will be a yardstick against which to measure our success.

Future work will look at the emissions for the whole of the area ahead of the longer-term goal for West Northants to be net zero by 2045. Sustainability is a vital thread that runs through everything we do as a council and will be at the heart of every service, so that economic, social and environmental sustainability are key to everything we do.

The team are keen to work with Town and Parish Councils on future projects, and had an exhibition stand at the recent ACRE Grow Green Together conference. There will be another chance to speak to the team at the online Northants CALC Climate Change conference on 22 November. This will include a breakout session offering you an opportunity to hear more about our sustainability commitments, and ask questions. You can find out more by following the Team on Twitter [@SustainableWN](https://twitter.com/SustainableWN) or by visiting the Sustainable West Northants website:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/sustainable-west-northants>

Anglia Water fined £1.2 m for river pollution

On 19 October it was reported that Anglian Water had been fined £1.2 million after failures led to river pollution in two Northampton villages. The incident in South Northamptonshire involved a tributary of the river Tove, in Hartwell, near Towcester, which was polluted by sewage and 'unflushables' from an Anglian



Water combined sewer overflow (CSO) in June 2019. Anglian Water took hours to send in a tanker to clear a 10m stretch of stream at Hartwell Colmar Kennels. The company had set a warning sensor in the River Tove in Hartwell to the wrong address, delaying treatment to sewage entering the waterway because of a blocked overflow in June 2019.

Alarms were raised in good time and Anglian Water attended — but went to the wrong address missing the opportunity to minimise the pollution. A tanker cleared ‘unflushables,’ such as cotton buds and sanitary pads, from a 10-metre stretch of stream but traces of sewage fungus present in the stream suggested the pollution had been occurring for several days. Biological surveys showed dead aquatic invertebrates for around a mile and as far down as the next village, Ashton.

District Judge Nick Watson fined Anglian Water £871,000 at Loughborough Magistrates’ Court saying the company had “dragged its feet” over infrastructure improvements, adding that the failures appeared to be: “An endemic part of the culture of the organisation at the time of the offences”. He said: “Water companies have a huge responsibility to proactively manage the resources they have been given a responsibility for. “Profit must not be at the cost of the environment.”

All the incidents took place at Anglian Water sites across a five-month spell, between May and September 2019. One involved the discharge of poorly treated sewage into the river Lark, near Ely, which was originally fitted with a screen to prevent blockages in the process. This was removed in 2018 but, according to the Environment Agency, increased cleaning had not taken place and no steps taken to reduce the risk of blockages caused by the removal of the screen. In a separate case, Anglian Water was fined £350,000 by Cambridge magistrates after a pumped sewer burst for a sixth time. The court found that the company had been too slow in putting in place potential mitigation measures. Anglian Water pleaded guilty to causing poisonous, noxious, or polluting matter to enter inland freshwaters without an environmental permit and were told to pay £65,000 in legal costs by the two courts. A spokesman for the company said: “We take our duty of care to the environment incredibly seriously and deeply regret any negative impact when things go wrong. ” We work tirelessly to protect and enhance the environment, so it is particularly distressing when incidents like this occur.

“We are investing £800 million to help protect and improve the environment and are determined to achieve our zero pollutions goal.”

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Our Council is taking the lead on fresh plans to halt the decline of local habitats, joining up with local partners to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). This summer, Cabinet members agreed to progress proposals for the new strategy, which will set out plans to restore local natural habitats. The idea is to bring together a plan that public, private, and voluntary sectors can help to inform and deliver, as part of a national Nature Recovery Network. The longer term restoration of earmarked natural habitats across West Northants will enable species to thrive, as trees are planted and peat lands restored.

This will ultimately mitigate flood and fire risks, and create green spaces for local people to enjoy. We have received £16,000 towards the preparation of this strategy, with more on its way to cover what is estimated to be two years’ work leading up to publication. The UK



has suffered long-term decline in nature and various steps have been taken locally and nationally to address this, but undoubtedly more is needed. We have reached a critical juncture and it is no longer

sufficient to protect the remnants that we have left – we must step up to the huge task of recovery. If we wish to have rich and abundant wildlife, more carbon captured in trees, soil and hedges, better protection from extreme weather and enough places for people to gain the wellbeing benefits of good quality green spaces, then we must invest in nature’s recovery, and at scale. This work will help bring a broad range of groups together; from farmers to businesses to local communities, – to deliver priorities for nature recovery at a local level. We look forward to working with our partners to create bigger, better, and more connected natural places to halt and then reverse the decline in our environment.

Scheme to prevent fly-tipping on private land

A pilot scheme which helps landowners clear and prevent fly-tipping has been extended for another 12 months in West Northamptonshire. When fly-tipping takes place on public land, the taxpayer pays for the removal and disposal of the waste. However, if a fly-tip occurs on private land, the landowner pays for the clean up and removal. Last year the scheme was launched by Stephen Mold, the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire (PFCC) whereby private landowners could apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future.



PFCC has been able to extend this pilot and help the farmers and landowners on the frontline of this important issue.

Find out how to apply for a grant to remove fly-tipping on private land.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../funding-remove-fly...>

Abington Park wins Fields in Trust UK’s Favourite Parks 2022 Award

Abington Park in Northampton is one of 70 parks and green spaces from across the UK, which has achieved 'Local Favourite' status in the Fields in Trust UK's Favourite Parks 2022 award.

