

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT DECEMBER 2023



### E-Newsletter Issue 12/2023

Steve with Russell and John

at

Warm Welcoming Space

St Margaret's Church, Denton

13 October 2023

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## NEWS REPORT DECEMBER 2023

### Monthly Highlights

The A428 Speed Reduction scheme is subject to a Traffic Order, which Highways are still seeking to complete by the end of November, however this will depend on the availability of our lighting contractor. This scheme only has 2 externally lit signs to install so we're hoping they have availability for this job, the remaining non-illuminated signs will be installed by EMPells. This project has been work in progress for the last two years and the implementation is now in its final stage.

Our site visit at Blacksmith's Way, Hartwell took place on 31 October 2023 where we received the following update:

- Trial holes in both areas of Ashton Road will start on Monday 6 November and should be completed by Thursday 9 November. Once completed WNC will be able to programme the works as we will understand the extent of Traffic Management and works required. It is hoped the works will be able to be completed in December.
- The new gully on Blacksmiths Way – Hartwell Parish Council have received the Invoice, as soon as this is paid WNC will arrange replacement of the gully.
- Vegetation At Bottom of Blacksmiths Way – An order to cut this vegetation back (up to height of bus stop sign) is to be completed in the next 28 days.
- Kerb Entry Gullies on Ashton Road – Andrew Leighton will ask the drainage team to investigate the effectiveness of the two kerb entry gullies near to Blacksmiths Way and report back.

As soon as I receive further information, I will provide another update.

I attended several events across the ward of Hackleton and Grange Park this month. Please read more about my activities in my Monthly Report.

On 26 October 2023, I met with Rachael Byrne, WNC LAP Project Lead, Rural East and Deborah Rush at Cogenhoe Village Hall to discuss the West Northants Rural East LAP and its priorities and for Rachael to gain a better understanding of the LAP activities that are already underway in Cogenhoe. Prior to the meeting, I provided Rachael with a summary of all the activities which were underway in Cogenhoe. This allowed Deborah to describe the Community Services being provided such as the Forget Me Not Community Group, Welcoming Spaces and the Community Lunch Club. Deborah has been instrumental in getting many of the community events underway in Cogenhoe and as Clerk to the Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council she is very experienced in working with WNC. Cogenhoe Parish Council has addressed the problem with access to services for residents and they provide the vital support needed to run the Village Hopper. Rachael was very impressed with Deborah and the progress being made in Cogenhoe and she thoroughly enjoyed our discussions. She has subsequently introduced Deborah to Ailsa from The Olive Collective. Rachael intends to visit other LAP related activity such as the Winter Warmer Sessions in Little Houghton, and the Wellbeing sessions provided by Denton Surgery Patient Group at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton.

A range of consultation and engagement activities are currently taking place across West Northants. I have summarised the main consultations in my monthly report, but please remember you can check new consultations, have your say, and sign up to receive alerts and updates via our Consultation Hub.

WNC is developing a new interim bus policy, and we would like your view on the three priorities we have identified to ensure the provision of high quality, efficient and reliable public transport. The feedback we



receive from this will help us to shape the interim bus policy and feed into the development of a future Local Transport Plan. This survey closes midnight 12 November 2023.

Residents are being asked to have their say on a new way of delivering activities and respite for children with disabilities (short breaks). The Consultation closes on 19 November 2023.

Struggling households in West Northamptonshire who work but are on a low wage can apply for a £300 payment from the Household Support Fund (HSF), funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). See my Monthly Report.

If you do not hold accepted photo ID, you can also apply for the free Voter Authority Certificate. See my Monthly Report.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent and is now law, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has announced. The measures in the Act will change the planning system in many ways, including the fact that Authorities will no longer have to maintain a five-year supply of housing land if they had an adopted local plan.

The first inspection of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) since the inception of Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) and the establishment of the two unitary councils has found that the service is 'good'. The quality of resettlement policy and provision was also inspected, which was separately rated as 'Outstanding'. Inspectors found that 'delivery of work with children was of a consistently high standard' which in turn meant that there are 'positive working relationships with the children' and they 'positively engaged with the YOS and could access appropriate services to support them.'

Each month, I update a document entitled Rural Funding Digest, which may provide further options for you. If you are interested in receiving the copy for October, then please contact me via email: [stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk). Before making an application for a grant, you will need to check your eligibility.

A number of drop-in sessions to help you find a new job will take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month between 1pm and 3pm in the Watermeadows Room at Towcester Library and will run from 13 September 2023 until 14 February 2024. The dates of the next two sessions are:

- 8 November
- 13 December

WNC is to be the host authority to take on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions by 1 April 2024. These include strategic economic planning, the Growth Hub, which supports and strengthens businesses, and the Careers Hub, which links schools and colleges with employers to create world-class careers opportunities. The decision follows an announcement from Central Government that it would cease core funding of Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and for the LEP functions to be delivered by local authorities.

The government has confirmed that more than £27 million redirected from HS2 funding will be available to bus services across the East Midlands over the next financial year- meaning both North and West Northamptonshire Councils will receive over £2 million. This is in addition to the bus fare cap of £2 remaining until at least December 2024.

Following on from the great success of the Warm Spaces initiative over the winter 2022/23 we are now rebranding to The Welcoming Spaces programme as we enter year 2. The programme continues to provide residents with a welcoming community space with the offering of a warm, trusted setting for people to socialise and access services tackling social isolation and cost of living challenges. We are inviting all spaces to re-register so we can update the online directory. There is also the opportunity for Spaces to become part of the Chatty Café Scheme to help reduce social isolation and loneliness. WNC is working in partnership with the Action for Happiness movement and can receive toolkits/promotional flyers and training.

WNC launched the 'The Welcoming Spaces Grant' in October. It was developed to support the creation and/or enhancement of Welcoming Spaces provided by the voluntary and community sectors across West Northamptonshire. If there are any other organisations/community spaces that would like to be involved, please apply online or contact me.

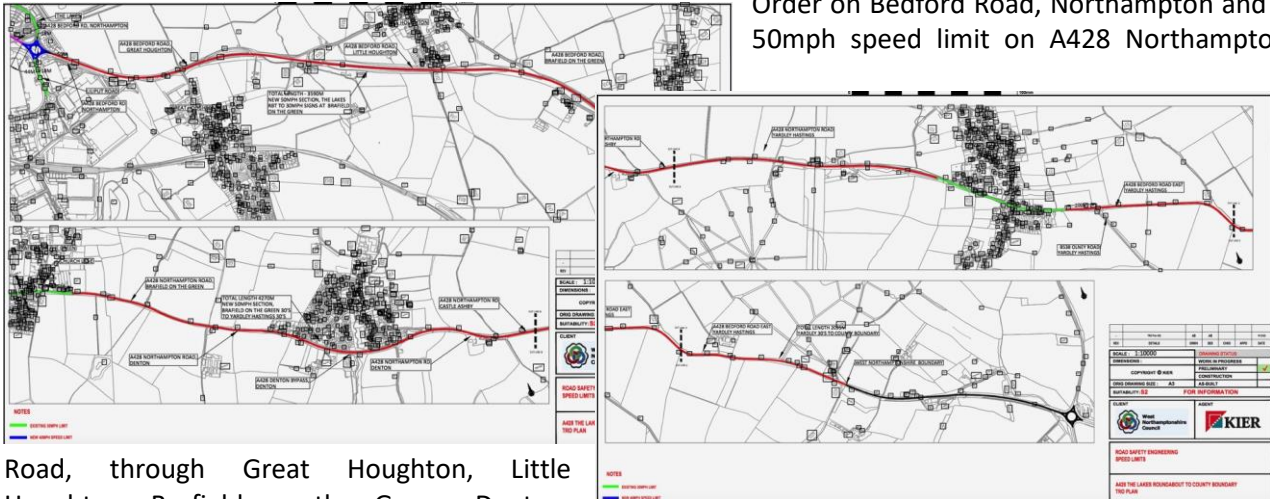
I hope that you enjoy this edition of my Monthly Report. Don't forget you can follow me on <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924>

*All the Best, Steve*

## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

### A428 Speed Reduction Scheme

I have received copies of the signing plans for the changes to the A428 to introduce a 40mph speed limit Order on Bedford Road, Northampton and a 50mph speed limit on A428 Northampton



Road, through Great Houghton, Little Houghton, Brafield on the Green, Denton, Castle Ashby and Yardley Hastings. The existing 30 mph stretches through Brafield on the Green and Yardley Hastings remain unchanged. The A428 Speed Reduction scheme is subject to a Traffic Order made under Part VI of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTA) 1984 dealing specifically with the speed limit, which Highways are still seeking to complete by the end of November, however this will depend on the availability of our lighting contractor. This scheme only has 2 externally lit signs to install so we're hoping they have availability for this job, the remaining non-illuminated signs will be installed by EMPells. This project has been work in progress for the last two years and the implementation is now in its final stage.

### Update on Drainage Issues in Hartwell

This month, our site visit took place on 31 October 2023 at 10.00 am with Andrew Leighton, the clerk and residents at 71 Blacksmith's Way, Hartwell. We have since received the following update:

- Trial holes in both areas of Ashton Road will start on Monday 6 November and should be completed by Thursday 9 November. Once completed WNC will be able to programme the works as we will understand the extent of Traffic Management and works required. It is hoped the works will be able to be completed in December.
- The new gully on Blacksmiths Way – Hartwell Parish Council have received the Invoice, as soon as this is paid WNC will arrange replacement of the gully.
- Vegetation At Bottom of Blacksmiths Way – An order to cut this vegetation back (up to height of bus stop sign) is to be completed in the next 28 days.
- Kerb Entry Gullies on Ashton Road – Andrew Leighton will ask the drainage team to investigate the effectiveness of the two kerb entry gullies near to Blacksmiths Way and report back.



As soon as I receive further information, I will provide an update.



### Important Notice - Hackleton Prescription Deliveries



As you are probably aware the owners of Hackleton Stores no longer wish to be a medication pick-up Point. From 10th July Hackleton Baptist Church has kindly agreed to allow patients to collect from them.

Their pick-up times are 11.00-13.00 Monday to Wednesday  
Hackleton Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Hackleton, NN7 2AH  
Medication will arrive on Mondays prior to 11.00 and items not collected by 13.00 on Wednesdays will be returned to the surgery. Please remember to request delivery each time you order. Fridge items and controlled drugs must be collected direct from the surgery.

### Warm Welcoming Spaces, Denton 13 October 2023



On 13 October 2023, we attended the Denton Coffee Morning to drop off our filled Rotary Shoebox. Pat Terry organises a shoebox appeal for disadvantaged families in Eastern Europe each year. It's a great cause which we are pleased to support. Well done Pat for all your efforts.

At the same time, we were able to catch up with John, Russell, Doug, Sheila, Pat and others. Russell had brought me the leaflet about Compton Wyngates, which he had promised to share with me when last we met. Many thanks, Russell.

We spoke to Pat and Sheila about how WNC Welcoming Spaces are changing from the Warm Welcoming Spaces to provide wrap around services to attendees. The WNC Communities Teams are in discussions with organisations that would like to provide services to the Welcoming Spaces.

WNC are inviting all spaces to re-register so they can update the online directory. There is also the opportunity for Spaces to

become part of the Chatty Café Scheme to help reduce social isolation and loneliness.


WNC can award a new Welcoming Spaces Grant to support the creation and/or development of Welcoming Spaces across West Northamptonshire to support residents struggling with fuel costs. These awards can be made to parish and town councils, community and voluntary organisations, registered charities and to other qualifying bodies. The funding round will be open to all applications seeking a Welcoming Spaces Grant (WSG) from the value of £500 up to £1500. The grant process will close on 1 March 2024, organisations may apply only once. Some of the other parishes are getting WNC to provide some of the wrap around services see the diagram below.

### Piddington Cum Hackleton 14 October 2023

On 14 October we visited Margaret William's exhibition at the Hackleton Village Hall Annexe to see a display of about 70 of the 150+ early postcards, photos, portraits, and maps that will appear in her 'Piddington cum Hackleton' book, which will be published at the end of November. We enjoyed reading all about the rich history of both Piddington and Hackleton before ordering a copy of the book.

**PIDDINGTON  
CUM  
HACKLETON**

**THE TALES OF TWO VILLAGES**  
A new book by Maureen Williams



FREE entry

**PREVIEW EXHIBITION**  
of old photos of streets, buildings, people and events in Piddington and Hackleton  
Order and pay for your copy on the day and benefit from a discounted price

**HACKLETON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE**  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
11.00 am - 4.00 pm

### **Brownies and Rainbows, Hackleton Village Hall 14 October 2024**

After we visited the exhibition of some of the content of the new Piddington cum Hackleton book at the Hackleton Village Hall Annexe, we joined the Brownies & Rainbows event in the Hackleton Village Hall. It was very well attended, and we enjoyed some cake and coffee. It was great to see folks leaving with lots of pre-loved items including a child's bicycle. Recycling was much in evidence in Hackleton and all to raise funds for the Brownies & Rainbows. Well done to all who made the event possible.



