

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT DECEMBER 2024



E-Newsletter Issue 12/2024

Hart & Soul Choir
Leading Community Singing
At Hartwell Parish Council Christmas Tree Switch On
Forest Road, Northampton, NN7 2HE
30 November 2024

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NEWS REPORT DECEMBER 2024

Monthly Highlights

The works are now being scheduled to implement a 50-mph speed limit to replace the national speed limit signs on the entrance to and exit from Little Houghton and will be completed by 20th December at the very latest.

Following my recent initiative with Dan Johnson, WNC Street Cleansing Supervisor, Yardley Hastings Parish Council is engaging constructively with WNC re the fly-tipping in the layby.

On Friday, 29 November 2024, I participated in a WNC Briefing with our local MP Sarah Bool on the ongoing Billing Aquadrome situation including the plans that the owners have put forward to resolve the issues. A multi-agency task group established to look at a more long-term solutions for the site has met regularly and identified potential measures. The Council and the owners have set these plans out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). See my monthly report. At the meeting it was reported that following recent events the new owner has decided to permanently close Cogenhoe Mill. I have no further information at this stage.

I met with Adam Brown, Council Leader and officers on 19 November 2024 to discuss the changes to the Arriva 33/33A Bus Service currently funded by MKC affecting West Northamptonshire passengers travelling to school, college and work in Northampton. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review the briefing paper with my annotated comments.
- Discuss the BSIP Funding
- Consider my email of 18 November 2024
- Agree a plan of action to resolve the problem.
- Discuss the other Bus service issues in Hackleton & Grange Park

It was agreed that Members and Officers should meet with petitioners and parish councils to discuss the situation and that everyone would have an opportunity to feed into the needs study when that commences. WNC is committed to reviewing how best to meet the transport needs of the residents in future. This will be raised at the next Enhanced Bus Partnership (EP) meeting, with a view to allocating BSIP funding to a study of public transport need in the area and identify preferred options for meeting this. This study will coincide with the existing Milton Keynes City Council contract for the 33/33A service being up for renewal in spring 2025, so working with MKCC variations on the current contractual arrangement can be among the options considered. Other options could include investigating the Stagecoach X6 service. On 28 November 2024, Suzi Stocker and Lucy Wakelin spoke to BBC Northampton about the e-petition. Phil Larratt, the council's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "We will be carrying out a review into public transport need within the area and will be exploring options to mitigate some of the issues raised by residents early next year." The e-petition calling for a reliable bus service for Hartwell, Ashton, Roade, Quinton and Wootton has 341 petitioners and it will close on 6 December 2024.

The road markings on Northampton Road, Denton had been missing for some time and they needed to be reinstated as soon as possible (See My Monthly Report). Following my intervention, the work to reinstate the white lines was completed on 20 November 2024.

I am still working with WNC to address the issues with Post 16 transport from Denton to Wollaston School. See My Monthly Report

MHCLG has recently published a consultation which seeks views on introducing remote attendance and proxy voting in local authority meetings in England. The consultation closes on 19th December 2024. See my Monthly Report.

WNC and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) plan to form a formal partnership, to allow NHFT to provide Sexual and Reproductive Health services on the council's behalf from April 2025. Please give us your views before 17 December 2024.

WNC coordinates an annual consultation on school admissions for all schools in its area. This consultation is for school intakes for 2026 and is required for any proposed changes to school admission arrangements and it closes midnight 31 December 2024.

WNC and NHFT plan to form a formal partnership, to allow NHFT to provide 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (0-19 HCP) services, also known as 0-19 Universal Children's Services, on the council's behalf from April 2025. Please give us your views before midnight on Sunday 5 January 2025.

WNC has just begun a Polling District and Polling Place Review. Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places for UK parliamentary constituencies at least once every five years. Public consultation began on 15 November 2024 and runs until 3 January 2025. Please note the following changes:

- Castle Ashby Parish (Polling District SCHF) – the current polling place is Compton Estates Club, Castle Ashby, NN7 1LJ which serves 79 electors. It is proposed that Denton Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, Denton, NN7 1DT be used as the polling place for this polling district.
- Great Houghton Parish (Polling District NSCH) will now vote at Parsons Memorial Hall, Leys Lane, Northampton NN4 0AN due to the Community Governance Review boundary change.

We are proposing a new Direct Payments Policy for Adult Social Care. This policy will include direct payments for transport needs and changes to how carers' payments are managed. We are seeking your feedback to shape this policy. This activity closes midnight 19 January 2025.

We are inviting feedback on a draft Climate Change Strategy, which aims to achieve net zero emissions in West Northamptonshire by 2045, supporting the UK's 2050 target. The strategy outlines plans to reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, engage the community, and monitor progress. This consultation closes midnight 19 January 2025.

A series of cost-of-living roadshow events and pop-up stalls will be held across West Northamptonshire this winter to highlight the support available to residents. See my Monthly Report.

As widely publicised, traffic enforcement has been introduced in a phased approach at various locations in West Northants and from 15 November 2024, an enforcement camera at the Horse Market junction with Marefair will go live where vehicles are prohibited from turning left travelling out of Marefair.

The WNC Cabinet approved new HMO licensing proposals on 19 November 2024, which will come into effect on February 24, 2025.

Downloadable bin calendars with information about waste and recycling arrangements for your area are available from our website. See my Monthly Report.

On a separate note, I have been approached by a local farmer, who wanted to meet Sarah Bool, MP to discuss the changes to inheritance tax on farmland. Sarah met with the local NFU and Farmers in London at the demonstration on the 19 November 2024 and will be arranging a meeting with local farmers in due course. Please let me know if there are any other farmers who wish to be involved in a meeting with Sarah when it takes place.

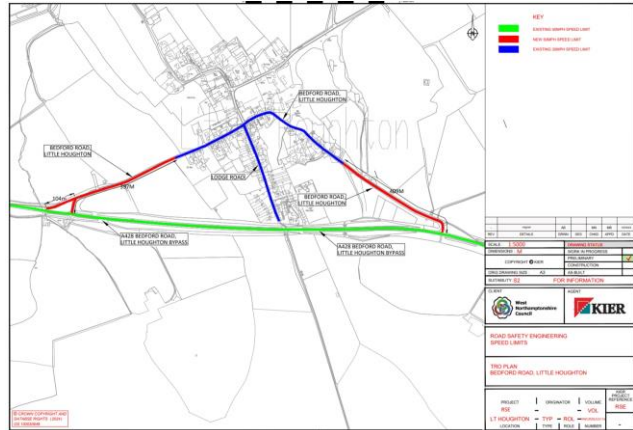
Thank you for placing your trust in me throughout this year. It's been a privilege to serve you and tackle the many challenges we face. I hope to see you all before Christmas, however, if not, then I wish you all the very best and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

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

All the Best, Steve

PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Speed Limit Proposal for Bedford Road, Little Houghton, WNC Reference P2023



The works are now being scheduled to implement a 50-mph speed limit to replace the national speed limit signs on the entrance to and exit from Little Houghton and will be completed by 20th December at the very latest.

Fly tipping in closed off layby in Yardley Hastings

Following my recent initiative with Dan Johnson, WNC Street Cleansing Supervisor, Yardley Hastings Parish Council is engaging constructively with WNC re the fly-tipping in the layby.

Briefing on Billing Aquadrome 29 November 2024

On Friday, 29 November 2024, I participated in a WNC Briefing with local MPs Mike Reader and Sarah Bool on the ongoing Billing Aquadrome situation including the plans that the owners have put forward to resolve the issues. A multi-agency task group established to look at more long-term solutions for the site has met regularly and identified potential measures. The Council and the owners have set these plans out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/future-billing-aquadrome-memorandum-understanding>

The new owner has decided to permanently close Cogenhoe Mill. I have no further information at this stage.