The status reflects the immense value placed on the park by its local community and is reserved for parks placed in the top 20% of all votes across the UK. Abington Park is Northampton's oldest and most popular park. It contains many fine features including Abington Park Museum, sports facilities, a cafe, flower displays, lakes, and a garden for the blind. Beneath the surface lies the archaeological remains of the old medieval village.



It has been described by the Trust as: “An outstanding cultural gem that has kept calm while everything around it changed! It has provided generations of families in Northampton with priceless memories and fun. Beautiful and welcoming to all.”

The UK’s Favourite Parks award is organised by green space charity Fields in Trust who, for almost 100 years, have legally protected parks and green spaces ensuring they will always be available for future generations to enjoy. Over 30,000 voters supported 364 nominated parks and green spaces throughout the UK.



With more green spaces nominated in 2022 than ever before, the campaign has illustrated how appreciation of our local parks has grown since the pandemic. In total, over 30,000 people across the UK voted for their favourite park and Penrhos Coastal Park in Holyhead, Wales emerged as the overall winner and UK's Favourite Park 2022.

Mitigating local impacts of the climate crisis, green spaces have been proven to improve air quality and significantly limit the impact of heatwaves, by lowering urban temperatures. Yet Fields in Trust's annual Green Space Index, published earlier this year, reveals that 2.8 million people in Great Britain do not live within a ten-minute walk of a local park, and only 6% of green space provision is legally protected leaving it potentially vulnerable to loss for development.

A New Reserve for Great Crested Newts

A new reserve for great crested newts has been created on farmland in West Northamptonshire under a



scheme, which addresses the impact of development on wildlife. The Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme addresses the impact of development on wildlife and minimises cost and construction delays for developers. The licence is held by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), with Naturespace assessing the impact of developments on great crested newt aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Developers then pay into a fund, which is used to create or restore high quality habitats in strategic locations throughout West Northamptonshire, benefiting great crested newt. Many other plants and animals also benefit, helping to stem the decline in freshwater wildlife. Experts at the Newt Conservation Partnership, who create the very best habitat possible for great crested newts, have created this compensations site. The site has clean water ponds, and a high-quality terrestrial habitat packed with its own diversity. It's a five-star resort for newts.

The District Licence Scheme was first launched in the county by South Northamptonshire Council in partnership with NatureSpace in 2019 but was expanded to cover the whole of West Northants in 2021. For more information about the scheme, visit the [naturespaceuk](http://naturespaceuk.com) website. For more information about the work of the Newt Conservation Partnership, visit freshwastehabitats.org.uk.

Litter Pickers collected 20 bags of rubbish from around Town Football Club

Litter pickers in Northampton collected more than 20 bags of rubbish from around Northampton Town Football Club and a further 10 bags near Duston Mill on Saturday, 29 October.



Community volunteers from the Wombles, representatives Northampton Town Football Club Community Trust (NTFCCT), colleagues from Sixfields McDonalds store, and waste and sustainability services from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) came together to don their litter grabbers and bagged more than 20 bags worth of rubbish.

Residents across West Northamptonshire can hire litter picking equipment for free from WNC. Each kit includes litter pickers, sacks and bag hoops to assist with litter picking, as well as a step-by-step guide for holding a litter pick, to help you plan a safe, effective and well supported event.

WNC can also pick up and dispose of sacks of litter that have been collected from public land.

To borrow equipment or book a collection, visit our page on the Litter Picking Charter or email litter.champions@westnorthants.gov.uk

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

International Day of People with Disabilities 1 December

Please find attached details of the virtual event on 1 December to celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities and how to book into one of our social spaces to view the live event.

The selected winners will be announced during the awards ceremony at the Battersea Evolution Centre, London on 17 November 2022.



My Appointment to Daventry and South Northants LAP (DSN4)

Finding your way around this Local Insight profile	
Population There are 54,818 people living in DSN4. <small>See pages 4-6 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion.</small>	Education & skills 18% of people have no qualifications in DSN4 compared with 20% across England. <small>See pages 40-48 for more information on qualifications, skill attainment and early years educational progress.</small>
Vulnerable groups 9% of children aged 0-15 are in relative low-income families in DSN4 compared with 19% across England. <small>See pages 10-22 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in shared areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups.</small>	Economy 44% of people aged 15-74 are in full-time employment in DSN4 compared with 39% across England. <small>See pages 49-58 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and tax allowances.</small>
Housing 2% of households lack central heating in DSN4 compared with 3% across England. <small>See pages 34-35 for more information on heating system, heating tenure, affordability, accessibility, age of housing and structural adaptations.</small>	Access & transport 9% of households have no car in DSN4 compared with 26% across England. <small>See pages 59-68 for more information on transport, distance services and digital services.</small>
Crime & safety The overall crime rate is lower than the average across England. <small>See pages 38-39 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates.</small>	Communities & environment The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (88.4%) is higher than the average across England (79.3%). <small>See pages 69-81 for more information on engagement activities, the types of neighbourhood locally, local participation and the environment, or pollution.</small>
Health & wellbeing 14% of people have a limiting long-term illness in DSN4 compared with 18% across England. <small>See pages 36-45 for more information on limiting long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, general health and healthy lifestyles.</small>	Appendix A1 Page 91 for information on the programme used in this report, publication dates for new releases and acknowledgements.