### **Cogenhoe Community Lunch 16 October 2023**



On Monday 16 October 2023, we attended the Community Lunch, York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall. One of our members was celebrating her birthday and she was given a very fetching hat to wear whilst we all sang 'Happy Birthday'. Lunch was Hunter's Style Chicken with Roasted Potatoes & seasonal vegetables followed by Chocolate Chip sponge & chocolate sauce.

Well done to Deborah for managing the event. Thank you for all the support you give to the Cogenhoe Community. It was a perfect location to connect and reunite with friends. The next Community Lunch event is on Monday 6 November 2023, York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall. All enquires / bookings phone Deborah 07512 045418

[clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk)

### **Quinton Village Hall Book Swop 21 October 2023**

On Saturday 21 October 2023 we attended the monthly Quinton Book Swop at the Village Hall. We joined everyone for refreshments and congratulated Joseph on his bumper bundle of books that he was planning to read over half term. A special thank you to Helen for the great cake and coffee. Well done to everyone who are enthusiastically raising funds for the upkeep of the Village Hall. I was sorry to have missed your Race Night which I understand was a great success. I agreed to write to Helen and Emma about the WNC funding round applications to the Welcoming Spaces Grant (WSG) scheme.



### **WNC Customer Service at Hackleton on 24 October 2023**

I was delighted to meet with Ryan Timmins, Mia Lack and Tiffany Diaz-Delgado the three WNC Customer Service Advisors who were at Hackleton Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Hackleton, NN7 2AH to answer residents' queries on Tuesday 24 October 2023. I arrived at 10am as they were busy setting up. It was a very busy morning with the Denton Wellbeing Group members arriving at 11am. WNC Customer Service Advisors will be in Hackleton again on Monday 20 November from 10am - 12pm. If you missed them this week then do come along next time when they will be able to answer your various queries.





## WNC at Coffee@Carey 20 November 2023

### Meet West Northants Council Customer Service Team

West Northants Council Customer Service Team will be at Coffee@Carey on Tuesday 24th October and Monday 20th November 10am - noon. If you would like to talk to them about any of their services they will be very happy to speak with you. These include:

Blue Badge Applications

Environmental Health Issues

Grants for disabled home adaptations

Highways

and much more.

Please do pop along to see them for a chat.

• Meet WNC Customer Service Team (PDF, 151 Kb)

Posted: Mon, 18 Sep 2023 09:38 by Alison Benson

Do you want to apply for a blue badge, could you be eligible for a grant to allow for disabled adaptations to your home or do

you have a question about council tax, highways or environmental health? If so, please drop into Coffee@Carey on 20th November 10am - noon and

speaking to a Customer Service Advisor from West Northants Council. Well done to Hackleton Parish Council for making the necessary arrangements.



## Denton Wellbeing Event at Coffee@Carey 24 October 2023

On 24 October 2023, I attended the eighth Denton Well Being session at the Coffee@Carey, Hackleton. By 11.00am the various members from Denton and Little Houghton were arriving via the Denton Surgery Patient Group Transport Scheme which is provided by Denton Surgery Patient Group DSPG. If you are interested in finding out more then you can e-mail the [coordinator@dspg.me](mailto:coordinator@dspg.me) or telephone 07506866298. I heard about Social Prescribing whilst catching up with other members as we played a short word game. Afterward we heard about the Denton Well Being Christmas Lunch which will be held on the same day as one of the regular Well Being events on Tuesday 19 December at the White Hart, Hackleton. If you would like to go then you will need to make a deposit at the next meeting.



## Meeting with Rachael Byrne & Deborah Rush at Cogenhoe Village Hall 26 October 2023

On 26 October 2023, I met with Rachael Byrne, WNC LAP Project Lead, Rural East and Deborah Rush at Cogenhoe Village Hall to discuss the West Northants Rural East LAP and its priorities and for Rachael to gain a better understanding of the LAP activities that are already underway in Cogenhoe. Prior to the meeting, I provided Rachael with a summary of all the activities which were underway in Cogenhoe. This allowed Deborah to describe the Community Services being provided such as the Forget Me Not Community Group, Welcoming Spaces and the Community Lunch Club.

Deborah has been instrumental in getting many of the community events underway in Cogenhoe and as Clerk to the Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council she is very experienced in working with WNC. Cogenhoe Parish Council has addressed the problem with access to services for residents and they provide the vital support needed to run the Village Hopper.

Rachael was very impressed with the progress being made in Cogenhoe and she thoroughly enjoyed our discussions. She has subsequently introduced Deborah to Ailsa from The Olive Collective. Rachael intends to visit other LAP related activity such as the Winter Warmer Sessions in Little Houghton, and the Wellbeing sessions provided by Denton Surgery Patient Group at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton.



### Winter Warmer Little Houghton 28 October 2023



On Saturday 28 October 2023, we attended the Little Houghton Winter Warmer event at Little Houghton Village Hall. It was organised by Julia and Peter Harrison to raise funds for the reopening of the Winter Warmer Sessions starting on Wednesday 1 November from 2-4pm. It will take place every Wednesday until March 2024. It was exceptionally well attended by the residents, and I enjoyed catching up with friends from the village whilst savouring the wonderful sausage rolls made by Julia for the occasion. Well done to Julia and Peter for organising this event.



### Little Houghton Winter Warmer 1 November 2023

I attended the reopening of the Little Houghton Winter Warmer Sessions which started on Wednesday 1 November from 2-4pm. It will take place every Wednesday until March 2024. It was well attended by the residents, and I enjoyed catching up with friends from the village. Well done to Julia and Peter for running these events. Also, many thanks to Julia for the great round table photograph of all of us.



### Denton Coffee Morning 3 November 2023

On 3 November 2023, I attended the Denton Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church, one of West Northants Warm Welcoming Spaces. The church is in the centre of the village. It is open every day and provides a community space for everyone in the village. They hold coffee mornings, weekly craft sessions, quizzes, and many other general community events. Opening times: Open on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. I enjoyed the croissant, coffee and of course the friendly chatter. It was good to catch up with Sheila, Doug, Russell, John, Mary, Diane and others. It's always a great place to meet for coffee and a chat in Denton especially on a cold damp Friday morning.

Whilst there, I noticed the four different coloured poppy wreaths, which were on display in the church again this year. Alongside the red poppy wreath, the most famous symbol used to commemorate those



who sacrificed their lives in World War One and conflicts that followed, there were three other coloured poppy wreaths-black, purple, and white.

The black poppy wreath commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians. The charitable organisation was launched in 2010 and aims to highlight "largely untold historical legacies" from the 16th century onwards.

The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war. Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort and were remembered and commemorated for their contribution in war zones for the first time with an official purple wreath in 2020. Many horses were killed or injured in World War One. Donations to the Animal Purple Poppy Fund go to charities including World Horse Welfare and the Household Cavalry Foundation. The Animal Purple Poppy Fund uses the word poppy with the agreement of the Royal British Legion.



White poppies represent remembrance for all victims of war of all nationalities, along with a commitment to peace and a rejection of militarism. They were founded in 1933 by the Co-operative Women's Guild. Since 1981 they have been organised and distributed by the Peace Pledge Union (PPU). They say that the white poppy commemorates people who died in conflict, but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.

The red poppy belongs to the Royal British Legion - a charity created by veterans of World War One. They say that the red poppy represents remembrance and hope.

We missed seeing the cascade of poppies on the tower outside the church as this will be erected tomorrow in time for Remembrance Day. Well done to everyone who has contributed to this Act of Remembrance.

### Quinton Coffee Morning 4 November 2023

On Saturday 4 November we attended the 1st Anniversary of the Quinton Coffee Morning at St John the Baptist Church, Quinton.



Open to all, the monthly first Saturday 10.30-12.00 coffee mornings provide an opportunity to relax and catch up with others from the local community. We had our first introduction to Rev Mark



Hurley and his wife Barbara who will be joining the living Brook Benefice which includes the churches of St John the Baptist, Piddington with Horton, St John the Baptist, Quinton and Preston Deanery and St Edmund, King and Martyr, Hardington, Northamptonshire in the diocese of Peterborough.

Mark is the new House for Duty Clergy with responsibility for Piddington and Quinton Churches and associated villages and we have been invited to his Licensing Service by the Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Reverend John Holbrook, at Piddington Church at 7:00pm on Tuesday 28th November 2023. Saturday gave us all a great opportunity for us to get to know Mark in advance of the formal occasion which takes place later this month.

It was great to catch up with Julia, Barbara and others. The coffee and homemade cakes were most enjoyable. Everyone who turns up always enjoys a warm welcome, friendship and conversation! Well done to those who make it happen especially to Barbara for the 1st Anniversary cake.

### Wellbeing Wednesday 'Stop Smoking Support' 6 December 2023

The Cogenhoe Parish Council is organising a series of 'Wellbeing' events on a variety of subjects. The next event will be on Wednesday 6 December 2023 in the York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, at 7.30-9pm. Do come along if you wish to find out more about 'Stop Smoking Support'.

### Predisposition, predetermination or bias

As Chairman of the South Planning Committee, West Northamptonshire Council, I may be involved in the decision making for any subsequent planning application. Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a decision maker is not to be taken to have had, or appeared to have had, a



closed mind when making the decision just because:

- (a) the decision maker had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter; and
- (b) the matter was relevant to the decision.

This provision does not change the law on bias and pre-determination which means that Committee Members must still take planning decisions with an open mind and having considered all relevant material planning considerations. The safest course is for Committee Members to avoid making public statements (including expressing views in emails) as to their support for or opposition to any application which would indicate they had made up their minds before the formal consideration of the application at the meeting. If a Committee Member has made such a statement, they must be satisfied that they can still consider the application with an open mind and are prepared to consider any new matters or any new arguments in favour of or against the proposed development until the decision is made otherwise, they should not take part in any decision on the application in question.

On the grounds of the above, it would not be appropriate for me to attend Parish Council or Community events which seek to take a decision regarding the outcome of a planning application as I must keep an open mind on this matter so as not to preclude me from participating in any future planning decisions.

### **Beat Bus 8 November 2023**

Our Neighbourhood police officers hold regular surgeries in local communities across their beat area. As well as holding them in local venues such as village halls or community centres, your local officers are regularly out and about with our two Neighbourhood Beat Buses.

You'll find the dates of their forthcoming visits below. Pop along and meet your local officers, find out about crime and policing activity in your area, get updates about local policing priorities, and share any concerns you have about crime and anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood.

Hackleton & Grange Park Beat Bus

Wed 08 November 2023

- 8:30am - 9:30am, Village Hall, Cogenhoe
- 10:00am - 11:00am, Outside Carey Baptist Church, Hackleton
- 11:30am - 12:30pm, Village Hall, Denton
- 1:30pm - 2:30pm, High Street, Yardley Hastings
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm, School Lane, Hartwell
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm, Community Centre car park, Grange Park



## REFUGEES

### Hosts for Ukraine Scheme still needed

WNC is currently looking for new hosts to help support Ukrainian guests whose original accommodation has not worked out, or where their original hosts, due to changes in their personal circumstances, are unable to continue to offer the use of their home.

Please complete the online questionnaire to tell us whether you are interested in becoming a host; the type of accommodation being offered, and some further information about you. If you need any further information, please contact WNC on [resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Before you complete this questionnaire, please read the Homes for Ukraine privacy policy, which will tell you how the information you give us, will be managed. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/service-privacy-notice/homes-ukraine-scheme-privacy-notice>



### Join the library if you're an Asylum Seeker or Refugee

Anyone can join the library for free either in-person or online.

#### In-person

You can join at any library with proof of your name and current address.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/list-libraries>

#### Online

Complete a form, it only takes a few minutes. You can pick your library card from any library in West Northamptonshire.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/visiting-library/join-library>

## CONSULTATIONS

A range of consultation and engagement activities are currently taking place across West Northants. I have summarised the main consultations below, but please remember you can check new consultations, have your say, and sign up to receive alerts and updates via our Consultation Hub.

### Survey on Interim Bus Policy Priorities

WNC is developing a new interim bus policy, and we would like your view on the three priorities we have identified to ensure the provision of high quality, efficient and reliable public transport.