At Full Council meeting on Thursday, 28 November 2024, members unanimously supported plans to work



closely with the government's Floods Resilience Taskforce, Environment Agency, and other agencies to review flood defences and improve the resilience of its communities. Councillors supported a motion pledging to step up West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) close working with partners on long-term solutions as the area continues to see more frequent and severe weather events. Key to this will be the Council progressing the work to update the Local Flood Risk Strategy and seeking a review of existing flood defences by the Environment

Agency areas to see the greatest impact from storms and heavy rainfall. WNC will also further develop, enhance and inform communications to the public, particularly around who to contact in an emergency and the support available. It will also progress plans to recruit more specialist officers to its specialist in-house flood team which investigates all flooding incidents and lessons learned to act upon. Over the past week residents and businesses experienced severe flooding from Storm Bert, which saw river flows higher than in the 1998 floods, prompting the area to receive the only severe flood warning in the country. The flood defences in the centre of Northampton, built following the devastating 1998 flooding, significantly reduced the risk to the 2,200 residential and 300 commercial properties flooded in 1998. Among the next steps will be the production of section 19 reports, which are produced in collaboration with a number of agencies following major flood events and will make recommendations for future plans and mitigations, and ensuring our area's flood risk strategy is up to date and fit for purpose. Residents will have the opportunity to have their say on the strategy work. WNC will continue to keep everyone updated as this important work progresses. For further information on flooding advice and flood risk management, visit the WNC website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/flooding-and-flood-risk-management>

Arriva 33/33A Changes

I met with Adam Brown, WNC Leader and officers on 19 November 2024 to discuss the changes to the Arriva 33/33A Bus Service currently funded by MKC affecting West Northamptonshire passengers travelling to school, college and work in Northampton. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review the briefing paper with my annotated comments.
- Discuss the BSIP Funding
- Consider my email of 18 November 2024
- Agree a plan of action to resolve the problem.
- Discuss the other Bus service issues in Hackleton & Grange Park

At the meeting on 19 November 2024, it was agreed that Members and Officers should meet with petitioners and parish councils to discuss the situation and that everyone would have an opportunity to feed into the needs study when that commences.

WNC is committed to reviewing how best to meet the transport needs of the residents in future. This will be raised at the next Enhanced Bus Partnership (EP) meeting, with a view to allocating BSIP funding to a study of public transport need in the area and identify preferred options for meeting this. This study will coincide with the existing Milton Keynes City Council contract for the 33/33A service being up for renewal in spring 2025, so working with MKCC variations on the current contractual arrangement can be among the options considered.



Other options could include investigating the Stagecoach X6 service.

After the meeting, I commented on the agreed actions and responses to the matters raised and suggested a follow up Teams meeting to discuss progress before the Christmas break.

On 28 November 2024, Suzi Stocker and Lucy Wakelin lead petitioners spoke to BBC Northampton about their e-petition. Phil Larratt, the council's cabinet member for highways and transport replied : "We will be

carrying out a review into public transport need within the area and will be exploring options to mitigate some of the issues raised by residents early next year."

The e-petition calling for a reliable bus service for Hartwell, Ashton, Roade, Quinton and Wootton has 341 petitioners and it will close on 6 December 2024.

Post 16 School Transport Wollaston

In September, I was contacted by two residents from Denton about Post 16 transport to Wollaston School. The Cost of School Transport increased from £600-£1,000 this year, if they lived in North Northamptonshire it would cost them £795 and they asked me to look into this difference in the charges. They had also escalated this to Sarah Bool MP. I raised the matter with Tom Callaghan and posed the following:

- Can WNC work with NNC to provide support for Post 16 children from Denton using Wollaston school such that the WNC parents are not disadvantaged.
- Can WNC charge those in the catchment area for Wollaston School at a rate that is compatible with NNC.

Tom Callaghan responded as follows:

- Price rise was subject to consultation
- Uplift was necessary to mitigate increased costs and better reflects cost of providing the service,
- Cost applies to all families
- If we apply a different cost because of their school setting it would create inequality
- Post 16 must be fair and equitable
- Can't confirm whether a buss pass is available until October Half Term

On 21 October I wrote back to Tom Callaghan Anna Earnshaw, Sarah Bool and Adam Brown. I reiterated my questions which remained unanswered. I had wanted WNC to have a discussion with their NNC partner to see whether they could have a more consistent treatment of pupils at Wollaston. When it was the County Council then the charge would have been the same for everyone yet now WNC pupils at Wollaston were being disadvantaged.

Despite several e-mails to Tom and other parties, I was unable to get the answers I needed.

On 13 November, I thanked Tom for his e-mail and asked the following:

- Can WNC consider whether we could match NNC's charging for those few post 16 pupils at Wollaston who reside in West Northamptonshire? This may be an isolated example of this type of problem.
- Alternatively can WNC negotiate with its NNC partner for NNC to divert an existing bus to pick up post 16 pupils in Denton using NNC home-school transport?



If we could achieve either of these approaches to the problem then the parents would be charged at the NNC rate. I met with Denton Parish Council on 13 November and provided an update with a request for the Parish Council to obtain information on the numbers of pupils affected. I have since heard that Wollaston School has 12 post 16 students on roll who live in Denton, 11 of them take the 356 School Bus and one Year 13 student who drives himself to school.

No Road Markings Northampton Road, Denton

There were no Road Markings at the junction of Northampton Road, Main Road and Bedford Road. I escalated this to Highways & Fix My street as there is a partially blind pedestrian who lives in the Leys and in order to walk from home to the church he crosses Northampton Road at the turning into Main Road and Bedford Road using the road markings to cross the road. As these road markings had been removed and he relied on these markings he is unable to navigate to the church on Bedford Road, which is one of WNC's Warm Spaces he visits regularly. The road markings have been missing for some time and they needed to be reinstated as soon as possible as he was no longer confident enough to make his journey safely. I was thrilled to hear that the work to reinstate the white lines was completed on 20 November 2024.



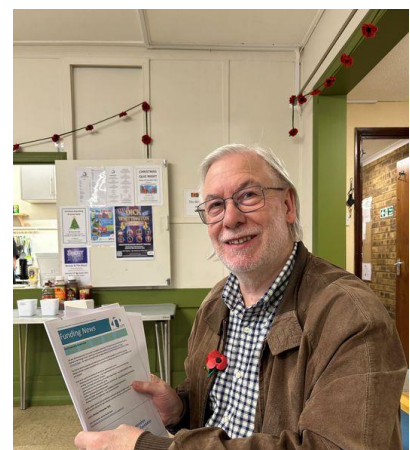
Quinton Coffee Morning 2 November 2024

On Saturday 2 November 2024, I attended the Quinton Coffee morning at St John the Baptist Church, Quinton and caught up with Barbara, Julia, Rev Mark, Barbara, Andy, Joan, and others. Open to all, the monthly first Saturday 10.30-12.00 coffee mornings provide an opportunity to relax and catch up with folks from the local community. The coffee and homemade cakes were most enjoyable especially the fruit cake. Well done, to those who make it happen. As always, everyone is always pleased to see you and offer a warm welcome, friendship and conversation to regulars and newcomers alike. I was able to hear more about the problems with the changes to the 33/33A bus timetable from those affected. Can you please let me know if you are directly affected by emailing me on stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk



Cogenhoe Community Support Desk 7 November 2024

On 7 November 2024 I went to the Tea Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall and caught up with Deborah Rush, Clerk to Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council. We spoke about a number of current matters including Grant Funding, Bus services and the upcoming LAP Summit. Rural Bus Services are a topic of concern elsewhere across Hackleton and Grange Park and I continue to chase the need for enhancements to the WNC Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Cogenhoe have a well used Village Hopper service but those living in Denton and Yardley Hastings are confined to using the 41 Bus Service. Why don't you join those of us attending the Act of Remembrance led by the Chairman of Cogenhoe Parish Council at the memorial on the playing field at 10.55am on Monday 11th November. Don't forget the next Cogenhoe Community Lunch Club is on 18 November 2024 at 12.30pm and the Christmas Community Lunch is on 13 December 2024 at 12.30pm.



Denton Coffee Morning 8 November 2024

On 8 November 2024, I visited the Denton Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church. It was good to catch up with Pat, Sheila, Alison, John, Carole and others. I missed Russell who wasn't there today. But there was a hive of activity as they were decorating the church with poppies and preparing for the Christmas Fair next week. The cascade of poppies is already hanging from the church tower. It is a cascade of thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies made by the 'Crafty Sew & Sews'. Residents of Denton had lovingly made the flowers of remembrance, which they had sewn onto a camouflage net. The eye-catching display was hoisted onto St Margaret's Church tower this week in good time for Armistice Day.