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) will play a key part in the Integrated Health agenda, and I have been appointed to represent Hackleton and Grange Park on the pioneer LAP in Daventry and South Northants (DSN4). The Pioneer LAP covers the areas of Towcester, Deanshanger, Bugbrooke, Hackleton and Grange Park. WNC are testing its emerging LAP model with two Pioneer sites, DSN4 and another site in Northampton. We will be exploring how we might work in a collaborative way to improve outcomes for our patients and constituents within our local area.

We are currently engaging with GPs in the area who have registered patients in the LAP footprint. Our first meeting is arranged for the 4th of October 2022 where we will be considering the newly formed Local Area Partnership and its Local Area Profile. This will be a good opportunity to actively engage with local GPs, and LAP meetings are likely to be every 4-6 weeks, at least initially, with the possibility of the main meetings moving to quarterly but with member Task & Finish groups taking on specific work streams.

New Residential Rehabilitation Centre in Turn Furlong, Northampton

As part of the integration and delivery of health and social care services for people in our county,



Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and our Council are launching a new residential rehabilitation centre in Turn Furlong, Northampton later this year. This site will be opened as a pilot and will be operational from winter 2022 until the end of March 2023. During the pilot, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board will assess how it is working to determine whether there is a longer-term need.

The launch of the unit is a great showcase of collaboration between health and social care organisations in Northamptonshire to provide

dedicated support for those who require short-term care following a hospital stay before they can return home. To read the full article, please visit the Integrated Care Northamptonshire website. <https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/.../new-recovering...>

Northamptonshire Health Charity Competition

Young artists wowed staff at Northampton General Hospital's new Critical Care Unit by using their amazing work to splash some colour on its walls. A staggering 144 pieces of artwork were submitted by pupils at Northampton School for Boys, Northampton School for Girls, Wootton Park School and Caroline Chisholm School as part of a competition supported by Northamptonshire Health Charity.

Staff Nurse Amanda Garner said: "We feel lucky that we can provide such amazing facilities when people are in need. These bare walls in the new unit needed a bit of brightening up to have a warmer, less clinical feel. "We reached out to our local children but we were shocked to receive 144 entries — choosing only five winners was very difficult but we are so pleased with the work we have chosen."

Amanda visited the schools with her colleagues and fellow SDC members Tina Taylor and Laura Moven to surprise the lucky winners and present them with their prizes. You can make a donation to benefit the Critical Care Unit at Northampton General Hospital, or any ward or department across the three local NHS Trusts supported by Northamptonshire Health Charity.



Pink Rooster at St Andrew's Healthcare

Two charities in Northampton have joined forces to 'remove barriers and widen the gateway' to help people access mental health support across the city and the wider county.



Pink Rooster, an award-winning organization that focuses on using the arts and creativity to help improve health and wellbeing, has established permanent residence at the Northampton site of St Andrew's Healthcare.

The association, founded in 2013, was at a key stage in its development and needed premises as a long-term solution to sustain its services. It will now be located at the Wantage Gate entrance on Billing Road. Knowing that St Andrew's Healthcare is also a

mental health charity based in the same town, Pink Rooster approached the organization to see if they could both work together to find a solution. Pink Rooster CEO David Maxwell said: ‘When we started looking for premises, St Andrew’s Healthcare was at the top of our list of organizations to approach as we strongly believe that our shared values and what we try to realize, line up.

Once the association is installed in its new premises, it will undertake to launch a centre for well-being, therapy and creation, which will be open to the public. The premises will also provide a community hub for people, which will act as a central point of information, orientation and help promote local services and events.

There will also be consultation and therapy rooms, which will be used for individual sessions and internet and telephone access. The space will be open to people of all ages and it is hoped that the services provided will support people with mental health issues and help prevent the social isolation that so many suffer from.

Pink Rooster is governed by its Board of Directors and day-to-day operations and service delivery are jointly managed and coordinated by the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director. The organization is mainly funded by various sources, including local authorities, charitable foundations, fundraising activities and donations from the public.

Reablement West Service rated by CQC Good Overall

Between 12 and 16 September 2022, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an inspection of the Reablement West service. The service was rated as ‘Good’ overall; receiving this rating across all five of their key areas; safe, effective, caring, responsive to people’s needs and well-led.



The Reablement West service provides vital care and support to people upon discharge from hospital to enable them to continue to live confidently and independently in their own homes. The service carries out individual need assessments to ensure the correct care and support is in place for the individual to help them live independently and reduce the likelihood of hospital re-admission.

The CQC recognised the service emphasis of promoting independence to people to enable them to remain in their own homes. People receiving the service, were involved in the decision making, ensuring that the Reablement

provided was in the least restrictive way possible. In addition, the care provided was recognised as person-centred, dignified, and respectful with people feeling like they were listened to.

For full details of the ratings please view the report published on the CQC website: Reablement West - Care Quality Commission ([cqc.org.uk](https://www.cqc.org.uk))

The Reablement West service is expanding its team and is recruiting for ‘Reablement Support Officer’s! This role is to help people set and meet their goals, as well as support people to connect with their community by helping them become more independent outside of their home. This is a great opportunity to join a highly rated team that provides quality care and values staff development. For more information on the role and how to apply, please visit: www.allinadaysofwork.co.uk/#reablement_support.

Warm Spaces Directory

A number of organisations in West Northamptonshire have signed up to be 'warm spaces', where those struggling this winter can go to keep warm. The move comes as more families are predicted to struggle to afford heating amid the cost of living crisis. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) launched the initiative earlier in October. We asked community groups and organisations in the area that are able to provide warm, welcoming spaces to sign up to a "network of warm spaces".