The feedback we receive from this will help us to shape the interim bus policy and feed into the



Give us your views on the interim bus policy priorities

development of a future Local Transport Plan. This survey closes midnight 12 November 2023. Please visit the interim bus policy priorities overview for further information and to complete the short survey.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../interim-bus.../>

### **Review of the residential care service at Ridgway House in Towcester**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) wants to be able to ensure it can offer high quality care which continues to meet the changing needs of its residents both now and in the future.



#### Consultation on the future of Ridgway House Care Home

Ridgway House has 35 rooms; however, the first floor is not accessible to people with care and support needs and subsequently the registration of the home has had to be reduced to 25 rooms. The design of the building means that the facilities available within the home are unable to meet the needs of an increasing number of people who require residential care. Like other care settings the home has also experienced recruitment challenges and has been carrying a significant number of staffing vacancies for some time. The consultation closes on 19 November 2023.

### **Consultation on Short Breaks for Disabled Children**

Residents are being asked to have their say on a new way of delivering activities and respite for children with disabilities (short breaks). Short breaks are for children and young people who have a disability and aim to offer them rich opportunities while allowing their carers to have a break. They include daytime activities, overnight residential breaks, personal care and support, holiday clubs, sensory impairment services and sleep support.



The service is jointly funded by West and North Northamptonshire Councils and the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board and overseen by Northamptonshire Children's Trust as part of our shared responsibility to support children with SEND under the Children and Families Act 2014.

In this final part of a three-stage public consultation, people are being asked for their views on the proposed new model for providing short breaks, which aims to:

- Bring together residential and non-residential short breaks, for better co-ordination and flexibility
- Have a single referral and assessment pathway to

make it easier to access services and better oversight

- Build community links and support for children to access activities in the community, with buddy support and help to allow children with more complex needs to access daytime activities.

A range of engagement events have been taking place in recent days to allow people to have their say, and residents can also share their views by completing this online survey:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../short-breaks.../>

The Consultation closes on 19 November 2023.



### **WNC Carers to Have Their Say**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is keen to seek the views from carers as part of the development of a new, ambitious carers strategy aimed to enhance the lives of caregivers in our vibrant community.

The council is keen to hear thoughts, insights and feedback from all carers in West Northants on what aspects of support are effective, what elements you believe require improvement, and your suggestions for enhancing the support provided to caregivers within West Northants. All this feedback is essential in the development of the strategy that sets out a direction of travel which meets the needs of carers as well as the loved ones that they care for.

Several face-to-face engagement events have been arranged all over West Northants as well as online, with the hope that carers will be able to attend, share their feedback and views, as well as meet other carers in their neighbourhood. Please do come along to an event that is convenient to you by registering via the links below.



The remaining online engagement events:

- Wednesday 8 November, 6pm to 8pm on MS teams (Meeting ID: 396 127 044 441 / Passcode: TmuTgd) Or call in (audio only) +44 20 7660 8311,203864530# Phone Conference ID: 203 864 530#

As part of the events the Council will be asking carers if they would like to join our “Experts by Experience (EBEs) groups as their unique knowledge and personal experiences as caregivers will play a vital role in shaping our strategy prior to its formal consultation phase.

If you are not able to attend the face to face sessions or online sessions, please do take a short 5 minutes to complete our three question online survey available: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../tell-us-about...>

This survey is confidential and will close on 19 November 2023.

### **WNC Seeking Views on Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) are seeking residents’ views on renewing two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in Northampton. The current PSPOs covering Jeyes Jetty and Dunster Street were introduced three years ago in response to issues of anti-social behaviour and nuisance. Jeyes Jetty is an alleyway connecting Drapery and College Street in Northampton Town Centre which was gated in 2021 following the tragic death of a young man in the alley in 2019.

Dunster Street alleyway connects Dunster Street to St Michaels Road and was a hotspot for arson, drug dealing, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour before being gated in 2021, following a request from residents.



A PSPO is a power that allows councils to impose restrictions on a defined area to tackle problem behaviour under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

It can deal with persistent and unreasonable nuisances and anti-social behaviour that has a negative effect on the quality of life for the local community in a particular area and intends to help ensure that members of the public and local communities can use and enjoy open areas and public spaces.

There is a legal requirement for the Council to have evidence to show the need for orders to be adopted, varied, or extended, therefore this

consultation will be used to gather residents' views on extending the PSPO for a further 3 years, up to December 2026.

The consultation opens today 23 October 2023 and closes at midnight on Sunday, 19 November 2023. Anyone who would like to share their views about extending the Jeyes Jetty and Dunster Street PSPOs can take part in the online survey via the Council's Consultation Hub.

[https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/consultation\\_finder/](https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/consultation_finder/)

## FINANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSFORMATION

### WNC Household Support Now Available

The week of 16-22 October was Household Support Fund Awareness Week with the aim to highlight financial support available to households who may be facing hardship in West Northants.



In the fourth tranche of the Department for Work and



Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund, £5,199,257 has been allocated to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to continue helping the most vulnerable with the ongoing cost of living challenges.

WNC have implemented several support offers that have been identified to best meet the need of residents in West Northamptonshire, ensuring the funds are distributed to a range of families and households in need, with differing circumstances. The

support offers distributed include:

- Around 12,500 families with children continuing to receive meal vouchers during the school holidays. They have also been given a helping hand for the 23/24 school year, with supermarket vouchers for uniforms distributed alongside support for food over the summer.
- Voluntary and community groups will share out £1.2m in the form of food aid, distributed in separate tranches over winter, to support households experiencing the most hardship across West Northants.
- Over 1,500 households on a low wage (weekly income of less than £400) but have not received any of the Cost-of-Living Payments or the £150 Disability Cost of Living payments may be eligible to receive a £300 payment to provide financial support. For more information, please click here: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../household-support-fund>
- £600,000 has been allocated towards food clubs and larders, with half of the funding to help upscale and improve their use of food clubs and larders in a move towards more sustainable ongoing support for residents.
- Around £115,000 has been earmarked towards helping the most struggling households reduce their energy bills through practical measures such as better insulation and more efficient boilers etc. A further £110,000 will be used to provide money and debt advice services to those facing severe financial hardship.

For more information on cost-of-living support please visit Cost of living or call 0300 126 7000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).



### Public Finance Awards 2023

Our Finance and Procurement teams have made the Public Finance Awards 2023 shortlist not in one but in three categories!

The categories are:

- Finance Team of the Year
- Public Finance Leader of the Year – James Smith was nominated. James epitomises the ambition, positive attitude, behaviour and culture of the West Northants Finance Team
- Outstanding Procurement Initiative

View the 2023 categories and shortlist.

This remarkable achievement serves as a testament to the team's hard work, dedication, and expertise. We wish them all the best on 28 November at the awards ceremony in London, and we are certain that they will shine bright.



## REGULATORY SERVICES

### Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to produce accepted photographic identification when voting in person at a polling station. This new requirement applied for the first time in England from the 4th May 2023 to coincide with local elections taking place in some areas. Your photo ID proves that you are who you say you are when voting and prevents someone else from taking your vote.

Whilst there are currently no scheduled elections taking place this year in the West Northamptonshire electoral area, it is important that residents are aware of these new requirements as they will be in force for any future local elections, by elections or referendums that take place. From October 2023, the Voter ID requirement will be in place for UK Parliamentary General Elections. By elections and General Elections can occur at any time and with short notice.



### Acceptable forms of Photo ID

You may already hold an accepted form of photo ID. You can use expired photo ID, if the image within the ID remains a good likeness to you. You only need to bring one of the documents to the polling station to vote in person, but it must be the original document.

You can use:

- Passport (UK, EU/EEA, Commonwealth issued)
- Driving licence (including provisional licences) (UK, EU/EEA issued)
- Blue Badge
- Certain older/disabled people concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information and the full detailed list of acceptable voter ID, please visit the Electoral Commissions or call the helpline on 0800 328 0280.

### **Apply for the free Voter Authority Certificate**

If you don't hold an accepted form of photo ID, or you think that your photo ID no longer resembles you, you can apply for a free Voter ID document known as the Voter Authority Certificate. You must be a registered voter to be issued with a certificate, and you can apply for the certificate at the same time as registering.



To apply, you will be asked to provide your full legal name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number. You will also need to provide a recent passport style photo of yourself. This can be taken on a digital camera or camera phone.

Visit the UK Governments website to complete an application form online and upload your photo directly to your application.

[https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority...)

[voter-authority...](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority...)

If you do not hold accepted photo ID, you can also apply for the free Voter Authority Certificate.

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/VoterID](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/VoterID)

### **Local Government Boundary Commission Review Issued**

The number of West Northamptonshire unitary councillors will reduce from 93 to 76 at the next local elections in 2025 under the final recommendations of a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) welcomed the outcome of the wide-ranging review, which is the first to take place for 10 years and sees changes to all electoral ward boundaries across the area. The LGBCE's conclusion must now be scrutinised and approved by Parliament before legally coming into force for the next WNC elections in 2025.

In their final report, the Commission has concluded that West Northants residents should be represented in the future by 76 councillors as the figure best facilitated a new warding pattern throughout the district. It means that from 2025 WNC councillors would be elected on a four-year term across 35 wards instead of the current 31 – comprising 13 three-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards, and seven single-councillor wards.

In response to residents' feedback during the review, other recommended changes by the Commission include creating two single councillor wards in the north of Daventry and merging two of draft recommendation wards in the south-west of the area to form a two-councillor Middleton Cheney ward.

The final recommendations report and interactive mapping can be viewed on the LGBCE website.

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/.../new-political-map-west...>

The last electoral review in Northamptonshire took place in 2013 and WNC's current electoral arrangements are based on those of the previous county council, with 93 councillors serving across 31 wards.

LGBCE launched the review in summer 2022, holding its review in two stages with public consultation, firstly looking at the number of councillors, and then looking at how many wards, and the names of those wards.

To find out more about councillors, elections and democracy in West Northamptonshire, visit the Council's website.

### **WNC & Food Standards Agency Destroy Unsafe Food**

Our Council led an operation in coordination with the Food Standards Agency's National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), which resulted in the destruction of several tonnes of unsafe food.

The NFCU shared intelligence and provided support to our Health Protection Team before accompanying them on an unannounced visit to a food business operating at an unapproved site without the appropriate food safety management measures in place.

As a result of the intelligence led operation several tonnes of unsafe food were detained and destroyed,



and the unapproved activity was shut down. It is vital to uphold strict food safety regulations and ensure the safety of the food sold to protect our residents; we are pleased to have worked with the NFCU to prevent unsafe food practices in West Northants.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/.../fsa-shares-update-on-tackling...>

## **RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)**

The following is a synopsis of the second session on Rural Affordable Housing delivered by Kevin Garvey, Head of Member Relations, National Housing Federation (NHF), Helen Fielding, Director of Development and Investment, Broadacres Housing Association and Alex Rehaag, Principle Affordable Housing Officer, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council & Christine Phillipson, Chairman, Newton and Noss Community Land Trust. I will cover some of the other topics in future monthly reports.

### **Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Affordable Housing**

Understanding the challenges and opportunities for rural affordable housing delivery was the first topic considered by Kevin Garvey, Head of Member Relations, National Housing Federation

#### **About rural housing associations**

- Around 300 NHF members own and manage more than 1.7 million homes in village and market towns across the country.
- The Rural Housing Alliance pledges to ensure there are high quality, low carbon affordable homes with great services in rural areas.

#### **The scale of the housing crisis in rural England**

- The number of rural households on local authority waiting lists in England increased by 31% between 2019 and 2022, far exceeding the increase in urban areas of 3%.
- Renting and home ownership are increasingly





- unaffordable.
- Rising homelessness in rural areas

### Other challenges for rural housing providers

- Quality of existing homes and decarbonization.
- A range of land and planning challenges which are particularly acute for rural housing developers.
- Resources becoming increasingly squeezed

### Why increase the supply of rural affordable housing?

- It boosts the economy.
- It's cost effective.
- Improves quality of life.
- It's popular with the public.

### A long-term plan for housing

The NHF is calling on the party that forms the next government to be ambitious and transformative in its approach to housing – to develop a long-term plan built around a tangible set of outcomes.

### Challenges Facing Rural Housing Associations

We then considered the Challenges with Helen Fielding – Director of Development and Investment, Broadacres Housing Association.

- Existing stock vs new supply – what gives?
- Costs up, incomes capped, interest rates, inflation...
- Land and planning, Future Homes
- Taking communities with us
- Viability and delivery
- Funding
- But there are opportunities too.



### Land supply

- Planning policy determines land value (not the other way round!)
- 'The audacity of hope'
- Competition
- North Yorkshire is quite hilly.