Denton Church is supporting Home Start with gifts for their Northampton Children's Christmas Party and I heard that they have already received 92 selection boxes which is only 8 short of their target. Well done to everyone involved.

Do try to join the St Margaret's Church Christmas Fair on Saturday 16 November 2024 from 11.00am to 2.00pm. You will be able to enjoy a bowl of delicious soup and a glass of mulled wine.



Great Houghton Coffee Morning 8 November 2024

On Friday 8 November 2024, I attended the Great Houghton Coffee Morning which takes place in the Great Houghton Village Hall on the second Friday of each month at 10.30 am. This delightful Community Coffee Morning is run by the WI and is very well attended by those from both Great and Little Houghton.

We arrived a little late as we had been to Denton earlier. However, it was great to meet Bill Hornsey, Northamptonshire Yeomanry who told me all about his visit to London yesterday. He had met with the Duchess of Gloucester who had visited the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey for a visit to the field of poppies on crosses, grouped together by regiment or arm of the Armed Forces. The field has been organized by the Poppy Factory every year since 1928. Queen Camilla was due to make an appearance at the installation, but due to her recent illness, the Duchess stepped in. Bill gave us a potted history of Northamptonshire Yeomanry which was a Yeomanry regiment of the British Army, formed in 1794 as a volunteer cavalry. It served in the Second Boer War, the First World War and the Second World War before being reduced to squadron level in 1956. It ceased to have a separate existence in 1971.

In 1944, as a part of the 33rd Armoured Brigade, the unit participated in the Invasion of Normandy, landing on Gold Beach in Normandy on 6 June. The brigade also included the 1st East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry and the 144 Regiment RAC. The Brigade's role was to support any infantry who were in need of armour support, therefore it rarely fought as one entity. One of the occasions when the Brigade did undertake an operation on its own was at Le Mesnil-Patry, Rots on 11 June 1944. Further battles they were involved in were around Caen, including Operation Charnwood on 7 July, the battle to capture Caen. On 16 July 1944, it was involved in Operation Pomegranate, where it came under the command of the 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division.

Bill shared many of his photographs covering his time as a Northamptonshire Yeoman and it was a great privilege for me to chat to him.

Afterwards, I was able to have a quick conversation with Mike Barham, Parish Councillor, Great Houghton Parish Council about a number of recent issues. The next meeting of this friendly and welcoming group in Great Houghton will be 13 December 2024, when I look forward to catching up with everyone again.



Act of Remembrance Hartwell 10 November 2024

On 10 November 2024, I was privileged to join in with the Hartwell Remembrance Day Parade and Service at St John the Baptist Church, Hartwell. We all assembled at the Hartwell Primary School at 10.45am. Then we paraded to the War Memorial on Forest Road at 10.53am. Once at the war memorial the Act of Remembrance began followed by a two-minute silence. Afterwards we continued to St John the Baptist Church for the Remembrance Sunday Service.



As you stand in silence, you can't fail to remember the fourth stanza of the poem 'For the Fallen' written by Laurence Binyon in 1914. Over time this poem has been claimed as a tribute to all casualties of war, regardless of state. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the

morning, We will remember them."

So, today in Hartwell, we all remembered the victims of war and all those who have died to help bring freedom and to help make the world a better place to live in. Thank you to Hartwell Parish Council for arranging this important event.

Act of Remembrance Cogenhoe & Whiston 11 November 2024

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns of Europe fell silent. After four years of bitter fighting, The Great War was finally over. The Armistice was signed at 5am in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne, France on November 11, 1918. Six hours later, at 11am, the war ended. After the end of the Second World War in 1945 Armistice Day became Remembrance Day to include all those who had fallen in the two World Wars and other conflicts. Armistice Day has been observed every year since 1919 with a two-minute silence at 11am on 11 November across the nation. As well as standing together in Remembrance on 11 November, we also observe a two-minute silence at 11am on Remembrance Sunday.



So, today in Cogenhoe, we all remembered the victims of

war and all those who have died to help bring freedom and to help make the world a better place to live in. At 11.00 am, at the Memorial on the Cogenhoe playing field, Councillor John Bailey laid a wreath on behalf of residents and two children from Cogenhoe Primary School laid a wreath on behalf of the school. Then we said the lines from Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."



This was followed by the "Last Post," which is used in public ceremonies commemorating the war dead and then we all observed two minutes silence concluding with "The Rouse (Reveille)."

Then we finished with "The Kohima Epitaph", commemorating those Allied troops who fell in the Burma Campaign.

"When you go home tell them of us and say -
For your tomorrow we gave our today."

The Youth Group had left a ring of poppies with the names of all the victims of war from Cogenhoe & Whiston and this had already been laid by the memorial. Thank you to Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council for arranging this important event.

Cogenhoe Community Lunch 18 November 2024

On 18 November 2024, I attended the Community Lunch at the Village Hall, Cogenhoe. It is a very well attended event which runs every 2 weeks and is the perfect opportunity to chat with others whilst having something to eat. Lunch clubs can help you forge new friendships, share good food and enjoy a selection of interesting activities. A special thank you to Deborah and helpers who are giving so much back to their local community.

Look out for the Community Outing on 21 November 2024 (see below).

The next lunch is on Monday 2 December 2024 so please book your place by emailing: clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk

Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council Invites you to the Community Christmas Lunch Friday 13th December 12.30pm-2.30pm in the Village Hall Tickets £15, which must be booked in advance by e-mailing clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk or telephone 07512 045418.



Organ Recital Little Houghton 19 November 2024

On 19 November 2024, I was privileged to attend an Organ Recital at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton, Northampton, Rost played the 1846 Hill



NN7 1AB, where Hannes Ludwig and Martin organ, which was originally from West Bromwich Parish Church and restored and installed at St Mary's Church in 2000 after it was meticulously restored to its original condition by Michael Latham, Organ Builder from Northampton, Northamptonshire.

Hannes and Martin are well known organists and organ advisers in Germany and are founder members of the Baltic Organ Centre, Stralsund.

Hannes is engaged in a detailed study of Hill organs in the UK and Martin's international Concert career has taken him to several European countries and the USA. On the Hill's Angels website <https://www.hills-angels.org/> Hannes Ludwig promotes Hill Organs and provides details of the first sound documentation of the Hill organ company including twenty historic organs built between 1832 and 1916. Since 1997, Martin has been organist and cantor at St. Mary's Church in Stralsund, which has an early Baroque organ by Friedrich Stellwagen from 1659. He has accompanied the restoration and reconstruction of more than 80 historic organs.

Last night, Hannes and Martin chose a programme that brought out the tone quality and flexibility of this modest Hill organ in Little Houghton. I particularly enjoyed hearing Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) Three Duettos for organ, 4 hands and Fran Lachner (1803-1890) Introduction and Fugue op. 62 for organ, 4 hands. This is the first time that I have seen two acclaimed organists play a 4 hands piece on such a small organ.

The organ is a rare surviving early work of William Hill-England's leading organ-builder during the middle years of the nineteenth century. It is a musical instrument of distinction, and the tone reveals Hill at his best. Yesterday evening with the combined talent of Hannes and Martin it became an instrument of considerable flexibility.

Finally thank you to John Ford for planning and hosting the evening and to all who worked so hard to prepare and serve the refreshments.



Little Houghton Parish Lunch 21 November 2024

On 21 November 2024, I attended the Little Houghton Parish Lunch, which takes place at St Mary's Church from 12-2pm on the third Thursday each month. It's a great way to catch up with friends and meet some new ones too.

The Little Houghton Community Lunch caters to the needs of the village, helping everyone stay connected and social. The delicious home-cooked meals are prepared and served by dedicated volunteers. If you would like to come along and make new friends, share your stories, and have a good time with other people in your local community then contact Joy Mayhew on 01604 890498. A special thank you to all those who make the lunch and the short service possible. The next lunch is the Christmas Lunch on 19 December 2024.