The council's plans are to create a Warm Spaces Directory, where those struggling with bills can see where they can go to get warm and safe for free and maybe enjoy a hot drink and some company. 45 organisations have already signed up, according to WNC, spread across West Northants. WNC appealed for local groups and organisations to sign up to the network on Tuesday, October 18, on its social media pages. It stated: "We are looking to provide a network of warm spaces to support anyone struggling with the cost of living this winter. The council is targeting community groups and organisations "able to provide warm, welcoming spaces and would like to help the community."



The groups are invited to sign up to a register of interest on the council's website. Those interested are asked to supply basic information like address, telephone number and email address, alongside ticking a menu of facilities they can offer, including toilets, wifi, and play equipment. WNC says this information "will be registered onto our Warm Spaces Directory."

Several councils have launched the "warm spaces" initiative across the UK in the past few weeks, including in Somerset, Hertfordshire, and Shropshire. It comes as 1/4 of UK adults say they plan to keep the heating off this winter as energy costs spiral. WNC have had a great response so far with 45 organisations registered to date, well geographically spaced across the area. If you've got a community space that can be used, please let WNC know by registering your organisation/community group here <https://forms.office.com/r/EHJpfj9uCF> West Northamptonshire Council (the Council) awards Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant to support the creation and / or development of Warm Welcoming Spaces across West Northamptonshire to support residents struggling with fuel costs. These awards can be made to Community and Voluntary Organisations, Registered Charities and to other qualifying bodies. The funding round will be open to all applications seeking a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant (WWSG) from the value of £500 up to £1500. The grant process will close on 1 March 2023, organisations may apply only once.

Help Bring Christmas Cheer to Patients in Hospital

The NHS Health Charity is seeking your help to bring some festive cheer, to patients in hospital at Christmas this year.

If you would like to donate, items that patients love to receive include, toiletries, slippers & bed socks, playing cards & dominoes, lip balm & handkerchiefs, hair brushes & combs, gloves, hats, scarves, biscuits & chocolates, sweets etc.

They can only accept new items in their original packaging. Food products must be in sealed original packaging and in date. Gifts can be

Christmas Gifts for Patients
Donate a gift for a patient in hospital on Christmas Day

Toiletries
Playing Cards & Dominoes
Lip Balm and Handkerchiefs

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Health Charity
Supporting local NHS hospitals & community services
01604 626927
01536 491569

placed in a gift bag but please do not wrap them up as they need to determine who the presents would be appropriate for.

The latest that they would prefer to accept gifts in by is Friday 16th December as this gives them time to sort through everything and to allocate to the different areas, and deliver them to the wards at different hospitals.

You can drop your donations at the charity office, Springfield, Cliftonville, a short walk out from A&E at the hospital and open Monday-Friday 09:00 to 16:00. Northamptonshire Health Charity, Springfield, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BE. Alternatively, you can leave gifts with the volunteers on the desk at the South Entrance and out of hours leave them with the Switchboard team. If you are buying gifts online that are not from their Amazon Wish List you can also get them delivered straight to the Charity office at the above address but please do let them know that you have done this as they don't get any details with the parcels. You can make a donation to the charity online via the Enthuse page. Donations to the appeal will be used to purchase appropriate gifts or used to support areas, like the Children's Short Break Respite Centres, with their Christmas celebrations.

If you'd like to donate a gift for a patient in hospital on Christmas day all the details are on the website.

<https://northamptonshirehealthcharity.co.uk/.../christma.../>



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Admissions

Parents and carers can still apply for a reception place in a primary or infant school or a year 3 place in a junior school.

They can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years of age on or before 31 August 2023. The closing date for applications for places in reception and year 3 (junior school) is 15 January 2023 at midnight.

We hope the new midnight deadlines mean that it will be easier for families to submit their application before the deadline, giving them the best chance of getting a place at their preferred school and avoiding any disappointment. All applications, whether postal or online, must be received by the closing date to be considered as on time. Late applications will not be processed until after the National Offer Day and will be processed in monthly rounds. All on time applicants will receive an offer of a school place on the National Offer Days – 1 March 2023 for secondary places and 17 April 2023 for reception places.

Applicants will then be provided with information on the next stage of the process. There is a separate application process for children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan, details of which can be found on the SEND admissions page.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/.../Pages/default.aspx>

An independent admission appeals process is available for families who wish to appeal against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied. More information can be found on the school admissions page.



<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Improving Adult Numeracy



An update on our Multiply Funding Investment Plan following confirmation that West Northamptonshire will receive almost £575k in the 2022-23 financial year to help improve adult numeracy.

This is the first tranche of funding approved from a £1.9m bid submitted by our Council to the Government's Multiply Fund and could benefit more than 3,000 people over a three-year period - improving life chances, providing access to better career options, and offering

people greater personal wellbeing.

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../WNC%20Multiply...>

Three Year Strategy to meet the needs of SEND children and their families

Parents, families and school workers will be among those encouraged to help shape a new strategy for improving outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Northants.

At the meeting on Tuesday 8 November, Cabinet agreed plans to co-produce a new three-year joint strategy to address the current shortfall of specialist school places in the area and plan resources more effectively to better meet the needs of SEND children and their families. To help shape the new strategy, children, parents, school-based staff, health and care professionals and other interested organisations will be involved in the development of a new Co-production Charter.