### Planning

- LA capacity – we know there are issues.
- Rural Exception Site expertise?
- Local Plan development
- Complexity and timescales

### Taking communities with us on the journey

- Mistrust, suspicion, resistance
- Communities changing – 2nd homes, retirees.
- Is there a 'need?'
- Time consuming and difficult, but important work

*A community led, bottom-up approach to housing and affordable workplaces to ensure a thriving future for rural communities*



### Viability and delivery

- Materials, design, net zero, transport, scale £££.
- Limited PRS comparators.
- Contractors and supply chain, fixed price?
- Weather.

### Money

- Grant for rural housing?
- Strategic Partnership vs CME
- S106 issue
- Focus on brownfield land.

### Time for a takeaway...

- Challenges faced by rural housing associations are similar to those faced by all housing associations.
- But there are, additional challenges to rural housing delivery.
- However, the imperative to deliver in pursuit of sustainable rural community building is stronger than ever.
- Partnerships with communities and statutory agencies are key to success.
- And clarity of message about our motivation and objectives is important.
- It's about more than delivering numbers, but without delivery we can't make a difference in our rural communities.

### Consider a Different Approach

Finally Alex Rehaag, Principle Affordable Housing Officer, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council & Christine Phillipson, Chairman, Newton and Noss Community Land Trust helped us to consider 'A Different Approach', which was a community led housing model that seeks to rebalance the existing housing market by delivering a range of new and innovative housing tenures and employment solutions in rural communities based on need identified by the community, enabling them to grow and thrive.

A Different Approach (ADA) supports Community Land Trusts, Neighbour Plan Groups and Communities to provide housing solutions to meet the diverse needs of rural communities.

Living in a coastal village in South Devon had provided experience of the pressures experienced in rural and coastal areas and allowed them to witness the displacement of people of all ages from their villages. The vision for 'A Different Approach' was to tailor housing solutions to meet the wide-ranging needs and demographics of rural communities, facing significant challenges of affordability, second home ownership, displacement of the young, supporting an aging demographic and the provision of affordable housing across new and more traditional tenures.





They explained how, by using ADA strategies for their pilot scheme at Collaton in South Devon, they produced better outcomes for both the Local Authority, and the community. And they had recently won the award for Best Housing Scheme (fewer than 500 homes) at the National Planning Awards 2023.

#### **Rural Housing Challenges - 'shopping list':**

- Affordable Homes - to enable young people to remain in the community, both to rent and to buy.
- Downsizing Homes - helping older people stay close to family and support networks.
- Affordable custom/self-build • Social Rent
- Start-up Business Units - Opportunities for employment SHDC have challenges in finding development partners to cater for these needs, particularly in rural areas where development opportunities are more limited given the extent of the AONB and land availability.

#### **Exploring "A Different Approach" to delivery"**

- A collective working group was formed comprising elected members, senior officers, a local MP and the ADA team to formulate an approach to address the identified challenges.
- Presentation was given on findings to the Chief Executive, Elected Members and our MPs.
- Elected members were encouraged to discuss with their parish councils & CLT's the opportunity to deliver housing under the ADA approach. Choosing a community to pilot A Different Approach - the parish of Newton and Noss.
- Average house prices in the region of £800,000
- High percentage of second homeownership and holiday lets (46% in Noss Mayo).
- High housing need with an ageing demographic due to displacement of young Identifying land to meet the local needs.
- A site at Collaton was identified and secured under option by the delivery partner (ADA).
- Site was outside the settlement boundary.
- A brownfield, contaminated site but within the AONB Sites such as this would be unlikely to come forward for development, due to location and policy constraints. As such, land can be optioned at a fairer price, enabling a greater distribution of planning gain and benefit to the community if successful.

#### **Newton and Noss Community Land Trust**

They aimed to enable families and individuals with a 'Strong Local Connection', who need to rent their homes and are assessed in bands A to E by Devon Home Choice, to continue to live and work within the Parish; rebalancing and strengthening the community.

The whole of the parish is within the South Devon AONB, with very few sites suitable as building land and a high percentage of second and holiday homes; affordability and the lack of long-term lets are major problems for the community.



The CLT was established to help protect the long-term sustainability of the villages. The first task was to gain approval from the Local Authority for their own Newton and Noss Local Lettings Policy to ensure homes were only allocated to households with a Strong Local Connection; criteria which was consulted on as part of our Neighbourhood Plan process.

Once these principals had been established, the CLT and the 'A Different Approach' team entered into a collaboration and joint planning application to deliver 18 social rented units at the pilot site at Collaton. All planning and design costs were met by ADA as part of an integrated all-encompassing housing offer; the site was remediated, serviced and ready to go, transferred to the CLT for £1 and the homes will be built by the ADA team under an open book contract. The homes are owned by the CLT on behalf of our community and, most importantly, as they are not eligible for 'Right to Buy' will be retained in perpetuity for generations to come.

### Community-Led Housing

Through extensive consultation they sought to accurately understand the housing need and demographics of the community. This ensures the range of needs identified, results in a scheme which provides for those of all ages and incomes, now and into the future. When recommending conditional approval for the Collaton pilot scheme, the planning officer stated that significant meaningful public consultation took place both before application submission and since, including.

- A consultation website ([collatonpark.com](http://collatonpark.com)) where a feedback form was available.
- On site public consultation events
- Virtual presentations and consultation events
- Village Hall consultation events
- Building on the evidence derived from focus groups and consultation undertaken by the CLT and during the Neighbourhood Plan process especially for the hard-to-reach groups
- Consultation with the Parish Council which continued right up to approval.
- Numerous presentations for local people, existing residents and Community Groups Of the consultation responses received (173 online forms and 182 from the various events) 90% were from people with a local connection, representing all age groups fairly evenly, although slightly higher in the 25 to 34 age brackets.



### Commercial / Employment Units

- Available for rent, sale or on a shared ownership basis (through a SIPP/SASS) to support local business and employment opportunities.

As a result of this evidence the Local Authority have allowed us to apply the Newton and Noss Local Lettings Policy to ALL the Affordable housing tenures which ensure local people can remain, but those displaced also are able to return to the community. Most respondents stated they would support new homes (both open market and affordable), of an appropriate mix to cater for a range of community needs, including:

### Responding to the challenges

- Bungalows (over 55's) for shared ownership, rich in technology enabling older persons to stay in their homes for longer.

- Downsizing Owned by the CLT and protected from Right to Acquire for those in highest need Social Rent Open market homes designed to accommodate three generations or more.
- Preventing loneliness and assisting in childcare & living costs.
- Multi-Generation Homes Enabling home ownership following a period of subsidised rent and gifted deposit.
- Affordable Rent to Buy A tailored mix of smaller, more affordable homes enabling providing a lower entry level for first time buyers.
- First Time Buyer Homes
- Discounted serviced plots with planning, enabling people to design and self-build or commission the build of their home.
- Affordable Custom/Self Build 35% of respondents stated they had had to move out of the parish to find more affordable accommodation.

### Transferable Model

They believe 'A Different Approach' provides a transferable model to rural housing delivery, with tenures to cater for all ages and demographics, throughout England, enabling communities to work with delivery partners to secure the types of homes they really need.

- Fairer Distribution of Planning Gain "Planning Gain" typically only benefits the landowner and promoter. ADA focus on bringing sites forward for development, which wouldn't ordinarily be considered policy compliant.
- By working together - with a delivery partner, avoiding land agents, promoters and main contractors reduces costs and maximises the outcomes for the community.
- Working with a delivery partner will ensure the wealth created through planning gain is distributed more evenly across the scheme for the benefit of all and produce better outcomes.
- More Choice and Less Risk Community Land Trusts and Not for Profit Groups are well placed to identify local need, but often unable to finance and deliver on their housing requirements.
- Working with a delivery partner reduces financial risk and increases likelihood of success and can help provide greater flexibility to specify the housing tenures and models which best respond to the community.

### New ACRE CEO

Please find attached details of Northants ACRE new CEO, with effect from 2024.



### Community Tree Planting Grants

The UK Community Tree Planting Programme aims to support community projects that will:



- Conserve, restore and protect indigenous trees and woodlands, forests, habitats and associated biodiversity.
- Support community engagement in tree planting to promote reforestation and to increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.
- Encourage social cohesion and inclusion.

To be eligible, your organisation must be community-based e.g., a school, community group or non-governmental organisation. There are two tiers of funding available:

- Small scale: A maximum of £1,000 is available for projects of up to 1 year in duration. This could be small community woodland, orchards, hedging projects, etc.
- Larger scale: Projects to range from 1000 – 10,000 trees, with a maximum price equivalent to £1.50/tree (inclusive of tree protection). Most suitable for community woodland or hedging projects.

Applications can be submitted from June onwards with a final deadline of 15 December 2023.

UK Community Tree Planting Grant — International Tree Foundation

<https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/uk-grants>

## 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:

#### Determined or Cancelled:

- 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.
  - WNS/2022/0904/MAO Manor Oak Homes, Outline application for sixty-seven homes, Land at Stratford Road Deanshanger-Withdrawn
  - WNS/2021/0450/MAF Barwood Homes, fifty-two new dwellings with associated open spaces, roads, and drainage infrastructure. Land South of The Wharf, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire-Hearing-Dismissed
  - WNS/2022/0071/MAO Outline for 32 dwellings on Land off Blenheim Rise, Kings Sutton Hearing -Dismissed

#### Appeals to be determined.

- WNS/2022/1525/FUL Full Planning Permission Land North of Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire Cogenhoe. Outline planning permission sought for up to two self-custom build dwellings, with access for consideration. Full planning permission sought for restoration works to existing brick lean-to structure.



## Second Phase of Brownfield Land Release Fund

DLHUC has launched the second phase of its Brownfield Release Fund 2, equating to £60m of the £180m fund.

More than 6,000 homes will be built on brownfield sites across the UK, with funding awarded directly to councils so they can release the land.

In the East Midlands:

- Derby City Council—£570, 686
- Leicester City Council—£713,435
- West Northamptonshire—£750,000

Amber Valley received £1,033,901 in phase one of the fund last November.



## Levelling Up Bill Receives Royal Assent

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent and is now law, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has announced. In a statement released 26 October 2023, DLUHC said that the new laws would: “speed up the planning system, hold developers to account, cut bureaucracy, and encourage more councils to put in place plans to enable the building of new homes.”

The measures in the Act will change the planning system in many ways, including:

- Local planning authorities would be required to have a design code in place covering their entire area.
- the Act will replace the current section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regimes with a new Infrastructure Levy.
- the scope of local plans will be limited to ‘locally specific’ matters, with ‘issues that apply in most areas’ to be covered by a new suite of National Development Management Policies
- The ‘duty to co-operate’ will be dropped, and time limits prescribed for different stages of plan preparation.
- Planning authorities will have the power to instigate auctions to take leases on vacant high street properties.
- Authorities will no longer have to maintain a five-year supply of housing land if they had an adopted local plan.



More information about the bill can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/.../new-laws-to-speed-up-planning...>

## HOUSING

### Northampton Landlord Guilty of Operating Unlicensed HMOs

A Northampton landlord has been found guilty of operating eight unlicensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and a range of breaches of the HMO Management Regulations 2006.

On 10 October 2023, Northampton Magistrates Court found Mr Faiz Hammed, of Moulton Grange, and three others guilty of operating the eight properties across Northampton without a licence under the



Housing Act 2004. West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Housing Enforcement Team initially inspected the properties, located in Hinton Road, Obelisk Rise, Culworth Crescent, Kingsthorpe Avenue, Aynho Crescent and Chalcombe Avenue, in late 2019 and early 2022.

During this time officers found a significant number of failings in the HMOs regarding fire safety, cleanliness and maintenance, and effective arrangements for the disposal of waste.

At the hearing last week, the District Judge described Mr Hammed as being the 'controlling mind of the operation', which also included his brother Mr Ahmed Saeed, of Dixon Road Northampton, who pleaded guilty to his involvement with one of the properties; and Ms Victoria Cebotari, of Icknield Drive Northampton, who pleaded guilty to her involvement in two of the properties. Mr Waheed Ahmed, a further relation to Mr Faiz Hameed, pleaded guilty to his involvement with one of the properties and has been sentenced previously. The District Judge deferred sentencing in the case to 1 March 2024.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Streetlights Upgrade to Latest LED Technology

Streetlights across Northamptonshire to be upgraded to the latest LED technology. Works to upgrade over 44,000 streetlights to the latest energy-efficient technology will start across Northamptonshire next week. Both North and West Northamptonshire Councils have declared a climate emergency and the authorities are taking steps to reduce energy consumption. Over the next two-and-a-half years, Balfour Beatty Living Places will upgrade the current lights to LED, a move that will reduce CO2 emissions in the county by an estimated 1,091 tonnes of CO2 a year.



The new LED lights will also bring a range of additional benefits, including white light, which is linked to improving community safety, a reduction in light pollution and greater energy efficiency.