DSPG, Coffee@Carey Hackleton 26 November 2024

On 26 November 2024, I attended the fortnightly meeting of the Denton Surgery Patient Group (DSPG) at Coffee@Carey, Chapel Lane, Hackleton, Northampton, NN7 2AH. By 10.30am the various members from Denton, Little Houghton, Hackleton and other areas were arriving via the Transport Scheme which is provided by DSPG. If you are interested in finding out more then you can e-mail Sue Hayton: coordinator@dspg.me or telephone 07506 866298.



Although there wasn't a quiz today members of the DSPG group had a lovely time chatting with friends. It was good to catch up with Kevin, Liz, Jenny, David and others. Kevin told us all about the fun they had last time in trying to establish the location of some old Northampton Town Photographs. Indeed, there were many that left the group stumped and they were going to receive their results today, which might stimulate a further round of possible answers. Well done to the DSPG for organising this session, which was well received by all.

Why not try to come along to the Hackleton Good Neighbours Repair Cafe which is now operating. So if you need anything mending, please try to get there on the second Saturday of each month 10-12 in the Library at Carey Baptist Chapel. Well done to the WEB group for organising the event and thanks to Hackleton Parish Council for their support.

Denton Coffee Morning 29 November 2024



On 29 November 2024, 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 this morning. It was good to catch up with Sheila, Pat, John, Carole, Jane, Angela, Eric and others. It's always a great place to meet for coffee and a chat in Denton.

Today, I had arranged to meet Eric to discuss the slip road into Denton from Northampton. The road markings are very worn and not clear especially when wet. There had been some recent difficulties regarding motorists who were not giving way to people turning right into the village. I agreed that I would work on this matter with Highways. Once I have further news, I shall be in touch. There has been a great response to the request for selection boxes to give to children attending the Home Start, Northampton Children's Christmas Party. Well done to everyone who took part in this initiative.



Hartwell Tree Switch on 30 November 2024

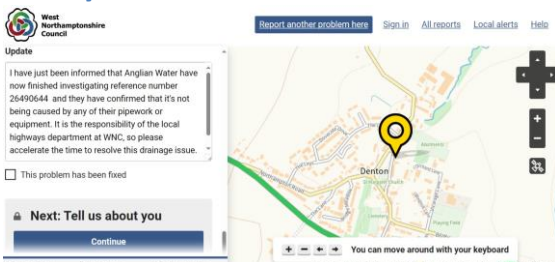


On 30 November 2024, I joined a large crowd eager to participate in the Hartwell Parish Council Christmas Tree switch on outside the Hartwell Club. The hot chocolate and mince pies served at 6.30pm were delicious and helped prepare us to sing along with the Hart and Soul Community Choir bringing lots of festive cheer to Hartwell. We had



a break at 7.00pm to watch the Tree lights being switched on by the Parish Council. Then we returned to our Community Carol Singing. What a great occasion and start to the Christmas festivities. Well done to Claire and all the Parish Councillors who worked so hard to make this event such a success. Thank you to the Hartwell Club for hosting and the Hart & Soul choir for leading the community singing.

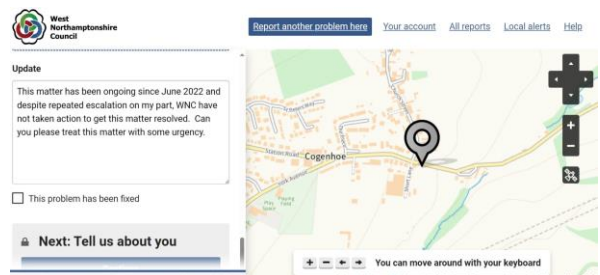
Fix My Street Denton 6624260



I have just been informed that Anglian Water have now finished investigating reference number 26490644 and they have confirmed that it's not being caused by any of their pipework or equipment. It is the responsibility of the local highways department at WNC, so I have asked them to accelerate the time to resolve this drainage issue.

Fix My Street Cogenhoe 3585915

This matter has been ongoing for quite some time and despite repeated escalation on my part, WNC have not taken action to get this matter resolved. I have raised the matter yet again requesting that it be treated with some urgency.



Fix My Street Cogenhoe 5231117

I have just been advised that this will be resolved by 15 November 2024. The sign has been taken down and there are no plans to replace the sign.

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.

Have Your Say on Sexual & Reproductive Health Services

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) plan to form a formal partnership, to allow NHFT to provide Sexual and Reproductive Health services on the council's behalf from April 2025. The agreement is called a section 75. It is a legal partnership between local authorities and NHS providers, allowing them to work together to improve services. It is established under the National Health Service Act 2006 and updated by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Before a partnership agreement can be put in place, WNC and NHFT are required to consult with anyone who may be affected by the arrangement to gather and consider feedback before finalising the agreement. Please give us your views before 17 December 2024 via the following link:



<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../subpage.2024.../>

Consultation on School Admission Arrangements

West Northamptonshire Council coordinates an annual consultation on school admissions for all schools in



Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2026 intakes

its area. This consultation is for school intakes for 2026 and is required for any proposed changes to school admission arrangements. The goal is to raise awareness of any changes to school admission policies and provide opportunity to make comments on proposals. For further information, detail on which schools are taking part, and how you can provide comments please visit: Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2026 intakes:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/school-admissions/school-admission-arrangements-2026/>

This consultation closes midnight 31 December 2024.

Have Your Say on 0-19 Universal Children's Services

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) plan to form a formal partnership, to allow NHFT to provide 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (0-19 HCP) services, also known as 0-19 Universal Children's Services, on the council's behalf from April 2025. The agreement is called a section 75. It is a legal partnership between local authorities and NHS providers, allowing them to work together to improve services. It is established under the National Health Service Act 2006 and updated by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.



Before a partnership agreement can be put in place, WNC and NHFT are required to consult with anyone who may be affected by the arrangement to gather and consider feedback before finalising the agreement. Please give us your views before midnight on Sunday 5 January 2025 via the following link:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../subpage.2024.../>

Enabling Remote Attendance & Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings

MHCLG have recently published a consultation which seeks views on introducing remote attendance and proxy voting in local authority meetings in England. The consultation closes on 19th December 2024. The full consultation can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

Polling District & Polling Place Review

I am writing to let you know that WNC has just begun a Polling District and Polling Place Review. Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places for UK parliamentary constituencies at least once every five years. The same polling districts and places must also be used for other elections. West Northamptonshire Council is now undertaking such a review. The review proposals were approved for consultation by the Democracy and Standards Committee last week. Public consultation began on 15 November and runs until 3 January 2025.

More information, including the link to the survey, can be found here:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../review-polling...>

By way of background information, a polling district is a geographical area which is used for election purposes only. All voters living in a certain polling district all go to the same building, called a polling place,



to cast their votes. A polling place is a building or area in which polling stations will be located. As far as possible, these should be situated within the polling district for which they are designated. In exceptional circumstances, the polling place may be designated outside the polling district. A polling station is a room or building where voting actually takes place. There can be more than one polling station in a polling place, which is common in many areas. Wherever possible, there should be no more than 2500 electors allotted to a polling station.

As well as the general elements of the review, there are a number of specific proposals that have been made as a result of:

- The recent review of WNC's ward boundaries
- Our review of parish electoral arrangements (Community Governance Review)
- Feedback on suitability and accessibility of polling places from recent elections

Please note the following changes:

- 1) Castle Ashby Parish (Polling District SCHF) – the current polling place is Compton Estates Club, Castle Ashby, NN7 1LJ which serves 79 electors. It is proposed that Denton Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, Denton, NN7 1DT be used as the polling place for this polling district.
- 2) Great Houghton Parish (Polling District NSCH) will now vote at Parsons Memorial Hall, Leys Lane, Northampton NN4 0AN due to the Community Governance Review boundary change.

Adult Social Care Direct Payments Policy

We are proposing a new Direct Payments Policy for Adult Social Care to ensure transparency and consistency. This policy will include direct payments for transport needs and changes to how carers' payments are managed. We are seeking your feedback to shape this policy.



Help shape our Adult Social Care Direct Payments Policy

For further information, including details of drop in events, and how to provide views please visit:
<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../help-shape.../>
This activity closes midnight 19 January 2025.