This will be developed during a series of events set to take place between Nov and Feb 2023, supported by the Northamptonshire Parent ForumGroup, which represents parents' voices in West Northants. All young people deserve access to the best available education and learning that meets their individual needs. We recognise and hear the impact that the current shortfall of special school places is having on children and their families and we are committed to addressing this challenge.



<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../Item%2007%20...>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund

A new £3 million fund to upgrade and renovate England's village halls has been announced by the Government to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Over a three-year period, the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund will provide money for projects such as installing Wi-Fi, extending buildings, and modernising facilities. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) said village halls are at the heart of rural life, hosting fitness classes, community groups and post office services, and the grant will allow them to attract more people by creating more contemporary spaces. A total of 125 village halls will receive money from the fund, which Defra said will be a "lasting legacy" from the Jubilee

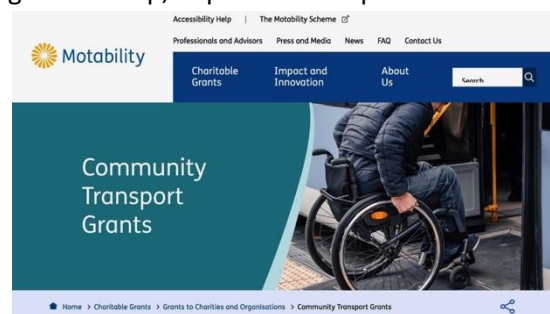


for rural communities. Rural affairs minister Lord Beynon said: “Village halls are the centrepiece of rural life and funding their renovation to mark the Jubilee is a fitting tribute to The Queen’s Service. “In a changing world, they are important facilities for community groups, social clubs and local services.” “This funding will ensure they are central to the fabric of our villages for many more years to come.” Defra said the grant will build on the success of schemes to commemorate both Queen Victoria and King George and “demonstrate that almost 200 years on, we continue to build on the legacy of the monarchy, both past and present”. Details on how the funding will be administered will be announced later.

Community Transport Grants – Motability

Through this new grant programme Motability aim to help charities and organisations to make an immediate impact for disabled people, by awarding funding to develop, expand and improve community transport options. The programme is focussed on:

- Funding support for staff or volunteer training and costs.
- Funding to increase the number of vehicles available in the community to help organisations support disabled people.
- Funding local, regional, or national initiatives to increase awareness of community transport and influence its inclusion in transport strategy and policy.
- Funding to schemes, programmes and initiatives that already exist, and who provide best practice solutions, but need further support to remain operational or scale up the service they can provide to help more disabled people.



Charities and organisations working in the community transport sector can apply for grants from £100,000 to £4 million at any point over the next three years until March 2025.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

A £5.4million allocation from the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will help significantly boost the area’s economy. WNC has submitted its investment plan for the allocated funds, and these include aspirations to reduce the cost of living, provide funding to support businesses, address local skill needs and boost employment. The investment plan was developed following comprehensive consultation with local organisations from the public, private and third sectors, including MPs and councillors.



The funding has been split across three priority areas: Communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills.

Expected outcomes from the programme include:

- New and improved cycleways to boost active travel
- Increased engagement in volunteering
- Greater take-up of energy efficiency measures
- New start-up businesses, creating new jobs
- Improved skills

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../UK%20Shared...>

Frost Fair Traders Needed

The popular Frost Fair will be returning to Northampton's Market Square on Sunday 4 December and traders who would like a stand are being invited to get in touch. Organised by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), the event is aiming to celebrate the town's creative makers, artists and traders and promote their unique or seasonal offer, including food, drink, arts and crafts, Christmas gifts and stocking fillers.

Taking place between 11am and 3.30pm, the Christmas themed market will provide a festive showcase of the town's local producers and crafters during December's busy shopping period. The market is part of wider Christmas celebrations taking place that day, including on stage festive entertainment throughout the day from a variety of acts TBC.

The price for a stall is £30. Local traders and craft people who would like to have a stall at this year's Frost Fair can book now, at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/.../190/en/market-request>



WNC named East Midlands Regional Champion for SME support

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has been awarded the 'best in the region' award for its support for the local small business community. WNC was among 250 councils from across England who entered the inaugural Federation of Small Business (FSB) Local Government Awards, and was successful in winning the 'All round Small Business Friendly' regional category.

The awards, which were announced virtually at the final on Friday 14 October, were aimed at celebrating and recognising those who had made the biggest impact on local SMEs during the pandemic and beyond. At the final, WNC was named as the East Midlands regional champion with judges being impressed by the council's communication with and promotion of SMEs.

FSB Development Manager for Northamptonshire Jennifer Thomas said they are very pleased that the hard work of WNC had been recognised amid a high-quality field of entries by local councils.

She said: "It is really pleasing to see West Northamptonshire Council rewarded for their hard work through what has been a very challenging couple of years." Both the quality and quantity of entries from this region and beyond was incredibly high, so the council team should feel very proud to be among the regional winners. "We look forward to continuing to work with them - and all our other business-supporting councils - to ensure we have a vibrant and strong local SME community."

Councillor Daniel Lister, WNC'S Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth, added: "I am absolutely delighted and extremely proud that West Northamptonshire Council's Economy Team has been presented with this remarkable award for supporting SMEs throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing to do so every day.

Full details of the council's submission as well as others from across England can be found on the FSBs website at www.fsb.org.uk/localgovernment.