The lights will be replaced as part of regular maintenance rounds carried out by Balfour Beatty, making the process more efficient.

Balfour Beatty took over responsibility for streetlights in Northamptonshire in 2011 under a 25-year PFI deal with the former county council. The streetlighting stock was initially replaced by standard lamps as LED was an

emerging technology with relatively high unit prices and unproven life span.

### West Northants Journey Towards Net Zero

WNC recently launched the 'Towards a Net Zero West Northamptonshire' (TANZ West Northants) project in partnership with the University of Northampton. As part of that project, they are running expert led webinars for local businesses, with a Q&A session being held last month. The recording of this webinar is available online.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_kKXrIGvYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_kKXrIGvYY)

The next webinar, "Navigating the road to Net Zero - The Whys and Hows", is happening at 1pm to 2pm on Tuesday 14 November. The webinar will provide crucial knowledge and insight into how attaining Net Zero can secure a more sustainable and profitable future for businesses. To book a place on this webinar please visit the TANZ West Northants website.

<https://slipah.co.uk/.../tanz-webinar-navigating-the.../>

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### Local Area Partnership Rural East

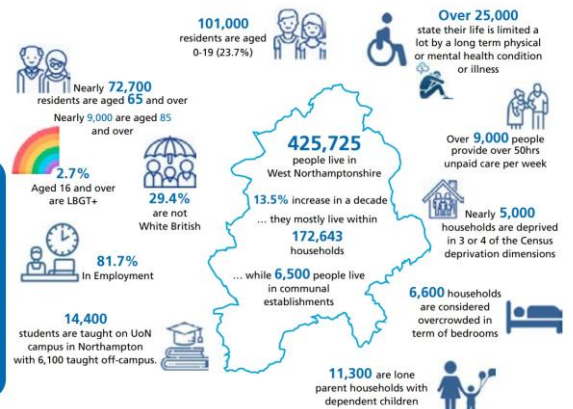
The next meeting of the Rural East LAP meeting takes place 7 November 2023 at 3.00pm. The date of the following meeting is 12 December at 1pm.



Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall have registered to be a chatty café they will receive a toolkit, promotional material, and support from WNC Communities Team. We've got two in the area, Towcester library and Cogenhoe. Towcester library

### Our current position in West Northamptonshire

The diagram (right) explains the population of West Northamptonshire and highlights a number of key statistics, including 6,600 households are considered overcrowded in terms of bedrooms, 11,300 are lone parents with dependent children, 81.7% are in employment and nearly 101,000 of our residents are aged between 0 to 19.



started beginning of August and they're getting quite a lot of people.

### LAP Website Prototype

WNC Digital Team are building individual websites for each of the LAPs using a wire frame. The role of the LAP is to make sure that we have the right content. The front of the webpage will be a welcome and information about the area. There will then be information on meeting the LAP team, all the organisations that are involved in the LAP, along with information of the LAP. Information will also be included on how we're working together, what's happening in your area - including news and case studies about how we're working together, how we're able to improve things for people. This is very much asset based and about the strengths of the community and trying to build on that kind of good news.

#### Key health challenges that we face

- Our key health challenges are informed by our joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) and supporting themed fact sheets. (Link to JSNA summary and fact sheet)
- Social determinants and poverty set a pattern of poor lifestyle behaviours that compound poor health.
- We must take a preventative approach to poor health and tackle the social determinants whilst supporting people to have positive behaviours.

Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

There will be a dropdown menu to pick the closest area to you, where you will be re-directed to the relevant LAP webpage. The priority section will include information on the Family Hub and Welcoming



Spaces pilot site. Information could also be included on mobility, transport, access to services. It is expected the website will go live at the end of November.

More developments are needed on the Get in touch function. It will need to be some sort of generic e-mail address monitored by the LAP administrators to review emails and signpost where appropriate. We need to have photos of the local area. If anybody has flyers or photos that will be helpful to include. We will need to be careful to not overload the website with all the information we have access to. The proposition is to have a page with a link to different websites like the WNC Cost of Living page or the Wellbeing Launchpad. Information and photos on the website will constantly be updated.

We will consider including individual interactive maps, bigger than just the LAP area, because people travel and do not always work and live in the same place, including asset mapping. Making the website into a local repository of information that people can discover groups/associations. End user groups are being created to provide feedback on the development of the websites. WNC are exploring including welcome packs for new residents, with their council tax letter.

Also, we now have business intelligence support, each of our project leads has a dedicated Business intelligence partner. Discussions with Parish Councils in the area have highlighted the following they consider to be the priorities for their areas:

- Transport – access to services
- Men's health
- Children and Young People – youth engagement
- Older people
- Young parents
- Health and Wellbeing
- Funding

Engagement and communication with Parish Councils will be important for development of the LAPs.

The Welcoming Spaces programme continues to provide residents with a welcoming community space with the offering of a warm, trusted setting for people to socialise and access services tackling social isolation and cost of living challenges. We are inviting all spaces to re-register so we can update the online directory. There is also the opportunity for Spaces to become part of the Chatty Café Scheme to help reduce social isolation and loneliness. We are also working in partnership with the Action for Happiness movement and can receive toolkits/promotional flyers and training.

### **Welcoming Spaces Phase 2**

Rural East LAP is going to be the pilot for the roll out of phase 2 of the Welcoming Spaces, to provide wrap around support from partners and organisations that can help residents. WNC Employment support is now available in Towcester library face to face. It used to be online, but they're coming back face to face now. The sessions include money and debt advice, and they work with a lot of partners. There is Community Training Partnership for frontline workers and volunteers, the Hope Centre and Community law in partnership are doing online training about mental health, debt advice, substance misuse etcetera. A soft launch was held in August and the courses are free. The hard launch was at the end of September. It will be an incredible asset for our frontline volunteer workers, people who work in food banks and people who work as general practise social prescribers.

### **West Northants Draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

The public consultation for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS) has now closed. The final strategy was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval on the 28th of September. The Strategy is setting out how we will achieve delivery against each of the Live Your Best Life ambitions at a PLACE level. We are now in the process of working with the relevant partners for each of the 10 ambitions



to develop their delivery plans and scorecards to describe what's happening that will enable us to get to each of the ambitions and goals. These plans and scorecards will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board 5 Year Forward Plan are developing delivery plans which will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Each LAP will have its own delivery plan, taking into consideration what we want to measure.

### **LAP Draft Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference (ToR) have gone through the West Executive PLACE Board, providing clarity on the function, membership, and objectives of the LAPs. We plan to take it to the November Health and Wellbeing Board for final approval. It will go through the Daventry South Northants Forum meeting before it goes through to Health and Wellbeing Board. The ToR are generic now, but they will be made personalised for each individual local area partnership. Each LAP has a WNC Director aligned to it. Jane Carr is the Director for Rural East but is currently on extended sick leave. Governance around reporting arrangements for the LAPs needs to be developed. It is envisaged that at future meetings, discussions will take place around the progress of activities to deliver against LAP priorities.

### **Good Neighbours Scheme, Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council**

A Good Neighbours Scheme has been set up with Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council. The initial contact was made in October 2022. The Parish Council discussed the idea of a Good Neighbours Scheme and in June 2023 the NACRE Fieldworkers met in Cogenhoe to talk about the possibilities of funding a GNS. Part of the discussion was focused on safeguarding both volunteers and beneficiaries, and on the longevity of the scheme by its realistic goals for present and future community support, determined by volunteer capacity and skill set.



ACRE offered access to a bank of generic policies (Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Confidentiality, GDPR, Lone Working, Complaints Procedure, Volunteer Code of Conduct, DBS, Equal Opportunities, Risk Assessment and Financial Handling) for adaption to suit the Cogenhoe scheme, and offered suggestions for bank accounts, and insurance for volunteer groups and signposted them to SERVE for having DBS checks done. As the clerk had been given approval by the Parish Council to access funding streams for their continued work, she completed the NACRE application form for National Lottery funds in

the first week of July 2023. In this she evidenced where the money would be spent (no capital projects), which indicated that many different groups of people in the community would be reached and served by it. It was approved that week and funds were released. Since receiving funds, the Fieldworkers have been in contact about finding appropriate facilitators for community support groups. The NACRE fieldworkers continue to support the group after it is set up with their regular newsletters, e-bulletins with funding advice and online support meetings.

### **Peoples Voice**

At our recent local area partnership meeting I raised in the meeting that I had a conversation with Kevin Hewitson, Denton Surgery about how we can get the peoples' views direct to the heart of the Integrated Care System. The VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Assembly is in the process of putting together a peoples board for that very purpose and they asked Kevin to join a working group to help us to develop the project.

## Welcoming Spaces Programme

Following on from the great success of the Warm Spaces initiative over the winter 2022/23 we are now rebranding to The Welcoming Spaces programme as we enter year 2. The programme continues to provide residents with a welcoming community space with the offering of a warm, trusted setting for people to socialise and access services tackling social isolation and cost of living challenges. We are inviting all spaces to re-register so we can update the online directory:

**PROVIDING SPACES WITH  
RESPECT, DIGNITY & WARMTH**



<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost.../looking-warm-spaces>

There is also the opportunity for Spaces to become part of the Chatty Café Scheme to help reduce social isolation and loneliness. WNC is working in partnership with the Action for Happiness movement and can receive toolkits/promotional flyers and training.

WNC launched the 'The Welcoming Spaces Grant' in October. It was developed to support the creation and/or enhancement of Welcoming Spaces provided by the voluntary and community sectors across West Northamptonshire. If there are any other organisations/community spaces that would like to be involved, please apply online or contact me.

## Community Law Service

**Free drop-in  
advice service**  
For specialist debt advice and  
ongoing casework

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Independent
- ✓ Confidential

4th Thursday of the month  
**at Towcester Library**  
The Forum, Moat Lane, NN12 6AD  
**from 10am - midday**

2023: 26 October 23 November  
2024: 25 January 22 February 28 March

Find out more  
[communitylawservice.org.uk](http://communitylawservice.org.uk)  
01604 621038

Community Law Service held free drop-in advice sessions at our Welcoming Space Towcester Library from Thursday 26 October from 10am – midday.

Community Law Service (Northampton and County) is a registered charity and an independent provider of specialist social welfare advice. Their aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents through the provision of specialist advice in the areas of Welfare Benefits, Debt, Housing, Energy Advice, and Immigration.

Services range from one-off specialist advice to a comprehensive specialist casework service and representation at court or tribunal. They offer a mixed model of service delivery aimed at promoting equality of access to their services.

These drop-in sessions will be piloted for the next 6 months. The next session is on 23 November 2023.

## Flu Vaccination for Pregnant Women

Pregnant women in Northamptonshire are encouraged to take up the free flu vaccine offer ahead of the winter months.

Pregnant women, and their unborn babies, are at a higher risk of complications and more severe symptoms such as pneumonia, as the immune system naturally weakens during pregnancy. Pregnant women are also more likely to be admitted to hospital due to flu than the general population.

In 2022 – 2023 around 64% of those who were pregnant in Northamptonshire did not take up the Flu vaccination increasing the



likeliness of them catching flu. This year, Public Health teams at West and North Northamptonshire Councils and the NHS in Northamptonshire are encouraging pregnant women to get vaccinated as soon as they can.

We are already starting to see an increase in respiratory infections within the community and with the cold weather coming in there will be more mixing and movement indoors which will lead to an increase in the spread of Flu. It is therefore important that those who are pregnant get vaccinated as soon as possible.

It is also encouraged that those who are pregnant have their COVID-19 vaccination which can be given at any point during pregnancy and can be safely administered at the same time as the flu vaccination without any vaccine interaction.

reason for contacting you.

### MMR Jabs

The local NHS is urging Northamptonshire parents to check that their children are up to date with their MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccinations in the wake of measles cases rising across the country.

The easiest way for parents to check if their child is up to date with their MMR vaccination is to look at their red book. Anyone who can't find it can also ask their GP practice. If all doses, or one, have been missed, they can ask their practice how they can be seen to catch up and become fully protected.



MMR doses are FREE, and they are unlikely to need a GP appointment, as the MMR can often be given at an appointment with a practice nurse. The MMR is given at one-year-old and again at around three years and four months in readiness for starting school. The MMR vaccine is often given at the same time as the pre-school booster.

Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom will catch the disease if just one child is infected. Every region in England has reported confirmed cases of the infectious disease and cases to date are over double that of the whole of last year.

While measles can be mild for some children, one in five will require a hospital visit and the infection can lead to complication in one in 15, such as meningitis and sepsis. There is no specific treatment for measles, which is why Northamptonshire parents are being reminded that vaccination gives the best protection from serious illness.