Draft Climate Change Strategy

We are inviting feedback on a draft Climate Change Strategy, which aims to achieve net zero emissions in West Northamptonshire by 2045, supporting the UK's 2050 target. The strategy outlines plans to reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, engage the community, and monitor progress.
For further information and how you can provide comments please visit:



Have your say on West Northamptonshire's draft Climate Change Strategy

https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../draft_climate.../
This consultation closes midnight 19 January 2025.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Cost of living

Further information and support can be found on:
<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>
<https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

Support where you live.

Local Voluntary and Community Organisations have been able to apply for grants funded by the Household Support Fund. This allows them to use their knowledge and

For advice on cost of living support

Visit:
westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living

call:
0300 126 7000*
*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

or scan:

understanding of the needs of residents to provide tailored support.

Cost of Living Support this Winter

A series of cost-of-living roadshow events and pop-up stalls will be held across West Northamptonshire this autumn and winter to highlight the support available to residents.

People are encouraged to go along to speak to a range of organisations to find out what help is available to them and where to find it. Organised by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), the events will offer information on accessing money and debt advice, essential financial and employability skills, health and wellbeing tips and much more.

WNC's wellbeing service and community partners will be at:

- 1) Briar Hill Primary School Wednesday 4 December 9-11am
- 2) Bugbrooke Parish Council Thursday 5 December 2-4pm
- 3) DTFC Community Hub (Food Bank) Tuesday 10 December 12-2pm
- 4) Woodford Halse Library and the Community Café Wednesday 11 December 10-12pm
- 5) Bellinge Community Centre Thursday 12 December 10-12pm
- 6) Semilong Community Centre Friday 13 December 1-3pm

For those who are unable to attend these events but are keen to find out more, our cost of living support



hub is full of information and advice to help all residents find the support and help available to them. There is further support available through our Welcoming Spaces, and the Household Support Fund.

If someone is unable to access the internet, they can also call our customer services team from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday on 0300 126 7000 and speak to somebody directly about the support available.

Are you Eligible for Pension Credit

Are you or is anyone you know aged 66 or over? Have you checked eligibility for Pension Credit?

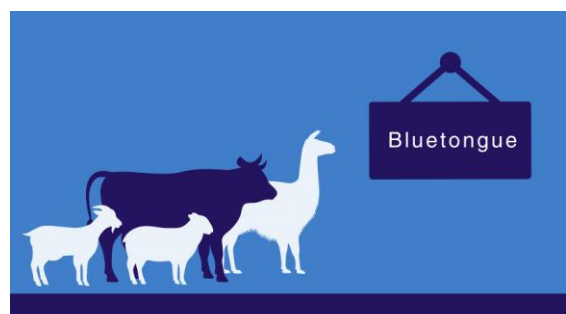
Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It can also give you access to other help, like the Winter Fuel Payment.

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

REGULATORY SERVICES

Bluetongue Restriction Zone Extended

Following a positive case in Buckinghamshire on the border of West Northamptonshire, the bluetongue restriction zone has been expanded to include West Northants as of 25 October 2024.



This means that farmers across the area must now follow restrictions on moving animals to help control the spread of the disease. Anyone can check whether they fall within the restriction zone using DEFRA's interactive map on their website. <https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/.../webappviewer/index.html...>

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease transmitted by midges, affecting ruminants such as sheep, cattle, goats, and deer, as well as camelids like llamas and alpacas. Cases of the BTV3 strain of bluetongue have been confirmed across the East of England. The disease does not affect humans, horses, or pigs. Farmers who suspect a case must report it to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) immediately by calling 03000 200 301. Symptoms vary among affected animals but can include fever, lesions, redness around the mouth, eyes, nose, or above the hooves, excessive salivation, and nasal discharge. In some cases, animals may show few or no symptoms.

Useful information for farmers:

- Ruminant Health & Welfare <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/> and the NFU website <https://www.nfuonline.com/.../bluetongue-essential.../> contain practical and up to date information.
- Current information about the BTV3 vaccination. <https://www.gov.uk/.../bluetongue-serotype-3-btv-3...>
- Farmers can apply for a licence to exempt a specific movement from Bluetongue restrictions.

DEFRA advise to allow at least 5 days for the licence application to be processed. Complex and high-risk movements will need extra time to process.

E-Petitions

WNC welcomes petitions as they are a useful tool for highlighting important issues and allowing individuals



to share their concerns. If you live, work or study in West Northamptonshire you can submit a petition or e-petition for WNC to deliberate. All petitions must relate to an area that we have authority over. You can find more information on these services throughout this website. All petitions sent or presented to us that meet the requirements below will receive an acknowledgement from us within 10 working days

of receipt, setting out what we plan to do with the petition.

A petition should include the following details:

- 1) A clear concise statement which sets out your concerns and what action you would like us to consider
- 2) The name and contact details of the lead petitioner who we can send correspondence relating to the petition and communicate with on behalf of the people you are supporting.

How do I submit a petition?

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

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

Local Government Finance Settlement

The Local Government Finance Statement was published on 28 November 2024. The Rural Services Network initial thoughts are as follows:

Removal of Rural Services Delivery Grant

The RSN is disappointed to see the Rural Services Delivery Grant has been removed from the Local Government Settlement. The Rural Services Delivery Grant was contentious from the outset, created to compensate for the fact that the funding formula was not awarded in full to rural areas but was instead dampened to allow money for densely populated local authorities. The Grant was therefore introduced in 2013/2014 to compensate for the funding due to rural, not being allocated. It is impossible to judge the impact of this repurposing of RSDG funds until we see the detail of the allocations later in December



when they are published, it is critical however that funding for rural areas is not misallocated again in future and recognises the cost of delivering services in sparsely populated areas.

Deprivation as a proxy

The statement talks of using deprivation as a proxy for assessing places with greater need and demand for services. Deprivation is not an indicator of need for all services, we all need our bins and recycling emptied after all, and this does not consider the additional costs faced by rural councils in delivering those services. Using deprivation as an indicator of demand for services, does not consider the ageing population and the additional demands that demographic place on services, for example in rural areas, over a quarter of the population is aged 65 and over compared with around a sixth of the urban population. Current indicators for deprivation mean that rural deprivation, which exists in pockets, within wider geographical areas, will be hidden within the overall results, skewing the funding allocations away from rural deprived areas which may need it most.

Bespoke Referendum Principles and Council Tax

The statement talks of the Government considering bespoke referendum principles where councils are struggling to maintain their financial sustainability. Due to years of historic underfunding of rural councils, they have had to increase council tax to balance the books. For 2024-2025 council tax in rural areas is on average 20% more per head than in urban areas, this is compounded by the fact that wages in the rural economy are lower than the national average, leaving those rural residents at a financial disadvantage. This suggestion would potentially see rural residents penalised yet again by a 'postcode council tax' and needing to pay even more in council tax for their services, despite often receiving less services in return.

The Rural Services Network will await with interest the Local Government Finance Settlement detail which will be published later in December to see the impact of these changes and will continue to campaign on behalf of rural public services for a fairer allocation of funds. Last week, the Rural Services Network, along with over 55 rural local authorities wrote an open letter to the Minister, asking for a fairer allocation for rural public services. You can read more at this link:

<https://www.rsonline.org.uk/rural-local-authorities-unite-for-fair-funding-a-call-to-address-rural-challenges>

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 thirty-two dwellings on Land off Blenheim Rise, Kings Sutton **Hearing -Dismissed**
- WNN/2021/0466 Land North Of, Bedford Road, Great Houghton - **Dismissed**
- WNS/2022/1525/FUL Land North of Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire – **Allowed subject to conditions**.
- WNS/2021/1858/EIA Solar Farm Milton Road Gayton-**Dismissed**
- N/2020/1474 a 6-storey building providing up to 112no. one, two & three bed flats and apartments (Use Class C3), commercial development (Use Class E (a,b,c,d,e,f,g(i)) and associated ancillary infrastructure', 123 - 135 Bridge Street, Northampton-Appeal **Allowed**
- N/2020/1497 6 storey building providing up to 66no. one, two & three bed flats and apartments (Use Class C3), commercial development (Use Class E (a, b, c,d,e,f,g(i)) and associated ancillary infrastructure', 153 - 165 Bridge Street, Northampton- Appeal **Allowed**
- APP/W2845/W/23/3327830 Hall Farm, Main Street, East Haddon, West Northamptonshire NN6 8BU. Appeal **Allowed**
- WNS/2022/2060/MAO. Outline Application - with all matters reserved to provide later living accommodation (Class 2) as three integrated types of accommodation on a site off the main entrance to Whittlebury Park. Appeal **Dismissed**.

Pending

- 2023/5711/PIP Permission in principle for development of 8-9 custom/self-build Land Poundfield Road Potterspury Towcester NN12 7QB Appeal **Pending**

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.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Crackdown on Rogue HMO Landlords in Northampton

Enhanced enforcement powers were discussed by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Cabinet on 19 November 2024. WNC was looking to drive out "criminal, rogue and irresponsible" landlords with houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The new HMO licensing rules will cover a bigger area of Northampton as it has been extended to include new developments since 2020 and areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour. Mandatory requirements for the whole of England require HMOs containing five or more people to be



licensed, however additional measures set by WNC will extend this to smaller HMOs of three plus people. The council says it intends to extend the licensing rules to make private landlords more accountable for not only the standards and conditions within their HMOs but also for their tenants' behaviour. It explained that where there are high concentrations of HMOs, there are noticeable impacts on local communities and the local environment and complaints regarding nuisance and anti-social behaviour. "Well-managed HMOs have a vital role to play in helping to meet the housing needs of

Northampton's residents. Although West Northamptonshire has some excellent landlords and letting agents, it also has a significant number of criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords," the council report added. "When a licensable HMO is not licenced, the owner/managing agent is also likely to fail to comply

with a range of regulatory requirements. Additional HMO licensing can play a vital role in controlling and regulating HMOs and ensuring that legal standards are in place for fire safety, housing-related health and safety, space standards and management."

In October 2024 there were 1,104 licensed HMOs within the authority area. The licensing regime will extend this to a larger number of small HMOs, which will enforce physical property inspections and hold private landlords to account. The council will therefore be able to ensure homes are managed by a 'fit and proper person', are safe, not overcrowded and amenities are adequate for the number of occupants. Landlords in the enhanced designated area will need to apply for a HMO licence and failure to do so could result in a conviction and an unlimited fine through the courts or a civil penalty of up to £30,000.

The new HMO licensing scheme will come into effect on February 24, 2025.

Crucial Support to Vulnerable Individuals this Winter

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is launching its comprehensive Winter Provision Service and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) to provide vital support for people experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping and other vulnerable individuals this winter. The service, developed in partnership with local charities Northampton Hope Centre and The Salvation Army, will provide crucial support to the most vulnerable residents from November to March 2025, ensuring they have access to shelter, warmth, and essential services.



This will include implementing a temporary nightly shelter when SWEP is activated and temperatures reach zero°C and below, providing verified rough sleepers with a safe place to sleep as well as access to housing advice and wrap around support. In addition, a winter shelter will be run by Northampton Hope Centre during January and February, to provide verified rough sleepers with a safe place to sleep during the worst period of winter. In addition, expanded day centre services will be available at the

Northampton Hope Centre offering hot meals, health check-ups, and access to housing support services seven days a week. The programme will also provide holistic services including mental health support, debt advice, and substance misuse counselling to help individuals transition towards long-term housing solutions.

SWEP is usually activated when the temperature is forecasted to drop below 0°C for three nights in a row or during extreme weather conditions such as heavy snowfall or storms. WNC's outreach teams will be deployed to identify and assist individuals at risk, ensuring they are aware of the overnight accommodation and available services.

To find out more about support available for people sleeping rough in very cold or extreme weather, please visit the WNC website. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../help-people-sleeping...>

If you are concerned about someone who maybe sleeping rough, or are sleeping rough yourself, you can let us know by using Street Link. <https://thestreetlink.org.uk/>

This is a national service that informs local authorities about people sleeping rough in their area and helps to connect people to local services and support. You can also email the Council's Outreach Team.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/housing.../homelessness>

If you use What Three Words, <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app>

you can email the location this gives you to let us know where we might find someone.

Criminal Landlords Fined over £403,000

Three rogue landlords have been fined a total of £403,079 for housing offences under the Housing Act 2004, including operating unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMO) and a series of dangerous breaches relating to fire safety, tenant rights, and property maintenance. The offences involved eight properties across Northampton, located on Talbot Road, Bailiff Street, St Michaels Mount, Robert Street, The Headlands, Chalcombe Avenue, and Spinney Hill Road.



West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Private Sector Housing Team launched an investigation into the landlords in 2019, acting on safety concerns raised by residents. The investigation led to a Housing Warrant enabling the Council to inspect the properties, revealing a network of unsafe and unlicensed rental accommodations. The case culminated in

sentencing, with the District Judge identifying Khurram Jamil, of Northampton, as the orchestrator of the scheme. Jamil received a fine of £252,000, along with a contribution to the Council's investigation costs of £11,072, and a victim surcharge of £181. Two other defendants included Tahir Butt, also of Northampton, who was fined £54,000, with an additional contribution of £11,072 towards the Council's investigation costs, and a £181 victim surcharge, and Dumitru Sava, of Northampton, fined £60,000, with £14,302 in investigation costs and a £181 victim surcharge.



ENVIRONMENT

Christmas Waste & Recycling

We are advising residents of the arrangements for waste and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period. Waste and recycling collection crews will be working throughout the festive season to make sure services are delivered on time and with no delays. Downloadable bin calendars with information about waste and recycling arrangements for your area will be available from our website by the end of November.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste>

Collection changes

Due to the public holidays, some properties will have a change in the day of their collections over the festive period.

Daventry

Daventry area collections due to take place on Wednesday 25 December will instead take place on Saturday 21 December, while collections due on Thursday 26 December will take place on Saturday 28 December.

Collections due on Wednesday 1 January will take place on Saturday 4 January.

Northampton

Northampton area collections due on Wednesday 25 December will instead take place on Saturday 28 December.

All other collections will take place on their normal days.

South Northamptonshire

South Northamptonshire area collections due on Wednesday 25 December will take place on Monday 23 December and collections due on Thursday 26 December, will instead take place on Saturday 28 December. Collections due on Wednesday 1 January will take place on Monday 30 December.

Remaining collections

All other collections will take place on their normal days.

Garden waste

Those subscribed to the service are advised there will be a short break in collections from Monday 23 December until Monday 6 January.

Real tree collections

Crews will collect real Christmas trees over a two-week period starting Monday 6 January.

<https://staging.westnorthants.gov.uk/find-household-waste...>

Please ensure trees over 6 feet (183 centimetres) tall are cut in half so they fit in the lorries safely. They can also be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Daventry and South Northamptonshire

Residents in the Daventry and South Northants areas should put real Christmas trees out on the day garden waste is due to be collected in their area.

Northampton

In the Northampton area trees should be put out next to recycling bins, while those on sack collections can present trees beside their recycling boxes on their collection day.

Food waste

Food waste bins will continue to be collected on their usual weekly schedule.

Please remember you can recycle leftover raw and cooked foods, including:

- vegetable peelings
- egg shells
- out-of-date food
- plate scrapings
- solid fats
- meat and fish bones

Do not put any liquids in the caddy.

Find out more about using food waste bins in West Northamptonshire.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are open as usual throughout the festive period except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day, when they will be closed.

<https://staging.westnorthants.gov.uk/household-waste...>

Centres will also close early on Christmas Eve at 2pm.

Additional recycling

If you have more recycling than your bin can handle, you can put it in clear plastic bags or boxes and present it alongside your recycling bins or boxes. You can also take this to your nearest HWRC.

<https://staging.westnorthants.gov.uk/find-household-waste...>

Check your collection day

You can check your collection day and set up alerts on your mobile by downloading the free West Northamptonshire Council app from the Apple or Google Play stores.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/bin.../bin-collection-day>

Find more information about collections together with top tips for reducing your waste and recycling more this Christmas.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste>

Greener Works

Greener Works is a six-week course that targets young individuals who are currently not in education, employment, or training, along with adults seeking a career transition in rural locations. The curriculum blends practical workshops with theoretical instruction, empowering participants to manage their own community projects. This hands-on approach enables them to apply their learning in real-world scenarios. With personalised support, participants build confidence and acquire essential green skills that pave the way for careers in the growing field of sustainability.

Contact: Northants ACRE

acre@northantsacre.org.uk



Participants in the Greener Works project at Thrapston and Chester Farm are not only making a significant impact in their communities but also honing crucial project management skills.

Greener Works is a six-week course, the programme targets young individuals who are currently not in education, employment, or training, along with adults seeking a career transition in rural locations.

The curriculum blends practical workshops with theoretical instruction, empowering participants to manage their own community projects. This hands-on approach enables them to apply their learning in real-world scenarios. With personalised support, participants build confidence and acquire essential green skills that pave the way for careers in the growing field of sustainability.



Contact: Northants ACRE
acre@northantsacre.org.uk



Love Food Hate Waste

In the UK we waste a quarter of all the food and drink we buy. This is responsible for producing 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year - the equivalent of 36 million standard sized water butts full of petrol on fire - which contributes towards climate change. Our Waste and Recycling Service has put together the following advice to help people reduce their food waste and recycle more.

Food waste prevention

One of the best things we can do for the environment and our wallets is not waste our food and drink. An average family can save £1,000 a year by reducing their food waste. Some top tips to reduce food waste include:

1. Planning ahead – by planning your meals and sticking to a shopping list you will avoid overbuying food and use up food you already have – remember to check what food you already have before going to the shops.
2. Know your dates – remember that a ‘Best Before’ date only refers to the quality of food, but most items are ok to eat after this date. ‘Use By’ dates refer to safety and food should not be eaten after this date.
3. Make the most of your food – correct storage of your food can extend its life by weeks (or months in a freezer), your fridge should be below 5 degrees C and you can freeze any food right up to the ‘use by’ date – ideal if your plans change.



4. Perfect Portions - cook only what you need and if you do have any leftovers they can be stored in the fridge for another meal another day. You can take the guess work out of portion sizes by using the food portion calculator on the love food hate waste website. The Love Food Hate Waste website has lots of great hacks and guidance for making the most of food at home and saving you money. See www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

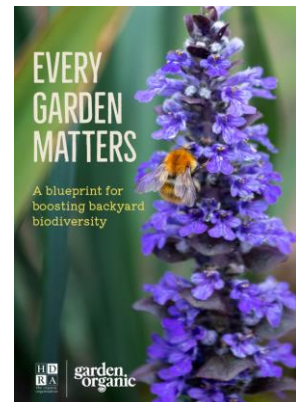
Food waste recycling

Any food that can't be used (for example tea bags, bones, plate scrapings etc) or does become wasted, should be placed into your food waste bin and put out for collection each week, on the same day as your other bins (currently unavailable to most flats but will be available to all by April 2026). More and more people in West Northamptonshire are recycling their food waste when they see how easy it is. Visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/foodwaste for more information or to order a free food waste bin. Did you know?: Recycling your food waste, rather than putting it in your rubbish bin, saves the council, and therefore you, around £100 per tonne— money which could be spent on other services. All food waste bins are provided free of charge (an indoor caddy and an outdoor bin) and are collected every week. You can use any bag to line your indoor kitchen caddy, including plastic. Food waste caddy bags are now stocked at all WNC libraries and are just £1 a roll (30 bags). Food waste is processed into green electricity and compost, which fertilises local farmers' fields Reducing and recycling your food waste is one of the best ways to lower your carbon footprint and fight climate change.

Halting Biodiversity Loss

The title of the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) 65th anniversary research paper is at the heart of their approach to halting biodiversity loss: every garden matters. There are more than 520 thousand hectares of gardens in the UK. This is just under a quarter of the size of Wales. If each one is managed sustainably and organically, imagine how this can change our landscape and benefit our wildlife-see the HDRA report:

<https://hqnetwork.co.uk/.../Every-Garden-Matters-report.pdf>



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

West Northamptonshire Local Area Partnerships

Many of you are aware that I am the Hackleton and Grange Park WNC Representative on the Rural East LAP.

If you live in West Northamptonshire, your area will be part of one of the following Local Area Partnerships:

- 1) Northampton East: Billing and Rectory Farm, Riverside Park, and Talavera
- 2) Northampton South: Delapre and Rushmere, East Hunsbury, Nene Valley and Shelfleys
- 3) Northampton West: Duston East, Duston West, St Crispin and Sixfields
- 4) Northampton Central: Abington and Phippsville, Castle, Dallington, Spencer and St George
- 5) Northampton North: Boothville and parklands, Headlands, Kingsthorpe North, and Kingsthorpe South



- 6) Rural North: Braunston and Crick, Brixworth, Long Bucky and Moulton
- 7) Rural West: Daventry East, Daventry West, and Woodford and Weedon
- 8) Rural South: Brackley, Middleton Cheney and Silverstone
- 9) Rural East: Bugbrooke, Deanshanger, Hackleton and Grange Park and Towcester and Roade

Local Area Partnership Rural East

The next meeting is due to take place on 3 December 2024 at 13:15 to 14:15pm.

Towcester Adult Social Care Engagement Sessions

Promotions continue for Support Services at Welcoming Space Towcester Library. They are all face-to-face drop-in monthly sessions: -

- Chatty Café
- WNC Employment Advice & Support
- WNC Adult Social Care Team
- NHFT Talking Therapies Health

From 10am – 12pm, no appointment needed: -

- 10/12/2024

For further information on Adult Social Care, Towcester Library and The Welcoming Spaces please see links below: -

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-wellbeing>

Rural East Children, Young People & Families LAP Summit

The Rural East Children & Young Peoples Summit took place on 26th November 2024 at Elizabeth Woodville School. The Purpose: Under the theme “Think Family First, Think Local Community Solution”, the summit encouraged organisations to explore how we might:

- Acknowledge and build on each other’s strengths
- Reduce silo working through improved collaboration
- Introduce early help and intervention strategies
- Improve outcomes for families and reduce inequalities

Key Outcomes: Through our discussions we achieved the following outcomes:

- Co-design the local early help community element of the Family Hubs and Spokes model and
- Build on the momentum and agree how local multi-agency forums meeting regularly can solve local issues together

Agenda Highlights:

- Showcasing innovative local projects

What's on at your Welcoming Space at Towcester Library
The Forum, Moat Lane, NN12 6AD
Open: Monday-Friday, 9am to 6pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm

Timetable of activities

Chatter and Natter
Every Thursday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Look for the yellow 'Chatter & Natter' table signs each Thursday afternoon and drop in for a chat. For more information contact Nikki Hamblly on 0300 126 7000 or email Towcester.LibraryPlus@westnorthants.gov.uk

Employment support
Every second Wednesday of the month, from 1-3pm
Free help from our Employment Support Service, and a range of partners, including support with job searching, CVs, training, money advice and more.

Help with Adult social care & wellbeing
Every second Tuesday of the month, from 10am-midday
Members of West Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care team are on hand to help you connect with your community, and access resources so you can achieve a maintain a positive sense of wellbeing.

Talking Therapies - Health
Every third Monday of the month, from 10am-midday
Are you feeling lethargic, unmotivated, or just not your usual self? Northamptonshire NHS Talking Therapies - Health support people who may be feeling stress, low, anxious, have a long-term condition, to help get back on track.

About our Welcoming Spaces
Welcoming Spaces are run by local people for local people from the voluntary, community and faith sectors across West Northamptonshire.
Residents are offered a warm, trusted setting for people to socialise and access services tackling social isolation and cost of living challenges.
Non-judgemental and safe, all guests are treated equally, with dignity and respect.

West Northamptonshire Council | COST OF LIVING SUPPORT | #welcomingspacesWN



- Breakout sessions to share services, better understand needs and explore potential collaboration
- Designing the early help community framework for Family Hubs & Spokes
- Discussion on forming local multi-agency forums to meet regularly and address local challenges

Spring Social Prescribing Service

Spring is a community-driven support network to help people in Northamptonshire manage their health and wellbeing.

<https://www.springnorthamptonshire.org/>



Rural & Sustainable Futures THEMATIC

SPRING Social Prescribing

If you're living in Northamptonshire with a long-term health condition, and you sense that life might offer more than what you're experiencing right now, we can help. And we'd love to hear from you.

SPRING is a partnership of social sector organisations, commissioned by Integrated Care Northamptonshire, to improve the wellbeing of people in Northamptonshire using social prescribing.

The three partners are Age UK Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Carers and General Practice Alliance (GPA).

What do they do?
They provide support for six to 12 months, enabling people to take steps to improve their health and wellbeing.

- People aged 18 and over
- Have at least one long-term health condition
- Are willing to make the changes that will improve their health and wellbeing

You can contact our SPRING Social Prescribing Service on behalf of someone else, or for yourself. Our Link Workers aim to connect people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support.

Call on: 01604 974995

spring
SOCIAL PRESCRIBING
IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Part of the VCSE Assembly
VCSE Assembly
www.vcseassembly.org.uk

AUTUMN 2024

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Term Dates for West Northamptonshire Schools

Below are the term dates for the area, according to West Northamptonshire Council. Dates will vary at independent schools, and there could be additional days off at all schools for teacher training days, which will vary from school to school.

Autumn term 2024

Monday September 2 to Friday December 20.

Christmas holiday: Monday December 23 to Friday January 3, 2025.

Apply for School Places for September 2025

It's time to apply for your child's school place for September 2025

Parents and carers of children living in West Northamptonshire can now 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 2025 intake.



Parents and carers can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years old on or before 31 August 2025. The closing date for applications for places in reception (and year 3 at junior school) is 15 January 2025 at midnight.

The closing date for applications for Year 7 places was 31 October 2024 at midnight. 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.../appeals-process>

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 – 3 March 2025 for secondary places and 16 April 2025 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.

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

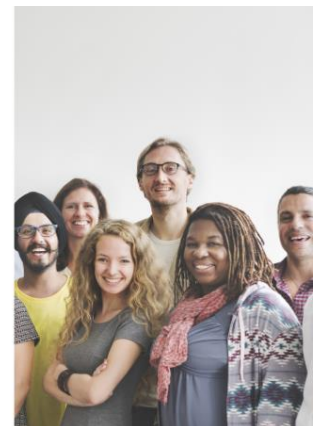
An independent admission appeals process is available for families who wish to appeal against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied. To find out more about applying for a school place in West Northamptonshire and to submit an application, visit: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

New Business Board

A New Business Board will provide strategic advice to the South Midlands Authorities Board on matters of specific interest to businesses. Its mission is to ensure that the economic strategy of the South Midlands aligns with the needs and opportunities faced by businesses in the region. By doing so, the Business Board aims to drive sustainable economic growth and enhance the region's competitive edge.

After a comprehensive recruitment process, 15 leaders have been invited to form the first cohort of Board members. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise from various sectors. Their diverse backgrounds will ensure that the Business Board is well-equipped to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within the region.



Chair: Jason Longhurst, Prologis UK

Board Members:

- Suzanna Austin, FSB
- Naomi Butters, ICENA
- Paul Clarke, Cranfield Aerospace Solutions Ltd
- Nick Greenway, Cosworth
- Stephen Henson, TC Group
- Oliver Jaycock, London Luton Airport
- Phil Lawrie, Silverstone Museum
- Michael Moran, 2020 Developments Ltd
- Andy Paul, Fliweel.tech
- Viren Patel, Open University
- Keith Purdie, Colworth Park
- Justin Richardson, Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce
- Dr Cathy Smith, University of Northampton
- Prof Leon Terry, Cranfield University

For further information on the Business Board, please visit: www.southmidlands.org.uk

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

New Traffic Enforcement Set to Start in Northampton

Motorists who flout the rules or are unaware of restrictions in place are encouraged to pay attention as traffic enforcement starts soon in a problem area of Northampton.

As widely publicised, enforcement has been introduced in a phased approach at various locations in West



Northants and from 15 November, an enforcement camera at the Horse Market junction with Mare Fair went live where vehicles are prohibited from turning left travelling out of Marefair, to improve pedestrian, cyclist and driver safety and encourage better driver behaviour.

The remainder of the enforcement cameras already reported in this location will be switched on in the very near future where other right and left turns are also not allowed.

During the first six months of enforcement measures going live, a warning notice will be issued for first offences by any vehicle, however anyone breaching the rules for a second time or first time from May next year, will receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) of £70, reduced to £35 if paid within 21 days.

New regulations came into effect in May 2022 through the Traffic Management Act (2004) and the Department for Transport (DfT) has changed legislation to enable local authorities to apply for powers to enforce against moving traffic contraventions.

The Government approved plans for West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to take on this responsibility, following a positive response to a public consultation around five proposed sites, four of which went live earlier this year.

Enforcement cameras are already in place at the below locations and during the month of October WNC issued a total of 1,513 PCNs and 80 warning notices.

- Hermitage Way, Wootton, Northampton
- Victoria Gardens junction with St John's Street
- Fishponds Road junction with Great Billing Way, Northampton
- Deanshanger Road, Old Stratford (still within warning notice period following the camera going live on 10 June).

Signage was in place at Horsemarket Junction ahead of the enforcement camera going live on 15 November and we will keep residents updated on the further enforcement cameras going live.

POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week 2024

A range of activities and events took place across West Northamptonshire as partners come together to support Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week 2024. The national campaign was aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of people in local communities. Taking place from 18 to 24 November, this year's campaign encouraged individuals and communities to take a stand against ASB, highlighting the importance of reporting incidents and the steps that can be taken to address the issue.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), in collaboration with partners including Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Partnership Homes (NPH), had organised a range of activities throughout the week to raise awareness and provide support to those affected by ASB. Key events include:

1. NPH Community Bus tours, where ASB Case Managers will be on board offering advice, guidance, and information on how to report ASB. The bus will visit several locations across Northampton throughout the week.
2. A community litter pick at Briar Hill Community Centre from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 24 November.
3. Increased patrols from Northamptonshire Police and WNC's ASB officers in areas across Northampton and Towcester.
4. A drop-in surgery at Danes Camp Leisure Centre on Thursday 24 November from 10am to 4pm offering information and advice.
5. A school assembly at Daventry Secondary School around ASB, derelict and void Buildings, and deliberate fire setting from Daventry Fire Station.



CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

The Holocaust Memorial Day will be on 27 January 2025.
<https://www.hmd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/HMD-2025-Theme-Vision.pdf>

Northampton Art Gallery & Museum Cafe

The Lewis Foundation announced that it took over the café at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery from the 12th November,



2024. The charity, which delivers gift bags to adult cancer patients, already runs a successful coffee shop at the Elgar Centre in Upton, as well as two retail stores in Northampton and Luton. Once opened, The Lewis Foundation Coffee Shop at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery will offer a welcoming space for museum visitors and the wider community to enjoy high-quality refreshments in a relaxed setting. The coffee shop team is committed to delivering a great customer experience for everyone who visits, providing a varied menu of food and drink options including cappuccinos, lattes, sandwiches, toasties, cakes and snacks. The menu will also feature locally sourced ingredients from businesses including Friars Farm and GF Shoetown Baker.

The charity will build on the success of its existing Lewis Foundation Coffee Shop at the Elgar Centre, which has become a popular hub for the local community, offering great food and a friendly atmosphere. In



addition, The Lewis Foundation currently operates two successful outlet stores, one in the Grosvenor Centre, Northampton and the other in The Mall, Luton.

The Lewis Foundation Coffee Shop at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery will be open 10am – 4pm, Tuesday – Saturday and Bank Holidays, and from 12pm – 4pm on Sundays. With a team of almost 50 volunteers and hundreds of regular supporters, The Lewis Foundation works closely with 17 hospitals across the Midlands, hand-delivering 2,000 gift packs every month to adult patients undergoing cancer treatment. Packs contain overnight essentials and toiletries, letter writing kits, miniature radios complete with batteries and headphones, and lots more.

For more information please visit The Lewis Foundation:

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

Christmas in the Park

Get ready for a bumper festive family event as the beautiful surroundings of Becket's Park turn into a Winter Wonderland this Christmas. Join us for live performances on the Christmas bandstand, magical ice rink, children's Christmas crafts and activities, festive workshops, stalls featuring seasonal produce from local community groups, businesses and organisations, fun fair rides, festive food concessions and bar, plus much more!



Time & Location

Saturday 7th December from 12 to 6pm, Becket's Park Northampton.