New ExploreWN App

Have you downloaded the ExploreWN App? You can shop online, view exclusive deals from 120+ local businesses and find out about amazing events that are happening in your area. Get it on App Store and Google Play

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism/explore-west-northants-app>

Diverse Business Spaces at Vulcan Works

Creative entrepreneurs are being invited to express their interest in flexible and diverse business spaces at Northampton's £14million flagship site. Originally a Grade II listed ironworks factory, Vulcan Works off Guildhall Road, were built in 1875 for engineering company Mobbs & Co and was later turned into a leather warehouse.

The multi-million-pound renovation has turned it into a hub for new and growing businesses with 69 lettable spaces in the heart of the town's Cultural Quarter and Waterside Enterprise Zone. It is anticipated that during its first ten years of operation, Vulcan Works will support up to 150 businesses across the county, creating around 500 jobs.

With over 30 years-experience, Oxford Innovation were appointed to manage the space and provide expert support and knowledge to drive business growth and regional success. The high-end workspaces, ranging in size from 10m2 to 100m2, are expected to be available from early next year.

Businesses can register interest in obtaining a unit via Oxford Innovation's website - <https://oxfordinnovationspace.co.uk/contact/>



Facility for Hotel Chocolat opens In Pannatoni Park, Junction 16 M1

A brand new chocolate factory opened 19 October in its new 429,107 square foot facility in Pannatoni Park next to junction 16 of the M1, which will be called The Hotel Chocolat Northampton Factory Shop and Café.



down in the café under the sign 'More I found out that they even have some with diabetics in mind. They had an including Christmas Advent calendars and crackers, so some Christmas shopping was done early with their 15% discount yesterday.



I had promised my family that we could try out the new facility and so we ventured over there late morning.

We were able to experience first hand just how popular such an event was. Upon arrival they were queueing out of the door into the car park. It took a while before we could get inside and then sit Cacao, Less Sugar'.

chocolate, which is designed extensive range of products

Northampton is a Factory shop and Café, where you can enjoy their usual products, as well as some factory specials, which is what makes it different from their high street stores. It was a pleasure to meet Paul who was busy welcoming everyone. Despite the crowds we were well looked after. However, I expect the footfall will increase over half term.

WNC join UON for Careers Expo

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has teamed up with the University of Northampton (UON) to help students secure local and sustainable employment. On Thursday, 13 October members of the WNC Economy Team joined over 50 businesses at the Changemaker Hubs Career Expo event to provide support to both undergraduate and post graduate students and offer advice on finding suitable roles within the local jobs market. The event, which took place at the University's Waterside Campus, provided an opportunity for students to meet with local employers and seek advice from a range of career experts on how best to thrive, adapt and innovate in an ever-changing world. Stalls at the Expo covered a



range of career options including part-time jobs, internships, work experience, graduate jobs, community engagement and volunteering. The Changemaker Hub is unique to UON and is comprised of specialist teams, which provide students, staff, and the local community the support they need to fulfil their employment ambitions. Jordan Russell, Events and Engagement Officer for the Changemaker Hub, said: "One of our main aims within the Changemaker Hub is to encourage students to look across multiple sectors to discover opportunities they may not have previously considered, such as graduating with a marketing degree but being employed by a law firm. To see so many businesses and students interacting on campus was brilliant." "Northampton and its surrounding areas have received a significant amount of investment in recent years and the local job market holds a strong and impressive vision for the future, making it an ideal hub of opportunity for students, jobseekers, employers and businesses."

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Kier to deliver new Highways Service

West Northants Council (WNC) is working together with Kier to deliver a new highways service with increased investment for residents across West Northants. Work has been underway since our announcement in June to prepare for the start of the new service which will focus on increased activity in our communities across West Northamptonshire, including maintaining local roads, footpaths, signage, and drainage, repairing potholes and winter gritting.



Working together, WNC and Kier have outlined fresh priorities and requirements specifically tailored towards the needs of West Northants residents. Under the new contract with Kier, the Council is increasing investment to the service by more than £1million per year and will also have greater control, increasing its own resource to manage and monitor performance, which will include clear, strong goals for improving customer focus and providing value for money.

Kier has set its commitment to working with the council on its sustainability goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, as well as increasing social value to the service to benefit the wider West Northants

community and economy, such as supporting local disadvantaged groups and working with local sub-contractors.

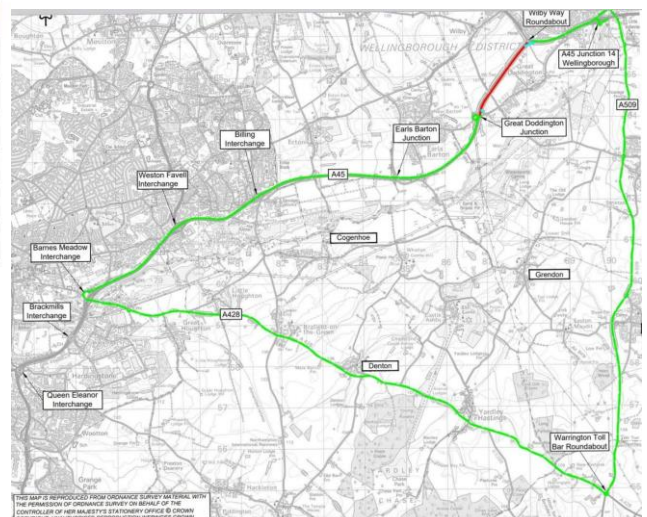
North Northants Council is also working with Kier to manage its highways services, which will lead to some cost advantages for the two authorities, as Kier will utilise some back-office roles and systems across both areas.