### Health & Wellbeing Services to the Homeless Community

The Northampton Hope Centre, in collaboration with the Public Health Team at WNC, organised a successful Health and Wellbeing Day on the 20 October, benefiting over 45 individuals within the local community. This initiative aimed to provide crucial public health services to the

homeless community, with a focus on preventive healthcare measures. The Public Health Team offered a range of essential services, including COVID and flu vaccinations, NHS health checks, sexual health consultations, drug and alcohol support, HEP-C testing, stop smoking services, smear testing, and access to optical care.

Public health services play a pivotal role in enhancing the wellbeing of individuals and communities by preventing diseases and injuries, detecting health issues early and responding promptly to avoid the development of severe illnesses. Unfortunately, individuals experiencing acute hardship and homelessness face unique challenges in accessing healthcare, including barriers related to transportation and lack of structure to



their lives. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to health inequalities and have disproportionately poor health outcomes. Northampton Hope Centre is a charitable organisation dedicated to providing vital support to individuals experiencing hardship and homelessness in Northamptonshire. We are delighted to continue our collaborative working with the Hope Centre and our other health system partners. People who are homeless experience many barriers, particularly with accessing healthcare services. By coordinating a wide range of health services at this event, we hope to have made a positive difference to the health of many of Hope's service users. This initiative is particularly significant at this time of year, as we go into the winter months when there is an increased risk of illness and infection amongst this vulnerable population.

### Raising Awareness of Cervical Cancer

As 1 in 3 of those eligible have not yet received their cervical screening, Public Health in West Northants are calling all eligible residents to either attend or book their appointment if they have missed it.

Women aged between 25 to 64 are offered regular cervical screening (also known as a smear test) through their GP to check the health of their cervix and look for early signs of changes which can be caused by the onset of cervical cancer.

- Those aged 25 to 49 will be offered a screening appointment every 3 years.
- Those aged 50 to 64 will be offered the screening every 5 years.

In addition to the above, children in year 8, aged between 12 and 13 will be offered the Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) which reduces the chance of HPV, a common virus that's spread through skin contact, usually when having sex and can be linked to an increased risk of cervical cancer spreading. Vaccination clinics will be held at schools across West Northamptonshire, please look out for your child's invite. It is important to discuss this with your child and respond promptly to give consent and avoid missing this opportunity to protect your child's health.

For further information on Cervical Screening: NHS: Cervical screening

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/>

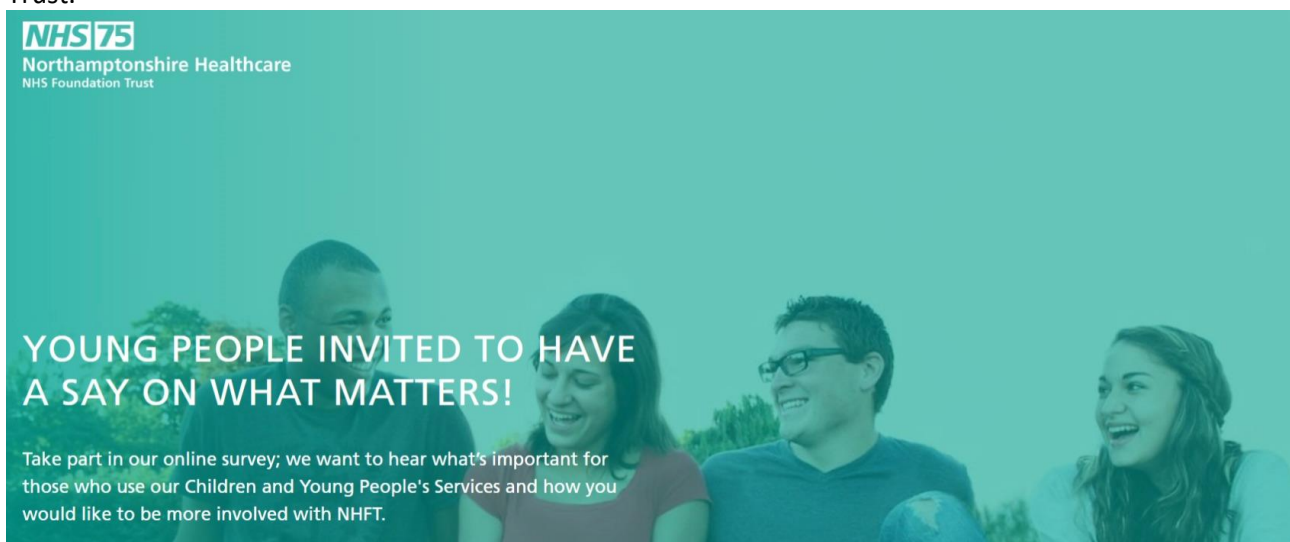
and for latest information on the HPV vaccine please see: Immunisation | West Northamptonshire Council

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health.../immunisation>



### Young People to have a Say on What Matters

Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust provides 39 Children and Young People's Health Services. The Board of Governors at NHFT are a very important group that help shape the future direction of the Trust.





One of NHFT's highlighted priorities is hearing from Children and Young People in our local population. They want to hear from young people to find out what's important for those that use our Children and Young People's Services and how to make sure they hear from young people frequently.

Contact: [Participation@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:Participation@nhft.nhs.uk)

This Survey will be open until Thursday 30th November 2023

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Are you thinking about Holiday Dates this Christmas 2023?

According to West Northamptonshire Council, these are the Christmas dates for 2023:

- Christmas holiday: Thursday 21 December to Wednesday 3 January 2024

### School Admissions for September 2024

Parents and carers of children living in West Northamptonshire can apply for a reception place in a primary or infant school, a year 3 place in a junior school, or a Year 7 place in a secondary school, for the September 2024 intake. Parents and carers will be able to apply up until midnight on the closing dates for both Primary and Secondary applications. Parents and carers can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years old on or before 31 August 2024. The closing date for applications for places in reception (and year 3 at junior school) is 15 January 2024 at midnight.



The closing date for applications for Year 7 places is 31 October 2023 at midnight. 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 National Offer Days and will be processed in monthly rounds. All on-time applicants will receive an offer of a school place on National Offer Days – 1 March 2024 for secondary places and 16 April 2024 for reception/junior school

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 an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, details of which can be found on the SEND admissions page. It is a big decision choosing the preferred school places for your child or children, whether it is for reception, year 3 or year 7 – all just as important but equally exciting for your child / children in the next step of their education journey. If you are unsure of how the process works or are not sure where to start please do look at the information available on our website.

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

### WNC Signs Care Leaver Covenant

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) celebrates National Care Leavers Week by signing the Care Leaver Covenant to formally pledge its commitment to support those who leave care to live independently.

The Council recognises the unique challenges that care leavers face and is committed to providing them with the help they need to thrive. WNC's commitment to the Care Leaver Covenant goes beyond the standard support provided by local authorities, focusing on

enhancing opportunities and improving outcomes for care-experienced individuals.



Signing the Covenant is WNC's pledge to support those leaving care to thrive by offering council tax and housing support to training and employment opportunities, work experience, partnerships with local businesses and much more.

The Council is also actively developing a range of work experience, placement, and shadowing opportunities for care-experienced individuals, complete with general and tailored support plans to help them achieve their educational, employment, and training goals.

Vera Burford, care experienced young person, said: "Leaving care and going out into the world on your own can be scary and overwhelming, but knowing that there are organisations that can provide extra support can really help. The Council have provided me a lot of support in my career, and I don't think I would be where I am now without that. I hope that by signing the Covenant other care experienced people can get that help too, and other organisations will be encouraged to join the covenant as well."

WNC's commitment to supporting care leavers also extends to seeking social value through procurement opportunities and fostering partnerships with local businesses to create meaningful opportunities for care leavers.

Residents and businesses can find out more about the Care Leaver Covenant here.

<https://mycovenant.org.uk/>

### **Mature Drivers Roadshow**

Are you a mature driver (aged 60+)? Live in Northamptonshire? Rely on being able to drive? This FREE roadshow is for you!

Driving is an important part of our everyday life and at the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA) we are keen to help to keep mature drivers driving safer for longer.



Our driving ability to drive changes over time for different reasons, especially as we get older. It's important that we recognise whether and how our driving is changing so we can stay safe and protect both ourselves and those around us.

This Mature Drivers Roadshow takes place on November 7, at The Icon Innovation Centre in Daventry, and there are two sessions to choose from – 9.30am and 1pm.

It is aimed at drivers 60+ and will cover all different aspects of driving. There will be a short talk and then plenty of time to meet informally with our many stand holders.

Advice will be available on car adaptations, eyesight, how your prescription medications may affect you, and much more including the opportunity to book a FREE IAM RoadSmart Mature Driver Assessments for a later date.

The event is being held on Tuesday 7 November at the Icon Innovation Centre, Eastern Way, Daventry NN11 0QB ([what3words.com/reduce.stealthier.handbags](https://what3words.com/reduce.stealthier.handbags)) with two sessions, 9.30am and 1pm.

Book your free tickets via Eventbrite:

9.30am - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../mature-drivers-roadshow...>

1pm - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../mature-drivers-roadshow...>

### **Autism Central**

Support is available for families and carers of autistic children and adults thanks to a new, free education programme being launched across England. Autism Central aims to build knowledge and understanding of

autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use.

Commissioned by NHS England and informed by or co-produced with autistic people, parents and carers, the programme offers one-to-one and group sessions complemented by high-quality online learning and information. Families and carers can also talk to people with similar experiences by joining workshops, drop-in sessions, coffee mornings or virtual meetups.



## Autism Central

Each session is delivered by parents and carers of autistic people who have been trained to share their knowledge and experience with others, as peer educators.

Autism Central is the latest example of the NHS's commitment to improving health outcomes for autistic people - including improving assessments and rolling out the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism for NHS staff, and enhanced autism training for psychiatrists.

The NHS is focused on investing in community services so people can receive support close to home, with the number of people with a learning disability or autistic people in mental health hospitals falling by around a third since 2015, despite the number of people diagnosed with autism increasing significantly.

The nine other organisations involved in Autism Central are Ambitious about Autism, Autism Alliance, Autism Education Trust, Autistica, British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD), Contact, Great Minds Together, National Autistic Society and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

Information, guidance and events are all available on the Autism Central website. Families and carers can explore topics such as diagnosis, employment and mental health, and find resources from partners and other trusted sources.

The programme is looking for more parents and carers of an autistic person to become peer educators and help others. To find out more, contact your local hub at

### Send Unit Opens at Chiltern Primary School

Chiltern Primary School located in Northampton, opened its doors to its new 30 place SEND unit called The Nest on 2 October, celebrated by a ribbon cutting ceremony that took place with students this week.

The Nest caters for children in Key Stage 2, Years 3 to 6 and is a designated specialist provision for children with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) diagnosis. Within the Nest, staff use Autism specific approaches such as Teacch, Attention Autism and Intensive interaction to deliver a bespoke curriculum based on students' needs. The curriculum offered to children across the provision is broad and is based on drivers such as communication, safety, independence and responsibility to help all students thrive.

After extensive works have taken place at the school, The Nest is now open with the SEND students enjoying the specialist learning facilities with new classrooms offering an amazing view of the outdoor area, breakout spaces, new signage to offer privacy to the playground as well as the new, engaging play area that is available for use by all pupils at Chiltern Primary School.

The Nest at Chiltern is operated by Hunsbury Park Primary School and their specialist SEND staff. The new provision at Chiltern will see a further 15 Key Stage 2 places created from September 2024, taking the total number of places at this site to 45.

Hayley Rootes, Assistant Headteacher and Unit Lead at Chiltern Primary School said: "We are thrilled to open our new Nest provision at Chiltern Primary School and offer provision for 30 more children. It has been fantastic to see students in class, accessing Autism specific approaches and making friends with their





peers. Staff have worked hard to ensure that the new provision follows a consistent approach across both sites.”

### **Youth Offending Services Praised by Inspectors**

The first inspection of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) since the inception of Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) and the establishment of the two unitary councils has found that the service is ‘good’. The quality of resettlement policy and provision was also inspected, which was separately rated as ‘Outstanding’. Inspectors found that ‘delivery of work with children was of a consistently high standard’ which in turn meant that there are ‘positive working relationships with the children’ and they ‘positively engaged with the YOS and could access appropriate services to support them.’



Children and young people were approached for comments as part of the inspection, and they said:  
"My YOS worker is absolutely amazing. They have helped me through a lot, and I can't thank them enough. Ever since they came into my life a lot of things have changed for the better."

"My YOS worker not only taught me why what I was doing was wrong but also treated me with respect and supported me mentally as well and is helping me to understand my emotions better and how to deal with things that have happened in my past."

Northamptonshire YOS sits within NCT and works in partnership with North and West Northamptonshire Councils and partners such as health, police, education, community safety partnership, and other key stakeholders who all sit on the YOS Board.

The Board are committed to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people, and the community. In the report, inspectors ‘found an effective partnership’ and ‘Board members who take an active role in developing the work of the YOS’ they also saw ‘some excellent examples of board members advocating for the work of the YOS in their own organisations, with a clear focus upon improving outcomes for YOS children.’

We are extremely pleased that the fantastic work of our Youth Offending Service has been recognised in this inspection. We have an incredible team that work collaboratively with our partners to support young people, giving them every chance to succeed.

I would like to thank all the staff involved and I am certain their commitment to achieving the best outcomes will be reflected in future inspections.  
Youth Offending Service

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING**

### **Community Funding Grants**

I have a document entitled Rural Funding Digest October 2023, which may provide further options for you. If you are interested in receiving a copy, then please contact me via email: [stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk). You will need to check your eligibility for the various grants.





## Abington and Fish Street Transformation



West Northamptonshire Council is working in partnership with Kier Transportation to regenerate Abington Street and Fish Street in Northampton Town Centre. As part of the project, Kier will carry out vital works to enhance and improve the appearance and paving of Abington Street and Fish Street through delivering new paving and seating, additional tree planting, enhanced landscaping, and the introduction of new lighting.

With investigatory works starting in September, and preparatory works set for November, once complete the project will positively revitalise one of the busiest commercial and pedestrian routes through the town's main shopping street.

Kier and WNC are liaising directly with businesses in the area to keep them up to date on the progress of works. As part of this, there will be a dedicated single point of contact for businesses throughout the project.

The redevelopment will complement the wider regeneration of the town centre, including the Market Square transformation, and provide enhanced connectivity with the rest of the town.

To stay up to date with the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre, visit: [www.wearenorthampton.com](http://www.wearenorthampton.com)

## Monthly Drop-in Sessions to help find a new job.

Residents in West Northamptonshire are invited to attend a range of free monthly drop-in sessions to access the help they need to identify sustainable, local opportunities and benefit from dedicated support to land their dream job.

The drop-in sessions will be led by West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Economic Growth and Inward Investment team alongside employment support partners including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Jobcentre Plus and many more.

The sessions aim to help as many people as possible become employment ready and find the best job for them, with support including job searching, updating CV's and cover letters, any training needs along with mental health support, volunteering, money advice and more.



The service is supported by many local businesses including Screwfix, Paisley Pear, Sainsbury's and Whittlebury Hall.

The sessions will take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month between 1pm and 3pm in the Watermeadows Room at Towcester Library and will run until 14 February 2024. Dates of the sessions are:

- 8 November
- 13 December
- 10 January 2024
- 14 February 2024

More information about the employment support service can be found on the WNC website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/free-employment-support>

## Funding to improve quality of life of older people.

Grants are available up to £7,000 for charities with an annual income of less than £350,000.

This programme wishes to fund preventative and early intervention programmes being delivered at the community level which allow older people to stay in their own homes and remain independent. They are particularly interested in seeking out programmes which show some creativity in improving the quality of life of older people. Programmes aiming to alleviate isolation and depression in older people, including informal day care or social, physical and recreational activities. Programmes which give practical help, assistance and support for older people living in their own homes. Programmes addressing the emotional and practical needs of older carers.



Programmes designed to meet the specific needs of people with dementia.

Applications will be considered every three months (March, June, September and December).

<http://www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk/older-people/>

### **Derelict Land Set to be Car Park**

An area of derelict land in Northampton town centre is set to be turned into a much-needed new car park after a major clear-up operation. The area of land is near Greyfriars in Northampton sometimes referred to as 'Rat Island' which is located close to the former Greyfriars bus station. The site has been inhabited by rough sleepers and drug users for some time, and as a result anti-social behaviour and other matters have required regular Police attendance.



The area has also become infested with rats due to litter and the general untidiness of the site. East Island is part-

owned by our Council, with the other part recently being acquired by Zone Developments; the company overseeing transformation of the former Debenham's site. In recent months WNC has been working closely with Zone Developments and the area has now been cleared and fenced off with the prospect of becoming a CCTV controlled car park within the next few months. Environmental Health teams have conducted a pest control operation to resolve the rat infestation and WNC Outreach Teams have been working closely with the homeless occupants to provide support and advice around alternative accommodation. All rubbish has been cleared and stone is being laid down. A planning application has been submitted and we are hoping the carpark will be up and running by Christmas to provide additional parking for Christmas shoppers.

### **WNC to be Host Authority for LEP Functions**

Week commencing 23 October 2023, the SEMLEP Board and Central Area Growth Board (CAGB), the group of Leaders from the area's six local authorities, approved recommendations for WNC to be the host authority to take on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions by 1 April 2024.

# **SEMLEP**

**South East Midlands**  
Local Enterprise Partnership

These include strategic economic planning, the Growth Hub, which supports and strengthens businesses, and the Careers Hub, which links schools and colleges with employers to create

world-class careers opportunities. The decision follows an announcement from Central Government that it would cease core funding of Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and for the LEP functions to be delivered by local authorities.

Working in collaboration, the six local authorities – Bedford and Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire – will build on the successes of the LEP to secure the future economic success of the Southeast Midlands region.

SEMLEP (Southeast Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership) and West Northamptonshire Council will now prepare for the transfer. Further work will happen over the coming weeks and months, led by the Central Area Growth Board, including shaping more detailed proposals for the engagement of local businesses. West Northants is privileged to be chosen to host these functions on behalf of all partners, and we will continue to work closely and collaboratively to support and strengthen business communities across our region and shape fresh opportunities for all.

### **West Northants Employment Support Service**

Are you struggling to write a winning CV or looking at ways to improve it further? If so, then this is the workshop for you. Join WNC and its employment partner, Key Business Skills, for a FREE workshop to learn tips on how to format, structure & create content for your CV.



This session will help you:

- Learn what should go into your CV (and not)
- Talk about yourself.
- Identify skills & strengths.
- Sell yourself.

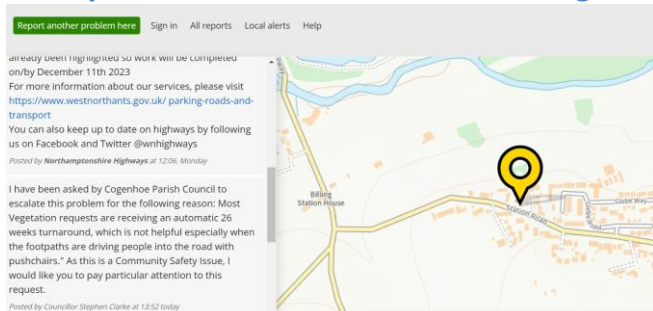
To be held at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, NN12 6AD on 8th November 2023 at 11 am - 12 pm

This workshop is only for residents based in West Northamptonshire aged 18+.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/free-employment-support>

## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **Fix My Street 4718666 now 4641502 Cogenhoe.**



I have been advised that Problem 4718666 is a duplicate of 4641502. I have escalated it again as Vegetation Requests are receiving an automatic 26 week turnaround, which is not helpful, especially when it is a footpath that results in people moving onto the road with pushchairs.

I have asked them to consider this as a Community Safety Issue. I will keep you updated. I received an update on 1 August 2023 confirming that it will be

completed within its original timeframe. At 7.51am on 16 October 2023, the item was updated to read 'Investigation: Completed (Defect Found), Defect Repair: Scheduled' to 'State changed to: Action scheduled.' Then at 14.37, 16 October the state was changed to: In progress.



## Community Transport Grants

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:

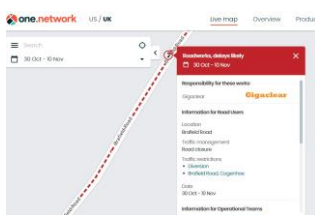
- Funding support for staff or volunteer training and costs.
- Funding to increase the number of vehicles available in the community to help organisations support disabled people.
- Funding local, regional, or national initiatives to increase awareness of community transport and influence its inclusion 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.

<https://www.motability.org.uk/.../community-transport.../>

## TTRO (23/24) W339 - Brafield Road Cogenhoe



Comex2000UK are intending on undertaking ducting works on behalf of Gigaclear along Brafield Road in Cogenhoe. To complete this work safely will require that the road is closed from the 30th of October 2023 until the 10th of November 2023.

The closure and diversion can be viewed [here](https://one.network/?tm=135418767)

<https://one.network/?tm=135418767>

## Newly Named Gritters

Look out for our newly named gritters in West Northants this winter. Thanks to the children of Croughton Primary, East Haddon Primary, St Luke's Primary and Brixworth Primary, our gritting fleet has winter-themed names and is ready to keep the roads safe this winter. We'll be posting daily gritting updates on our social media pages, and you can find out more about the gritting routes and other useful winter service information here:



<https://ow.ly/997950PY8cx>

## Parking Restrictions in Bridge Street

West Northamptonshire Council will be enforcing parking restrictions in the part of Bridge Street north of the Kingswell Street junction from Thursday 19 October.



A section of the street was closed directly after the fire at the former Balloon Bar, to ensure public safety as the structure was considered hazardous. The council is continuing its efforts to ensure timely work is carried out to make the building safe.

Since then, part of the road has been reopened, but parking restrictions were not enforced due to the need to see if this opening was possible to maintain,



and many people have taken the opportunity to use the parking free of charge during this time. It has been determined that the short stretch of road up to the safety fencing can remain open so parking restrictions will resume and any vehicles parking without a valid ticket or in contravention of any other parking restriction will receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

## M1 J15a Multiple Weekend & Night Closures

Please find enclosed details of M1 J15a Multiple Weekend and night closures from 27 October-17 November 2023.

## Funding for Expanding EV Charge Point Infrastructure

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has applied for and secured over £400,000 worth of funding from the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund. An initial £73,000 worth of funding was secured earlier in the year, and the Council have now



successfully received an additional £335,000 from the fund. The LEVI Fund is designed to support local authorities to develop their electric vehicle charge-point infrastructure. It has two main objectives, to transform the deployment of on-street EV charging infrastructure across England and to accelerate the commercialisation of the local EV charging sector. As part of the next steps WNC will go to the market to select the best partner to deliver EV charging across West Northamptonshire, using private investment alongside the Government grant to extend the range of opportunities across our towns and villages. Wider access to on-street EV charge-points will make owning an electric vehicle more convenient and increase access more readily available across West Northamptonshire. Increased use of EVs across West Northamptonshire will help the Council reach the broader residents and business 2045 net-zero carbon emissions target. The capability funding, which is what we have received so far, will enable the Council to build a team that will be responsible for developing an EV charging infrastructure strategy. Once we have a strategy in place for the planning and delivery of the charge-point infrastructure we will be able to apply for a £2.8m capital funding from the LEVI fund to implement the strategy.

## Community Transport Services in the UK

Last week, Kevwe Oghide from the Community Transport Association explained the impact of their work for rural areas:

Community Transport services in the UK encompass a diverse range of vital transport options, playing a crucial role in enhancing mobility and inclusivity within the wider transport network.

Dear Resident

### M1 J15a: Multiple Weekend and night closures 27<sup>th</sup> October – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

I'm writing to you on behalf of Winvic Construction Ltd about the current programme of highway improvement work at SEGRO Logistics Park Northampton, the new high-quality employment park in Northampton.

We want to notify you of a series of upcoming full weekend and night closures to complete the A43 carriageway upgrades off J15A commencing 8pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. The series of closures are listed below:

1. Full Weekend Closure 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct (8pm Fri – 6am Mon)
2. Full Weekend Closures 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Nov (8pm Fri – 6am Mon)
3. Night Closures 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Nov (Mon-Thurs nights 8pm-6am)
4. Full Weekend Closure 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov (8pm Fri – 6am Mon)
5. Night Closures 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov (Mon-Thurs nights 8pm-6am)

We are continuing to work with National Highways and West Northamptonshire Council to minimise the disruption whilst these works are completed, and the closure and diversion are shown on the attached map sent with this letter.

In addition to our work, National Highways and West Northamptonshire Council will conduct highway maintenance works within the closures along the A43 between J15a and Towcester. This will reduce the amount of traffic management required in the future.

We will keep you updated on the status of the works via regular newsletters which will include details of the Traffic Management and our progress throughout. These newsletters and the latest Traffic Management information will also be available on [www.slp-northampton.com](http://www.slp-northampton.com)

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the closure and diversion route or activity happening on and around the construction site, please do not hesitate to contact us:

**Construction Works & Onsite Activity**  
E: [ngw-enquiries@winvic.co.uk](mailto:ngw-enquiries@winvic.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

*S. Martin*

Scott Martin  
Project Director, Winvic Construction Ltd

These services utilise various vehicles, ranging from minibuses to mopeds, and include a variety of essential offerings such as voluntary car schemes, community bus services, school transport, hospital transport, dial-a-ride, wheels-to-work, and group hire services.