A45 Great Doddington Geotechnical scheme

eBulletin – 3 November 2022

Follow to my previous correspondence; I would like to provide an update regarding the current November programme. Due to further good progress having been made the last of the planned weekend closures set to take place from 4 November 2022 to 7 November 2022 has been cancelled. They will instead just be closing the westbound carriageway Friday evening, from 8.00pm until 6.00am. They will be able to complete the remaining work under overnight weekday closures from 8.00pm to 6.00am the following day. Please find our current November programme below:

Date	Location
4 November	A45 Westbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am
7 November – 8 November	A45 Eastbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am
9 November – 11 November	A45 Westbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am
14 November – 18 November	A45 Westbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am
21 November – 25 November	A45 Eastbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am
28 November – 29 November	A45 Westbound closure – 8.00pm to 6.00am



Please note that the exact dates and times of the works may be subject to change due to weather conditions or operational requirements. Where possible, I'll keep you updated of significant changes. Please may I request those wishing to continue their journey follow the designated diversion routes as per the below:

Eastbound closure diversion route

All traffic heading eastbound on the A45 is to be directed to travel eastbound on the A428 from Barnes Meadow Interchange and travel past Great Houghton and Yardley Hastings to Toll Bar Roundabout. Here, they will be directed to join the A509 and travel northbound past Wollaston to A45 J14 (Wellingborough) where traffic may re-join the A45.

Westbound closure diversion route

All traffic heading westbound on the A45 is to be directed to travel southbound on the A509 at junction 14 (Wellingborough) and travel past Wollaston to the Toll Bar Roundabout. Here, join the A428 travelling westbound beyond Yardley Hastings and Great Houghton, until reaching the Barnes Meadow Interchange where traffic may re-join the A45.

Contact Details

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the project team directly as follows:

- Email: a45greatdoddingtongeotech@morgansindall.com
- Telephone: 07890 897832

Alternatively, you can contact the National Highways Customer Contact Centre as follows:

- Email: info@nationalhighways.co.uk

- Telephone: 0300 123 5000
- Visit our scheme webpage where you can sign up for email updates:
<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east-midlands/a45-doddington-improvements/>

Kier Deploys a Fleet of Gritters

West Northamptonshire Council is getting ready for harsher weather conditions as Kier Highways, the council's highways provider, deploys its fleet of gritters to take on precautionary gritting routes. The contractor activated winter working protocols in mid-October, with the season set to run through to



April next year.

The gritters, which are powered by sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), will cover 1102 miles (2473km) of the councils' road network - which is the distance of driving from Northampton to Venice.

The Council has reserves of 5,500 tonnes of salt, with nearly 900 grit bins across the region filled for use on public roads and footpaths.

The fleet of gritters uses HVO with immediate effect, which reduces the carbon produced from combustion engines by up to 90% compared to diesel. The move demonstrates Kier Highways

and WNC's shared commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Enhanced weather forecasting and temperature readings will be taken via weather stations and sensors set out along West Northamptonshire's roads, with updates sent every 15 minutes.

Through route-based forecasting, roads will be treated if the temperatures are forecasted to drop below 0.5C. The gritters are also fitted with advanced GPS technology which requires only one person to operate the vehicle in clear conditions, by accumulating route data and reporting back to the office to ensure that works are safely delivered.

John Coombes, general manager at Kier Highways, calls for drivers to be careful on the roads: "The UK faces increasingly unpredictable weather year-on-year. Even once a road has received a gritting treatment, the salt requires activation from the movement of vehicles – so road users should remain vigilant.

"With crews on standby 24/7, we're confident in the steps that we've taken to be winter-ready, and we actively encourage feedback from the community to help us to continue to deliver a resilient and reliable service.

"Through close collaboration with WNC, we're pleased to deliver an efficient and value-for-money service, with sustainability in-mind."

As stocks run low, people can also report bins that need refilling via the Street Doctor service at <http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/grit-bins>

People can keep up to date with highways and travel news for West Northamptonshire Council highways on Twitter and Facebook via @WNHighway. To learn more about Kier Highways, visit:

<http://www.kier.co.uk/expertise/highways>

POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Grants to improve Road Safety

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is reminding community groups, charities, schools, and parish councils that grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available to help improve road safety initiatives across the county.



Already benefiting from a grant is Grange Primary Academy in Kettering who worked with local social enterprise, Brightwayz to build on their school travel policy that promotes active travel to school and keeping children safe on the roads around the school.

Grange Primary Academy was awarded £3,000 that was used to buy a bike shed and bikes for pupils to use. The funding also enabled Brightwayz to work with the school to set up a 'School Play Street' event earlier this year. The road directly outside the school gates was closed and pupils were able to play safely in the street, scooting, cycling, and participating in other sporting activities in a car-free zone.

The event was supported by emergency services, residents, parents, and local councillors and provided a fun and interactive platform to highlight how much safer the vicinity around the school would be if the school gates and access

routes were kept clear of vehicles.

Alison Holland, founder of Brightwayz encourages more schools to take advantage of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's funding. She said: "This funding opportunity is ideal for schools that really want to be proactive about addressing the school run problem and road safety issues.

"We really enjoy working with local schools who are leading on this such as Grange Primary Academy and Kettering Buccleuch Academy and this funding from the OPFCC is what has made it possible."

Having read my article on Facebook, a Denton Resident suggested an idea to improve road safety around schools by rerouting the morning refuse collection outside Primary Schools because it is a cause of disruption and increased hazard. I investigated his suggestion and I was advised that all of our routes are subject to risk assessments and collection from vicinities of schools should not be done between 08:30 – 09:30 and 14:30 – 15:30. As a result of my enquiry and his suggestion WNC has spoken to all the drivers who cover Denton and reminded them of this and have asked the supervisors of the team to monitor this by using the vehicle tracking system fitted to the vehicles. Well done Chris Brice for alerting me to this.

New Fleet of Hybrid Motorbikes for Police on the Beat

A new environmentally friendly fleet of hybrid motorbikes will become tools to help Northamptonshire Police improve its accessibility and visibility to members of the public.

The new three-wheeled bikes will be used by neighbourhood policing teams across the county and demonstrate that Northamptonshire Police is leading the way in sustainable transport for emergency services.

Eight of the new motorbikes, which run on both battery charge and petrol, have been purchased



following the completion of an initial pilot scheme earlier this year that tested the technology in a policing context.

Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, said: "Not only does this give us a chance to revolutionise our fleet but we also hope it will allow our officers to be more visible and approachable when they are out on the beat.

"Any learnings from how these bikes improve the fleet can potentially be applied to our Fire Service fleet too, so I will be watching with great interest to see how they make Northamptonshire Police better able to engage with its communities in what is a green and sustainable way.

"And most importantly, I want to see how they help us to make Northamptonshire safer by helping us to catch and deter more criminals."

The motorbikes, which have been designed by Northamptonshire based company White Motorcycle Concepts, reduce emissions by up to 50 per cent compared with a similar non-hybrid model. This will help the Force with its target to reduce carbon emissions by 2030.

The batteries are compact and easily removed, and spares can be carried on the bike or conveniently stored back at the station – meaning the bikes do not need downtime for charging and can continue to be used for patrol. The design also provides a three-pin plug and USB ports, creating a mobile workstation for a busy neighbourhood officer and allowing them to spend even more time on their beat.

Inspector Nathan Murray, from Northamptonshire Police, added: "This will improve accessibility to both rural and town locations for neighbourhood officers. They will also help us to be more visible in tackling the priorities that members of the public have been telling us they want to see us tackle. Not only that but it is showing that Northamptonshire Police is putting the green agenda and innovation at the forefront of our thinking."

Young Citizens Scheme at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre

Around 450 year six children from Northamptonshire schools attended an event last month to learn about becoming better citizens. The event called the Young Citizens Scheme was held on 18th, 19th and 20th October. It is run by West Northamptonshire Council's Community Safety Partnership and supported by Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The children attended on one of three dates at the Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre. The aim of the programme is to help children to become better citizens, be safer in their schools and communities, online and on the roads.

The scheme has been running since 2014 and has grown over the years. It is very popular with local schools within Daventry District and South Northamptonshire, and this year included schools in Northampton. The workshops covered this year were:

- Online Safety
- Fire Safety
- Solvent Abuse
- Personal Safety/Crime Prevention
- Road Safety

Each day ended with an assembly about Healthy Relationships and Hate Crime.



The Young Citizens Scheme helps young people to be better equipped to make choices and understand the consequences of their actions; be better informed of how to react in an emergency, and have a better understanding of and relationship with the range of agencies that operate in the county, such as the police and fire services.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Act of Remembrance

Communities across West Northamptonshire will come together in Remembrance this month to honour those who served and remember their sacrifice.

Visit <http://ow.ly/jkGK50LuC84> for the details of events taking place across the area.

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery awarded £450k from Arts Council England

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery has been awarded £450k from Arts Council England. The funding, which was announced on 4 November, will be spread over a three-year period, and will be used to fund the Museum's 'Histories of



Northamptonshire' project. The project will engage with groups and communities across Northamptonshire to develop a series of exhibitions, events, books, and digital resources looking at different aspects of Northamptonshire's history through objects, architecture, landscape, and personal experiences. The three-year project will focus on working with diverse communities across West Northamptonshire to enable their creativity and provide opportunities for them to enjoy the widest possible range of arts and culture. It will conclude with a major exhibition - A History of

Northamptonshire in 100 Objects, which will include augmented reality trails, digital resources, and a series of linked exhibitions at venues across Northamptonshire. To be eligible for the funding, our Council had to demonstrate it could contribute strongly to the Arts Council England Let's Create strategy.

The 10-year vision aims to allow everyone to experience high-quality cultural experiences in England. Read more about the Museum and Art Gallery funding Royal & Derngate also received a positive outcome today, with Arts Council England confirming the venue would be receiving £862,245 per year from 2023 to 2026. Since reopening after lockdown, the theatre has continued to create exciting new work for its stages, and host a diverse programme of quality entertainment, as well as welcoming back participants to its award-winning creative learning activities, engaging schools, working with the local refugee community, and more.

International Women's Day 2023 to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II

To celebrate International Women's Day 2023, we will be creating an exhibition to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II.

We are looking for local stories, photographs and videos from people describing how the Queen was an



Councillor Stephen Clarke
Member for Hackleton and Grange Park
West Northamptonshire Council
stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk

inspirational woman and what she meant to you. You will have a chance to view the display at the Guildhall on Saturday, 4 March 2023.

Please send submissions to forums.

nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk by 1 February 2023.