The importance of these Community Transport services cannot be overstated as they address the transport needs of diverse groups, including the elderly, disabled individuals, children, and those living in rural or isolated areas. By bridging these accessibility gaps, community transport services promote social inclusion, provide access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, and reduce carbon footprint through shared transport options.



Here are some ways Community Transport (CT) services are crucial:

- They promote inclusion: CT services ensure inclusivity by catering to a broad spectrum of passengers, including individuals who may have limited mobility, students requiring school transport, patients seeking access to healthcare facilities, and those who lack personal vehicle means.
- They are demand-responsive: Many CT services are demand-responsive, allowing passengers to be picked up and dropped off at their doorstep, ensuring convenient and personalised travel experiences. Moreover, an increasing number of these services have evolved to include scheduled routes, addressing transport gaps in areas where conventional bus services are limited or absent.
- They complement conventional transport: Importantly, CT services fill gaps in the existing transport, infrastructure. They operate in areas where commercial bus services may not be available or may not be able to meet specific needs. As such, they ensure that transport remains accessible to all, regardless of location or personal circumstances.
- They are sustainable and efficient: CT services often use efficient, eco-friendly vehicles, contributing to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, CT services are usually operated by local volunteers and organizations, fostering a sense of community and strengthening social bonds.

In essence, community transport services are a vital and often underappreciated component of the UK's transport network, offering a lifeline to those who may otherwise face barriers to mobility. CTA continues to promote the incredible work of the sector by increasing public awareness, showcasing Community Transport's impact to attract funding for the sector and working with transport authorities across the UK to amplify the role of the sector in enriching the UK's transport landscape.

### **North & West Northamptonshire Councils to Receive over £2 Million Funding**

The government has confirmed that more than £27 million redirected from HS2 funding will be available to bus services across the East Midlands over the next financial year- meaning both North and West Northamptonshire Councils will receive over £2 million. This is in addition to the bus fare cap of £2 remaining until at least December 2024. This initial funding of just under £28 million is the first chunk of an eventual £1 billion worth of new funding for bus services across the Midlands and the North-part of the



Network North Plan. It will be down to local authorities to allocate their slice of the budget but the total

£150 million to be provided across next year would be enough to support up to 25 million miles of new bus services.

As for the fare cap, that was supposed to rise to £2.50 but instead the “Get Around For £2” scheme will be extended to keep buses affordable and encourage the use of them. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak believes that the government’s support package and keeping bus fares down will “ensure the country’s favourite means of transport is more affordable for millions of people.

Local authorities may use the additional funding to reintroduce evening services to support the night-time economy, increase service frequency meaning less waiting time for passengers, introduce new routes to ensure areas previously unconnected are now connected or introduce a Demand Responsive Transport service to improve connectivity in rural areas.

A Department of Transport report suggests that over half of the respondents are encouraged to use buses again on the fairer fares which have cut prices down by as much as 11 per cent in some rural areas.

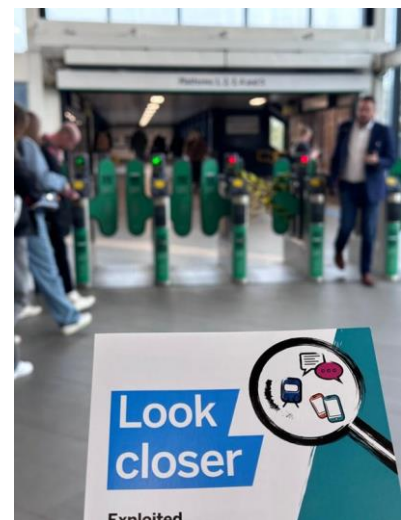
## **POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **WNC Joins with Police to Tackle County Lines**

Last week West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) joined Northamptonshire police to support the National County Lines Intensification Week of Action. Community Safety Officers visited Northampton Railway Station working with staff and the public to raise awareness around child exploitation; spotting the signs and how to report it.

The team also visited banks and independent phone shops distributing over 1,200 business cards and leaflets which detailed common locations to spot child exploitation and how to approach potential victims. Young people can be exploited anywhere. These are some of the common signs:

- Children travelling alone, especially if this is in school hours, late at night or on a regular basis. If they are being criminally exploited, they may be sent significant distances and may be missing from home.
- They may be lost or appear as though they are in unfamiliar surroundings.
- They may appear anxious, frightened, or angry, but they may also appear disruptive or aggressive - a common response to trauma.
- They could be in possession of multiple phones.
- They might appear under the control or instruction of others, including people who are older than them and do not appear to be family members.
- You may see them with large amounts of cash.
- Signs of a child being at risk online, could include them talking about older or new friends they have met online, talking about gifts, money or in game credits they have received online, receiving large numbers of calls or messages, being worried about being away from their phone and having a new phone or more than one phone.



More information around child exploitation and how to report it can be found on the Children’s Society website. If you are concerned about a child and think it’s an emergency, dial 999 or if it’s not an emergency call 101.

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/spotting-signs>

### **Ashton Theft of Materials**

We are appealing for information after items were stolen from business premises on Bozenham Mill Road, Ashton. The theft occurred between 4pm on the 25th of October 2023 and 8am on the 26th October 2023. A short wheelbase, silver Ford Transit style van has been seen recently actively scanning the area.

Did you witness anything? Did you see anyone or any vehicle(s) in the area that looked suspicious? If so, then please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101 quoting ref: 23000664595. Alternatively you can report online here:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/>

You can also pass on information anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> on 0800 555 111.

Further security tips and advice can be found on the Northamptonshire Police website: <https://www.northants.police.uk/> and on the Neighbourhood Watch website:

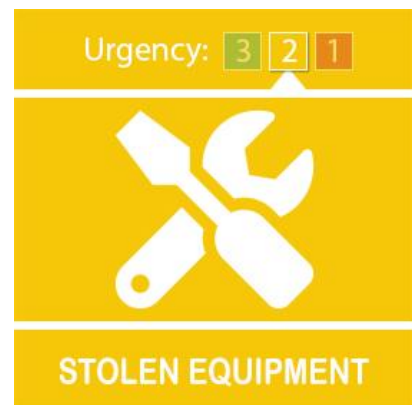
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/area/northamptonshire>

If you would like to contact your local policing team, visit the Policing in Your Area section of our website:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/.../neighbourhood...>

PCSO Matt Taylor

South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team



### **Specialist Team to tackle Domestic Abuse**

A specialist team set up to tackle the earliest signs of domestic abuse has helped more than 1,400 families in the first nine months of this year. Demand for their support is such that the number of domestic abuse specialists in the team has been increased from two to eight, to ensure they can continue to help all the families referred to them. Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has invested in a specialist team to focus on prevention and intervene early with young people to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on their life chances.



Two dedicated workers were then added to this team to

focus on domestic abuse and family conflict, so support can now be offered to families from the very first time they come to police attention, and further incidents can be prevented. When a police officer attends a call to domestic abuse, details of the incident are given to a multi-agency team that reviews every incident, every day to ensure that the highest risk are tackled quickly. This approach deals effectively with the more complex cases, but previously, there was no ability to tackle incidents that appeared to be lower risk, to prevent them escalating. The two specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners were added to the ACE Team in 2020 with the brief to engage with everyone who has been visited by police following a report of a domestic or family conflict incident that was lower risk.

The Domestic Abuse Practitioners follow up each incident and contact every family that has received a police response to an incident. They try to understand what has sparked an incident, offering help and advice and signposting to other sources of support.



Support can be given to both the victim and the perpetrator, as well as any children who might have seen domestic abuse.

Sometimes the Team find earlier incidents of abuse that had gone unreported and will ensure that the proper action is quickly taken to safeguard the family involved.

## CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

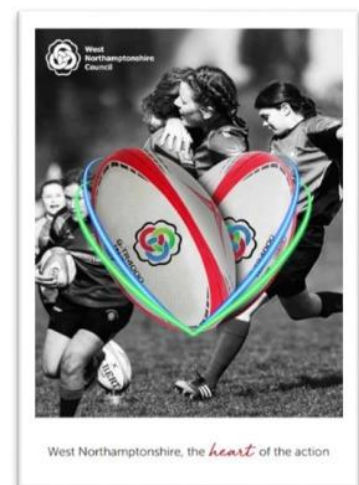
### West Northants to host Women's 2025 Rugby World Cup

West Northamptonshire will be taking part in the biggest-ever celebration of women's international rugby having been announced as a host for the Rugby World Cup 2025 – and the 2-year countdown kicked on 22 August. The 10th edition of the women's pinnacle global tournament is set to take place between 22 August and 27 September 2025, and will see matches taking place in front of a worldwide audience at Northampton's legendary Franklins Gardens stadium - home of the internationally renowned Northampton Saints.

The tournament will be the most accessible women's Rugby World Cup ever and will expand the reach of the game across the five-week period by bringing the world's best players to cities and venues across the country, including:

- Brighton and Hove – Brighton and Hove Albion Stadium
- Bristol – Ashton Gate
- Exeter – Sandy Park
- London – Twickenham Stadium
- Manchester – Salford Community Stadium
- Northampton – Franklin's Gardens
- Sunderland – Stadium of Light
- York – York Community Stadium

While the full match schedules and ticketing details will be announced next year, the milestone two-year celebration and confirmation of dates and venues provides the ability for fans across England to start to plan their Rugby World Cup 2025 experience.



### West Northants Approve Youth Justice Plan

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a statutory multi agency service, which has a responsibility to prevent offending and reoffending by those aged under 18 years who are resident in Northamptonshire. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services.

The plan covers 2023 to 2024 and sets out how, through the delivery of a range of services and interventions, the YOS will work hard to ensure that children and young people are kept out of the formal criminal justice system.

The plan also sets out the direction and strategy of youth justice services, describing how quality services will be provided to ensure positive outcomes for children and improvements in performance indicators, in particular: reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system:

- 1) reducing the use of custody
- 2) reducing reoffending rates
- 3) locally agreed performance indicators that evidence positive outcomes for children



The areas of work for the YOS are laid out in legislation, government policy and national guidance and are developed in partnership with key local strategic boards including the Community Safety Executive; Children Trust Board; Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Northamptonshire's North and East Criminal Justice Board.

These indicators are identified under three key priority areas:

- 1) Early Help & Prevention.
- 2) Recognising and responding to child exploitation and serious youth violence.
- 3) Tackling disproportionality in the criminal justice system

### Remembrance Day Ceremonies

WNC is proud to be supporting several Remembrance ceremonies, parades and events led by Town and Parish Councils across West Northamptonshire. Are you planning an event for Remembrance Day? Let WNC know to support the promotion of these events to our communities through our Armed Forces Covenant Northants website.



Here's how you can make a difference:

1. Shine the spotlight on your event. If you've got something planned for Remembrance Day, tell us about it at [Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk). Let's make sure your event gets the attention it deserves.
2. Join the Covenant: Remembrance Day isn't just about ceremonies; it's about standing in solidarity with our Armed Forces Community whether you're serving, have served, or are part of a military family.

If you're part of a Town or Parish Council that hasn't signed the Armed Forces Covenant yet, why not consider it? It's a powerful way to show your commitment to those who've dedicated their lives to our nation. Want to know more? Contact our Armed Forces project team at [Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk)

### Armed Forces Advice and Support

We know that Remembrance can be a difficult time for many members of our Armed Forces Community, as we remember those who have sadly been lost. The Armed Forces Covenant Northants website has lots of information on local support services and groups who can help – please do signpost to this information and encourage anyone who needs help to come along to one of our Armed Forces Community Hubs below:

- Friday 24 November, 10am-12pm at Brackley Library, Manor Road, Brackley, NN16 0AY
- Tuesday 28 November, 10am-11:30am at Brixworth Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS
- Monday 4 December, 2pm-3:30pm at Daventry Library, The Abbey Centre, Daventry, NN11 4XG
- Wednesday 6 December, 12pm-1:30pm at the Bridge, 63c Gold Street, Northampton, NN1 1RA
- Tuesday 12 December, 2pm-3:30pm at Towcester Library, The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AD

This Remembrance Day let's come together and show our gratitude for the sacrifices made by our heroes. Your involvement can make a world of difference.

Reach out to us at [Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk) to share your Remembrance Day plans, or take that important step of signing the Covenant to create a lasting impact.

**Councillor Stephen Clarke**  
**Member for Hackleton and Grange Park**  
**West Northamptonshire Council**  
[stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk)