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West Northamptonshire Council
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MONTHLY NEWS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024



E-Newsletter Issue 11/2024
Councillor Stephen Clarke with Frances Harris,
Community Facilities Advisor, Northamptonshire ACRE
At Comunita Café, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall
York Avenue, Cogenhoe, Northants, NN7 1NB
24 October 2024

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NEWS REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

Monthly Highlights

WNC agreed that the best way to prevent fly tipping in the closed off layby in Yardley Hastings would be to block the entrance. However, as there is an access to a field in the layby, WNC needed to seek the farmers advice as well, which was carried out by Yardley Hastings Parish Council. More recently Dan Johnson, WNC Street Cleansing Supervisor has agreed to meet members of the Parish Council together with the Farmer on site early November to agree a way forward.

Yardley Hastings Parish Council was concerned about the poor visual appearance of some retail premises in the village. After consulting our Head of Property Strategy & Estates, I can advise that WNC does not own the property, and therefore from a Landlord and Tenant perspective, the Estates team has no powers to force the Landlord to make any repairs to the property.

Over the past month, I have continued to impress upon WNC and MKC the need for an ongoing focus on the 41 Bus Service along the A428. I am disappointed to hear that there has been very little progress since I last heard from WNC Highways on 6 June 2024 when they added little to what we already knew:

- MKC currently funds the 41 Bus service but there is a lack information about its ongoing commitment.
- WNC has limited monies to support public transport, and the Council core public transport budget was fully utilized.
- There was some uncertainty on future funding for buses beyond the general election.
- Investment decisions are considered through the Enhanced Bus Partnership.

I have asked WNC to look at what it would take to ensure that this service continues in the short term until it is replaced by one of our proposed 2025-2030 rural bus services and to describe the detail of these plans in the BSIP.

Toby France, Head of Commercial – East & South Midlands, Arriva UK Bus has confirmed that the 33/33A service is operated under contract to MKC on a gross-cost basis, with the route and timetable being determined by them. Changes are being made to the timetable from 4 November 2024 to provide a link to Stantonbury Campus, MK for scholars entitled to home-to-school transport. However, he has asked me to help clarify which schools/colleges in Northampton are being accessed. Can you please let me have an answer to this question as I am looking into whether we can get the time of the 0855am arrival and the 1700pm departure changed. This will take some negotiation and incur additional operational costs which are far from guaranteed. Can you please let me know if you are directly affected by emailing me on stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk so that I can help gauge the size and scale of the problem and try to obtain a resolution?

People are being encouraged to give their views on parking and anti-social behaviour at Northampton Racecourse to help West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) put new plans in place to address the issues. The survey closes on 24 November 2024. See my Monthly Report.

To learn more about the draft Tenancy Policy and to submit your views, please visit the West Northamptonshire Council consultation hub before Wednesday 27 November 2024.

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.

Residents facing financial hardship will receive additional support this winter from the latest round of the Household Support Fund. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has received over £2.4 million from the Government scheme which will be distributed through a range of initiatives aimed at assisting low-income families and individuals in need, offering crucial support during the winter months and through to the end of March 2025.

Adult Social Care will be at Welcoming Spaces, Towcester Library on 12 November 2024 from 10am – 12pm, no appointment is needed.

West Northamptonshire Council has finalised its Community Governance Review, approving a number of changes to parish boundaries, wards, and councillor representation across the area. These changes, set to come into effect for the elections on 1 May 2025, are the result of a year-long review process that included extensive consultation with residents and parish councils.

Rural Services Network (RSN) is expressing significant concern following the announcement to increase the national bus fare cap to £3 until the end of 2025. This decision, which marks a 50% increase from the current cap, poses a substantial burden to the residents of rural areas, who depend heavily on bus services for their daily activities.

In October, the High Court found that the inspector had misapplied a local policy concerning affordable housing in the case of 45 dwellings in Flore, West Northamptonshire, and so allowed the appeal. With outline approval now granted, WNC will need to review plans through a reserved matters application before any construction begins.

We are advising residents of the arrangements for waste and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period. Downloadable bin calendars with information about waste and recycling arrangements for your area will be available from our website by the end of November 2024. See my Monthly Report.

A Rural East Children & Young Peoples Summit has been planned for 26th November 2024. The Purpose: Under the theme “Think Family First, Think Local Community Solution”, is to encourage organisations to explore how we might improve outcomes for families.

Let me now if you would like to join us.

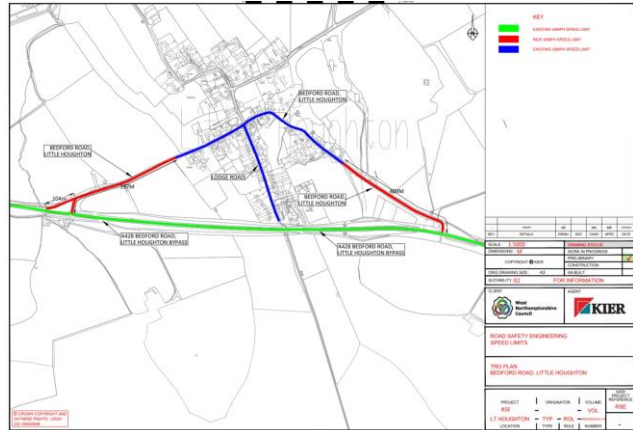
I have had lots of casework this month particularly in relation to Bus Services. However, my visit to Grecian Valley, Stowe Gardens, the location chosen to display all 1,471 silhouettes to frame the entire tribute to those who died on the Normandy Beaches was a most memorable contrast to an otherwise exceptionally busy month and allowed me to pause whilst remembering those who sacrificed their lives for us on D Day. Do try to visit the site before they dismantle the display on the 11 November 2024.

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



WNC is proposing to implement a 50-mph speed limit to replace the derestricted signs on the entrance to and exit from Little Houghton. I chased them yet again on 31 October 2024 for an update on the final signing plan and pricing for the works reference P2023. This matter is now extremely overdue.

Fly tipping in closed off layby in Yardley Hastings

WNC agreed some time ago that the best way to prevent fly tipping in the closed off layby in Yardley Hastings would be to block the entrance to the layby. However, as there is an access to a field in the layby,



WNC needed to seek the farmers advice as well, which was carried out by Yardley Hastings Parish Council. The farmer no longer uses that access for his field and uses a different one instead. WNC discussed options for the best way to remove the waste first. Yardley Hastings Parish Council agreed to ask the farmer if he would be able to move the waste with some of his farm equipment closer to the edge of the road, so it was easier for us to remove and then for him to block the entrance with some earth. The farmer initially agreed to this but asked for us to give him some time, as it was a busy period for him on the farm and suggested that it would be a few weeks before they could put the plan in place. Unfortunately, this didn't happen and the initiative stalled. More recently Dan Johnson, WNC Street Cleansing Supervisor has agreed to meet members of the Parish Council together with the Farmer on site early November at a date and time that suits everyone to agree a way forward.

Dilapidated Retail Premises Yardley Hastings

A Yardley Hastings resident was concerned about the poor visual appearance of these premises, which had been left unoccupied for a number of years, and were in a poor decorative state. He was asking if the Parish Council could communicate these concerns to the freeholder. It was agreed that the most appropriate way of taking the matter forward would be to ask whether WNC might have any powers to persuade or even force



the freeholder to make good the current dilapidations. After consulting our Head of Property Strategy & Estates, I can advise that WNC does not own the property, and therefore from a Landlord and Tenant perspective, the Estates team has no powers to force the Landlord to make any repairs to the property. As the property is privately owned or privately let to the occupant of the premises, it is difficult for the Council to liaise with the freeholder of the premises over the condition as it is unclear whether the occupant agreed with the freeholder at the time, that they would be allocated a rent free period to undertake the necessary works to their demise or whether the freeholder has agreed to carry out the same in due course. In the circumstances, WNC is unable to assist further on this matter.

41 Bus Services along the A428

Over the past month, I have continued to impress upon WNC and MKC the need for an ongoing focus on the 41 Bus Service along the A428. I am disappointed to hear that there has been very little progress since I last heard from Michelle Johnson, WNC Highways on 6 June 2024 when she added little to what we already knew:



- MKC currently funds the 41 Bus service but there is a lack information about its ongoing commitment.
- WNC has limited monies to support public transport, and the Council core public transport budget was fully utilized.
- There was some uncertainty on future funding for buses beyond the general election.
- Investment decisions are considered through the Enhanced Bus Partnership. The Partnership is providing direction on a revised Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) that submitted to the Department of Transport in June, following approval by WNC Cabinet.

Michelle went on to say that WNC had captured the 41 bus service as a service to be examined, and that it will be included in the revised BSIP.

However, I have looked at the Plan and Section 4.0 sets out how we would deliver our vision for buses between 2025 and 2030 and how we will enhance service capacity and frequency to meet demand growth. But there is nothing to support the needs of those villages not served by the Village Hopper or other demand responsive transport services along the A428 (Denton & Yardley Hastings).

I have asked WNC what can be done and in particular can we look at what it would take to ensure that this service continues in the short term until it is replaced by one of our proposed 2025-2030 rural bus services and can we describe the detail of these plans in the BSIP.

Once I have further news, I shall be in touch.

Arriva 33/33A Changes, How are You Impacted?

Toby France, Head of Commercial – East & South Midlands, Arriva UK Bus has confirmed the following: The 33/33A service is operated under contract to Milton Keynes City Council on a gross-cost basis, with the route and timetable being determined by the authority. Changes are being made to the timetable from 4 November 2024 to provide a more consistent two-hourly frequency



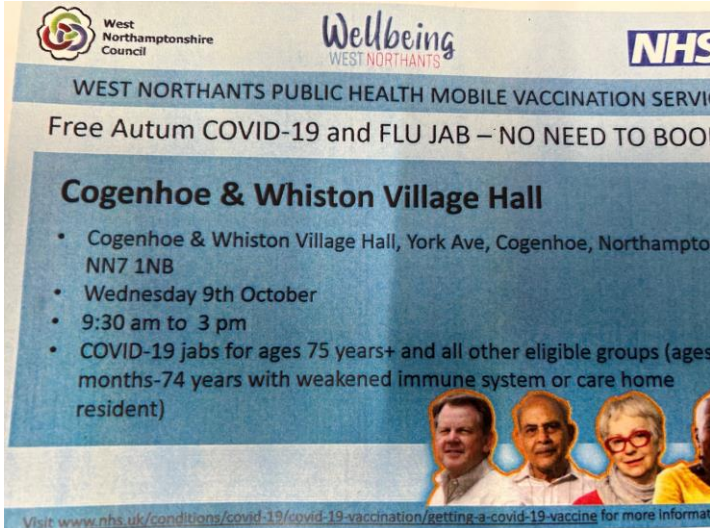
that bridges the gap in afternoon departures from Northampton, and to provide a link to Stantonbury Campus for scholars entitled to home-to-school transport. However, he has asked me to help clarify which schools/colleges in Northampton children from Hartwell and Ashton were previously using the service to travel to, noting that there was no return bus from Northampton between 1350 and 1620? Can you please let me have an answer to his question.

He goes on to say that anybody needing to arrive in Northampton by 0900 should use the journey that arrives at 0855, with those finishing work at 1700 using the 1900 departure as opposed to 1620 or 1800 previously.

I am looking into whether we can get the 0855am arrival and the 1700pm departure changed. This will take some negotiation and incur additional operational costs which are far from guaranteed. To do so I will need your input and answers to the question being posed. Can you please let me know if you are directly affected by emailing me on stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk so that I can help gauge the size and scale of the problem and try to obtain a resolution.

Cogenhoe Community Lunch 7 October 2024

On 7 October 2024, I attended the Cogenhoe Community Lunch at the Village Hall, Cogenhoe. Well done to



Deborah Rush and her team who were managing the event. As we started our Community Lunch today, Deborah told us to save the date for the Christmas Lunch which is organised for 13 December 2024. We were also reminded about the Covid and Flu Jabs which are being provided by West Northants Public Health Mobile Vaccination Service outside Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall on Wednesday 9 October 2024, 9.30am to 3.00pm.

We had a very good lunch of Beef steak pie with peas and mash followed by Apple Crumble and custard or cream. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our community lunch today. A big thank you to Deborah, and everyone else involved in making it such a great fortnightly event. All your efforts are appreciated.

The next Community Lunch event is on Monday 21 October 2024, York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, so please book your place by emailing Deborah at clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk or phone 07512 045418.

Yardley Hastings Harvest Supper 7 October 2024

After attending the Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council on Monday evening, I headed off to join everyone at the Harvest Supper which was well underway in the Yardley Hastings Memorial Hall. I had made them



aware that I was going to be late, and they very kindly saved me the first course. Once inside I saw that it was a well-attended evening, and I was warmly



welcomed by lots of people upon arrival.

Holding a Harvest Supper has long been a part of many parish's celebration of the Harvest Festival. The idea of a meal shared by the community to say thank you for a successful harvest is a very old and deep-seated tradition. A shared meal is valuable in bringing the community together whilst raising funds for St Andrews Church. The food was excellent with beef pie or a vegetarian option with peas, mashed potatoes and gravy, followed by a wonderful choice of puddings.

It was great to catch up with folks including Fiona, who had saved our tickets. A special thank you to Melanie, Tom, Amelia and the boys who were great company and provided lots of help with the clues for the Harvest Quiz. Thank you to everyone who came together to make the Harvest Supper so successful.

Little Houghton Harvest Supper 11 October 2024

A special thank you to all who were involved in organising the Little Houghton Harvest Supper on Friday 11 October 2024. Around 60 residents of the village enjoyed a tasty home cooked meal of a traditional roast beef dinner followed by a tasty pudding in celebration of the fruits of a combined harvest.



Holding a Harvest Supper has long been a part of Little Houghton's celebration of the Harvest Festival. Using a bit of imagination means that the villagers have turned this event into a unique and successful fundraiser for the Church of St Mary the Virgin, whilst generating a lot of fun for the village.

Andrew Langley helped to raise cash at the Harvest Supper Auction by being a witty and persuasive auctioneer. Andrew was able to pull off the tricky task of creating a fun experience while raising as much

money as possible for the church.

Castle Ashby Harvest Lunch Sunday 13 October 2024

We helped celebrate Harvest Lunch at St Mary Magdalene Church, Castle Ashby on 13 October 2024. The Harvest Festival Service started at 11.00 am and it was followed by lunch. A shared meal is valuable in bringing the community together whilst raising funds for the Church in Castle Ashby. The excellent food served as a celebration of the fruits of a combined harvest. Patrick Lovering announced Harvey & Teresa as the winners of the Gardening Cup before helping to raise cash as a witty and persuasive Auctioneer of Harvest produce. A special thank you to all who were involved in organising the Castle Ashby Harvest Lunch.



Little Houghton Parish Lunch 17 October 2024

On 17 October 2024, I attended the Little Houghton Parish Lunch that takes place at St Mary's Church from 12-2pm on the third Thursday each month. I enjoyed delicious food and great company in a welcoming environment. The Little Houghton Community Lunch caters to the needs of the village, helping you stay connected and social. Whether you need a lift, a friendly chat, or a fun activity, their volunteer-led services are there to support you. The food is prepared and served by dedicated volunteers who care about your wellbeing. 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.

For Your Tomorrow at Stowe Gardens 15 October 2024

On 15 October 2024, I visited Stowe Gardens to see and experience the UK's official host for the British D-Day 80 memorial exhibition 'For Your Tomorrow'. It is now open to the public until 11 November 2024. It comprises a memorial installation to soldiers killed in the D Day landing on 6 June 1944.

It is a 1.2 mile walk from the Stowe car park (MK18 5EQ) to reach Grecian Valley the large-scale art installation consisting of 1,475 silhouettes of Second World War military personnel. Mobility vehicles are available for hire, to book one of these please call 01280 817156.



For Your Tomorrow – the People's Tribute was created by community artist, Dan Barton with the number of figures in the display representing the number of fatalities under British command on 6 June 1944. The silhouettes are designed to represent the military personnel from all the major services but in addition, two bespoke figures of nurses have been included. They are of Sister Mollie Evershed and Sister Dorothy Field who died while helping to save 75 men from the hospital ship SS Amsterdam which sank off the Normandy beaches on 7th August 1944. Both were given posthumous commendation for their actions and are the only two women

commemorated on the British Normandy Memorial.

As you walk up towards the Grecian Valley, you can see why this location was chosen to display all 1,471 silhouettes as it provides a vast expanse of grass and woodland to frame the entire tribute to those who died on the Normandy Beaches. Once you reached the Temple of Concord & Victory, which is located at the head of the Grecian Valley you couldn't fail to be visibly moved by the sight below. As we walked, we read the many farewell letters to wives, parents and children from those contemplating death, which were displayed along the path.

Artist Dan Barton has delivered several impactful military-based displays since founding Oxfordshire-based charity Standing with Giants. The life-size figures are constructed entirely by volunteers, using recycled building materials and create meaningful spaces for people to visit and reflect.

"Our ethos at Standing with Giants is to value life, to understand and appreciate why we have our freedom, and to remember and pay tribute to those who have fallen so we can live the lives we have today. Using outdoor art is a great way to do this," said Standing with Giants Founder, Dan Barton.

Denton Coffee Morning 18 October 2024

On 18 October 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. It was good to catch up with Sheila, Pat, Russell, John, Susan, Simon and others. It's always a great place to meet for coffee and a chat in Denton on Friday morning. Today, I had arranged to meet a local resident to discuss some casework and just as I arrived the



long-awaited chairs were being delivered. I was able to help unload some in the church before I started my meeting. Denton are supporting Home Start with gifts for their Northampton Children's Christmas Party. It has been suggested that selection boxes could be given out at the party to the young people and if anyone would like to support this then they are starting to collect donations. They would like everyone to have the same gift and so they had on display the recommended selection box.

Save the date for the Denton Christmas Fair which is on 16 November 2024 11am-3pm. I hope to see you there.

Plant Sale & Craft Fair Cogenhoe 19 October 2024

I attended the Plant Sale & Craft Fair on Saturday, 19 October 2024 at the Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, Cogenhoe. There were lots of professionally grown perennials, bedding plants, herbs and spring bulbs for sale together with some lovely craft stalls and a raffle. If you spent £20 on plants you could get a free slice of cake when you bought a coffee in the Comunita café. The event was held to support the Parish Council's Community Outreach Groups (Dementia Support Group, Chatty Cafe, Community Lunch, Youth Club & Singing 4 Fun). Cogenhoe have a number of Community Groups which need continuous nurturing and consistent involvement so that real magic happens. A special thank you to Deborah Rush and all the volunteers that help keep the community vibrant and responsive.



Concert in Aid of 'Fight for Sight' on 19 October 2024

On 19 October 2024, I attended the Sheppard Singers Autumn Concert at St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe. Sheppard Singers were formed by members and friends of Consensus Vocalis. They are based at St Mary's Church, Great Houghton and they continue exploring 'a capella' music from a multitude of composers. The title of the performance was 'The Sacred and the Secular'.



In the first half they sang 'Crossing The Bar' with its

words by Alfred Lord Tennyson and music by Craig McLeish ... "I hope to see my Pilot face to face, when I have crossed the bar." Tennyson wrote this poem in 1889, while crossing the Solent from Aldworth to



Farringford on the Isle of Wight, apparently while recovering from a serious illness. Craig McLeish was specially commissioned to compose a piece for RNLI's bicentenary celebrations in 2024. He said that the extended metaphor Tennyson used really spoke to him about how close we are to death whenever we are on the sea, and how extraordinarily brave anyone is who risks their own lives while trying to save others. We then heard other choral pieces including 'Parce Mihi Domine' which reflects the human desire for redemption and forgiveness. The lyrics, attributed to the Spanish Renaissance composer Cristóbal de Morales, primarily revolve around the themes of mortality and repentance. In the second half the Singers changed tack and we had 'Sleepytime Bach' (Du du-bee du du-ah) arranged by William Bennett and other fine secular music before finishing with 'Good Wine' from E. J. Moeran's 'Songs of Springtime'. All in all, it was a fine evening of choral music and the Sheppard Singers are well worth hearing again, which you can do at their next concert on Saturday 7 December at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Great Houghton.

During the evening, we heard from Rosemary Swallow, Honorary Chairperson for Northamptonshire Fight for Sight, which was the Charity being supported by the Concert. They are the main UK Charity funding cutting edge science to bring about new treatments to transform the lives of people affected by sight loss. If you would like to support this worthwhile cause then please contact rosemaryswallow@hotmail.co.uk A special thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make yesterday evening such a success.

Cogenhoe Community Lunch 21 October 2024

On 21 October 2024, I attended the Cogenhoe Community Lunch at the Village Hall, Cogenhoe. Well done to Deborah Rush and her team who were managing the event. As we started our Community Lunch, Deborah said a few kind and comforting words about Jenny, which helped us come to terms with the loss of our dear friend. We had a two-course meal of Gammon Ham with pineapple, chips and peas followed by sponge pudding and custard. The next Community Lunch event is on 4 November 2024, York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, so please book your place by emailing Deborah at clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk or phone 07512 045418.



Save the Dates:

- Thursday 21st November 2024, Christmas Shopping Outing details TBC.
- Friday 13th December Community Christmas Lunch – 12.30pm £15 (must be booked in advance)

Cogenhoe Community Support Desk 24 October 2024

On Thursday 24 October 2024, I went to the Tea Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall for the Parish Help Desk. Deborah was handing out lots of prescriptions this week and after she finished, we caught up on recent events. At the same time, I managed to chat to Frances Harris, Community Facilities Advisor from Northamptonshire ACRE. We talked about the community outreach services being provided across Hackleton and Grange Park.



On Wednesday 6th November 2024 there will be 'Bar Games' @ The Café (darts, skittles, shuffleboard, dominoes etc) £2 to include a hot drink 11.15am- 12.30pm £4 Fixed price lunch 11am -3.30pm. You can enjoy a light lunch provided by the 'Comunita Café' @ the

Village Hall (no need to book). Singing For Fun 1.45pm-2.45pm York Room £2 including tea/coffee from 1.30pm Everyone welcome to this fun, informal singing session (regardless of any health conditions you may be living with).

They are still looking for volunteers to support the Youth Club, please consider sparing 3 hours a month or less if they can get several volunteers. Contact Deborah 07512 04541 If you are interested. clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk

Quinton Coffee Morning 2 November 2024

On Saturday 2 November 2024, I attended the Quinton Coffee morning at St John the Baptist Church,



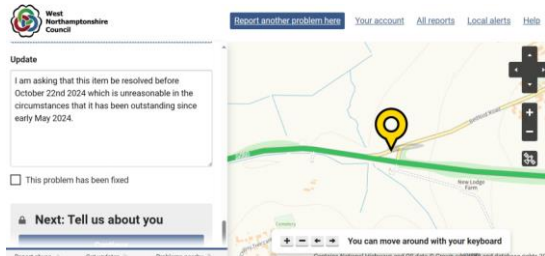
Quinton and caught up with Barbara, Julia, Rev Mark, Barbara, Andy, Joan, and others. Open to all, the monthly first Saturday 10.30-12.00 coffee mornings provide an opportunity to relax and catch up with folks from the local community. The coffee and homemade cakes were most enjoyable especially the 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 so that

I can help gauge the size and scale of the problem and try to obtain a resolution.

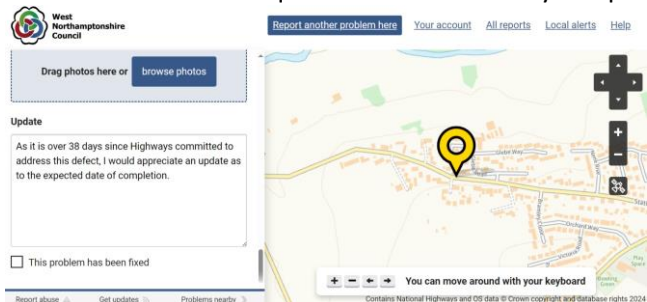
Fix My Street Little Houghton 5869001

On 12 May 2024, I received a further complaint regarding the A428 and the slip road into Little Houghton.



Residents are concerned about the current sight line which is masked by vegetation overgrowth and is making the junction to and from the A428 dangerous. As it is a Highway Safety issue, I have escalated the matter to Highways, and I am asking that this item be resolved before October 22nd, 2024, which is unreasonable in the circumstances that it has been outstanding since early May 2024. I have since heard that the defect meets the requirement for a Priority 4 repair

and the current average response time for a Priority 4 repair is 37.3 days.

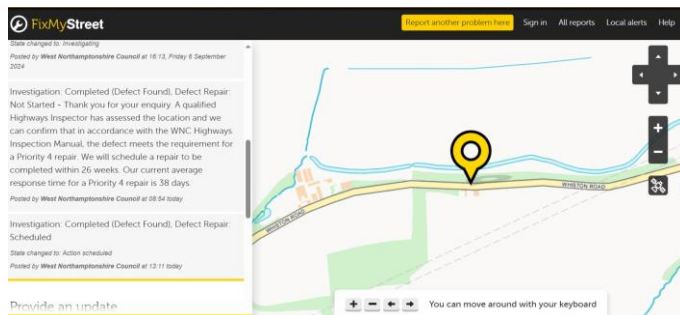


Fix My Street Cogenhoe 6107432

As it is over 38 days since Highways committed to address this defect, I have asked for an update as to the expected date of completion.

Fix My Street Cogenhoe 6165526

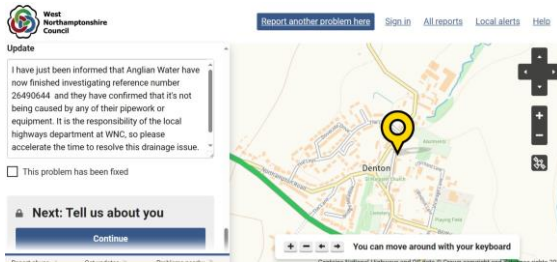
On 31 July 2024, I escalated the matter of the roadway being reduced by up to 1 metre by overgrown trees/bushes as a matter of road safety. I was advised by Highways that this doesn't meet their criteria for urgent works. They also said that 'often we see defects of this kind being completed within 39 days'. Once I have further news, I shall be in touch.



Fix My Street Cogenhoe 6356539

I asked Highways to investigate this as a matter of urgency as it is a child safety issue. I received an update on 7 October 2024, which has classified it to be a priority 3 Repair. This repair was completed on 16 October 2024.

Fix My Street Denton 6624260



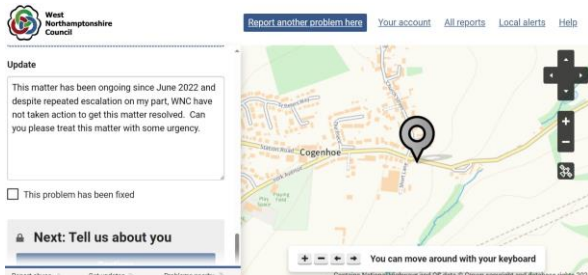
I have just been informed that Anglian Water have now finished investigating reference number 26490644 and

Drain cover loose. Corner of bramley close, station road.

Reported via iOS in the Loose / Raised/Sunken category anonymously at 09:23, Tuesday
Sent to West Northamptonshire Council 3 minutes later.
ref: 6536539.



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.

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.

Views Sought on Parking & Anti-Social Behaviour

People are being encouraged to give their views on parking and anti-social behaviour at Northampton Racecourse to help West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) put new plans in place to address the issues. The Council is seeking information from residents as it considers a number of proposals to address ongoing issues at the Racecourse car park, which includes instances of anti-social and nuisance behaviour and



parking being taken up by people who are not visiting the site.

The Racecourse, which is about a mile from the town centre, is a popular local sport and community destination, boasting a number of sports pitches (including changing facilities) and playgrounds. WNC is seeking residents and businesses to give their feedback on a number of options they are exploring to address the issues at the Racecourse, including:

The possibility of introducing a residents parking scheme for local households and their visitors to

help better manage and ease parking pressure and demand in and around the Racecourse

Potentially introducing a car park charging structure for both daytime, evening, and night-time use – a short stay car park from 8am to 6pm and available for overnight parking at a charge. It is hoped the proposals would enable those who visit the park for recreational use enough time to do their activities and allow nearby residents overnight parking whilst also dissuading those currently using the car park for other unrelated purposes – helping to free up parking for people visiting local businesses. Introducing more CCTV cameras to help deter anti-social behaviour at the park.

As a result of the Council's 2023/24 budget consultation, car parking charges were not introduced at The Racecourse, however it was indicated this would be reviewed in the future as the Council progressed work with residents to address issues at the site. People can give their views on the current Racecourse issues by completing a short survey on the Council's website. Should feedback generally support a residents' parking scheme, further consultation would take place with residents to determine how it might operate. The survey closes on 24 November 2024 and people can share their views on WNC's Consultation Hub.

Tenant Feedback Sought on New Tenancy Policy

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is inviting tenants and residents to have their say on the Council's draft Tenancy Policy, which outlines how tenancies will be managed under new Consumer Standards for Social Housing Landlords introduced by the Regulator of Social Housing in April 2024. The new rules, including the Tenancy Standard, require all Registered Providers of Social Housing to publish clear and accessible policies on managing tenancies. While WNC is not legally required to consult on the draft



Tenancy Policy itself, there is a legal obligation to engage tenants on any changes to housing management, policy, or practice.

This draft policy is important as it replaces the previous Northampton Borough Council Tenancy Policy (2019) and has been designed to reflect the Council's recently adopted Tenancy Strategy. It also gives tenants increased rights to influence how their homes and services are managed, providing a platform for their voices to be heard before the policy is finalised. Developed in collaboration with Northamptonshire Partnership (NPH), who manage homes owned by WNC, the draft policy outlines the types of tenancies available for Council-managed homes. As a key part of WNC's role as a landlord, the new policy will have an impact on current and future tenants.

Feedback is being sought from WNC tenants, local tenant and resident groups, registered providers, and other stakeholders. By participating in the consultation, residents will help shape the future of housing management in West Northamptonshire and ensure that the policy addresses the issues that matter most to them. To learn more about the draft Tenancy Policy and to submit your views, please visit the West Northamptonshire Council consultation hub before Wednesday 27 November 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>

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 understanding of the needs of residents to provide tailored support.



For advice on
cost of living support

Visit:
[westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

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

or scan:


 West Northamptonshire Council

 COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Household Support Fund for Vulnerable Households

Residents facing financial hardship will receive additional support this winter from the latest round of the Household Support Fund. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has received over £2.4 million from the Government scheme which will be distributed through a range of initiatives aimed at assisting low-income families and individuals in need, offering crucial support



during the winter months and through to the end of March 2025.

Around 50% of the funding will go directly to supporting 13,000 families across the region through meal vouchers, which will cover school holidays, and an application for vouchers towards winter coats for children. Additionally, more than £900,000 will be allocated to trusted voluntary and community organisations, such as community larders and organisations offering energy saving support to bolster their services and provide vital resources to those who need them most.

The remaining funds will be channelled into tailored support, from debt and money advice, energy saving advice and practical energy saving measures to practical household support.

The Household Support Fund is part of a wider effort to support vulnerable households as energy prices and food costs continue to rise. WNC's distribution plan will focus on helping families and individuals access basic essentials, while also providing access to longer-term financial and practical advice. All funding is provided along with wrap around support schemes to help households to access longer-term assistance with financial wellbeing. For more information, or to find out how to access support, please visit the Household Support Fund website pages.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../household-support-fund>

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.

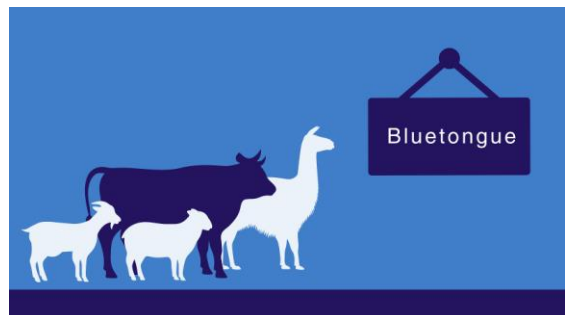
This means that farmers across the area must now follow restrictions on moving animals to help control the spread of the disease. Anyone can check whether they fall within the restriction zone using DEFRA's interactive map on their website.

<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.nfonline.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.

2025 Changes to Parish Boundaries & Governance

West Northamptonshire Council has finalised its Community Governance Review, approving a number of changes to parish boundaries, wards, and councillor representation across the area.



These changes, set to come into effect for the elections on 1 May 2025, are the result of a year-long review process that included extensive consultation with residents and parish councils.

The approved changes include adjustments to parish boundaries, the restructuring of certain parish wards and updates to councillor numbers to ensure better representation for growing communities. These revisions aim to ensure that parishes can operate effectively, remain aligned with the changing demographics in West Northamptonshire and ensure

fair and effective representation for all communities involved.

West Northamptonshire Council has received formal consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding protected arrangements, allowing the following changes to be implemented:

- To improve the balance of representation and reflect population growth, the parish of Daventry will see adjustments to its ward boundaries.
- The boundaries between the parishes of Boughton and Kingsthorpe, Moulton and Pitsford, Dodford and Weedon Bec, Great Houghton and Little Houghton, Hackleton and Wootton, Roade and Stoke Bruerne, and Tiffield and Towcester have been adjusted to better reflect the communities they serve or new developments.
- In Overstone, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, Thorpe Mandeville, West Hunsbury parishes, the number of councillors will change to improve local representation.

Further information on the Community Governance Review, including detailed maps of the changes and the full Community Governance Order, will be published on the Council's website in the coming weeks. For more information, please visit the Community Governance Review page.

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/search?type=search&searchTerm=Community%20Governance%20Review%20%22%20\t%20%22_new

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)

RSN 2024 seminar programme

- Rural health and care – 27th November

Research on Affordable Housing Delivery in Rural England

A new study reveals critical factors affecting rural affordable housing supply and proposes solutions.

Trent & Dove <https://www.trentanddove.org/> and Rural Housing Solutions

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

have published a new report, "There's a Will—Here's the Way,"

<https://www.trentanddove.org/rural-housing-report>

illuminating the significant challenges and opportunities in developing affordable housing in rural areas.

This research is critical as rural communities face increasing pressures from housing shortages, rising development costs, and complex planning processes. The report draws on in-depth interviews with 11 Registered Providers (RPs), including Strategic Partners and non-strategic Partners. Key findings reveal that while there is a willingness to develop rural housing, barriers such as financial viability, additional rural-specific costs, and planning delays impede progress.

Key Findings:

- 1) Rural Housing Shortages: Only 9% of the housing stock in rural communities (populations of 3,000 or fewer) is made up of affordable homes, compared to 17% in urban areas.
- 2) Increased Costs of Rural Development: Small-scale rural developments face unique cost pressures, including higher per-unit costs due to the inability to achieve economies of scale, rurality and remoteness, and the added requirements to meet Net Zero, biodiversity goals, and nitrate neutrality mitigation.
- 3) Variable Commitment Among Housing Providers: While non-strategic Partners, particularly rural-specialist housing associations, remain committed to developing in small rural communities, larger Strategic Partners tend to focus on large developments in more accessible rural areas where financial viability is easier to achieve.
- 4) Impact of Planning Delays: Local planning authorities often lack the capacity and resources to support rural schemes, leading to long delays and higher risks for developers.

Recommendations:

- Better Grant Funding Through a Rural Multiplier: Introduce a targeted "Rural Multiplier" to offset the higher costs associated with rural schemes and introduce a rural programme approach for developments of fewer than 15 homes. This would help ensure the financial viability of these projects and support the move to Net Zero.

- National Rural Housing Targets: Set national targets for Homes England, including a goal that at



least 10% of Affordable Homes Programme completions are delivered in parishes with populations of 3,000 or fewer.

- Simplified and Consistent Planning Policies: Introduce a Rural Exception Site Planning Passport to reduce costs, risks, and delays for rural schemes and encourage more Registered Providers to engage in rural development.
- Support for Local Authorities and Rural Housing Enablers: Increase resources for planning teams and Rural Housing Enablers to provide the critical groundwork needed to advance rural housing schemes.
- Dedicated Rural Champion in Homes England: Appoint a senior rural housing champion within Homes England to ensure rural issues receive the attention and support they need.

This report calls on Homes England, government departments, and local authorities to act decisively to ensure rural housing development becomes a priority and that these communities do not continue to be left behind.

The full report can be found here <https://www.trentanddove.org/rural-housing-report>

RSN Concerned About Increase in Bus Fare Cap

Rural Services Network (RSN) is expressing significant concern following the announcement by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to increase the national bus fare cap to £3 until the end of 2025. This decision, which marks a 50% increase from the current cap, poses a substantial burden to the residents of rural areas, who depend heavily on bus services for their daily activities.

Rural areas, often overlooked, are ripe with economic potential, as highlighted in a recent report by the Rural Coalition that describes the rural economy as a "sleeping giant" worth £19 billion. Access to affordable public transport is not just a convenience but a necessity in these regions, where alternatives are few and distances to essential services like healthcare, education, and employment are considerable.

The £2 fare cap had demonstrated substantial benefits, making transportation more accessible and affordable for rural dwellers and contributing positively to local economies. It facilitated not only the economic but also the social well-being of rural communities, playing a crucial role in reducing isolation and supporting local businesses.

Given the disproportionate impact of this fare increase on rural populations, coupled with the persistent underfunding of rural public services, the RSN calls for a robust, long-term settlement that ensures public transport remains a viable option in rural communities. This commitment must involve sustained investment that not only maintains service levels but actively expands access, ensuring that every rural community can reach essential services and economic opportunities. Long-term funding should also support innovative transportation solutions that cater to the unique geographical and demographic challenges of rural areas, such as demand-responsive transport and improved connectivity with urban centres.



Specifically, enhanced transportation infrastructure will directly support rural residents' ability to access employment opportunities, vocational training, and continuing education programmes that are often based farther away in urban hubs. Reliable and affordable transport is also critical for accessing healthcare services, which are less dense in rural areas. These improvements are vital for stimulating local economies, attracting new businesses, and enabling rural residents to contribute to and benefit from economic growth. Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network said:

“We urgently call on the government to commit to a comprehensive long-term funding settlement for rural local authorities, which historically receive less funding per capita than their urban counterparts. This strategic investment is essential not only for transport but for all critical services including employment, education, healthcare, and public transportation. Ensuring that rural communities have reliable access to these essential services is crucial for enabling full participation in economic opportunities, fostering sustainable growth, and enhancing the overall well-being of rural areas.”

Investing in rural areas is not just about addressing local disparities - it's about unlocking the potential of rural communities to contribute to national growth. By bolstering rural economies, we can create a more balanced, dynamic, and resilient national economy. The Rural Services Network stands ready to provide support and guidance to Ministers and MPs to help them effectively respond to the needs of rural communities, understand their unique challenges, and take decisive action to support their growth potential. Our advocacy for an inclusive approach aims to ensure that all communities, regardless of their geographical location, have equitable access to the infrastructure and services vital for robust community and economic development. By working together, we can help all regions of the country to thrive.

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**

High Court Overturns Planning Inspectors Decision

Cora Homes was denied permission to build a 45-home estate off Brington Road in Flore, Northamptonshire. The first time was by WNC in November 2022, and then again by the Government's Planning Inspectorate in 2023. Then, the developer took the case to the High Court, where a judge ruled in its favour, reversing the inspectorate's refusal and allowing the appeal. See the following link to a BBC news article dated 30 October 2024.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1ml5eg729xo>

The development would consist of 45 homes, 40% of which are designated as affordable housing. Initially, the Planning Inspectorate dismissed Cora's application because of concerns over its impact on the village landscape, citing a "high level of harm" to local views, and concluded that these effects outweighed any potential benefits, said the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

However, in October, Mr Justice Mould at the High Court found that the inspector had misapplied a local policy concerning affordable housing on rural sites. He ruled that the policy did not apply in this case, and so allowed the appeal. With outline approval now granted, the council will need to review plans through a reserved matters application before any construction begins.



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

Be the Link: Help Connect Rough Sleepers to Vital Support

StreetLink has created a video to show how your alert could save a life. StreetLink is a vital platform that connects people sleeping rough in England and Wales to local support services provided by local authorities and charities through alerts made by the public.



<https://thestreetlink.org.uk/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZAQcymRffQ>

This includes anyone who is sleeping outside, preparing to bed down, or sleeping somewhere not designed for habitation, such as a car. To make these connections, the platform relies on alerts submitted by members of the public and people sleeping rough.

Every piece of information provided helps outreach teams locate and assist individuals in need. By submitting an alert,

you're not just raising awareness about a situation - you're taking action to improve someone's life. Be a part of the change today.

Streets of Change Film

The Streets of Change film and virtual reality (VR) experience, created by One to One Development Trust in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), continues to make a powerful impact as it reaches international audiences. The film, which brings to life the realities of homelessness and recovery in



Northampton is now available for global viewing on YouTube and since its debut, has engaged thousands of people across 10 events, both locally and internationally.

The film has not only captivated local audiences in West Northamptonshire but has also been recognised on the world stage after recently being selected for prestigious festivals, including the Workers Unite Film Festival in New

York and the Aesthetica Film Festival in York, England. In November, it will be featured at the 30th Anniversary of the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) in Glasgow, where representatives from 35 countries will have the chance to experience the film.

The film's global reach is a significant milestone in raising awareness of homelessness, with local organisations like The Hope Centre in Northampton and the Tuesday Night Team using the VR experience to challenge stereotypes and promote understanding within communities. As Streets of Change continues to gain international recognition, its message is clear: homelessness and poverty are global challenges, and the film serves as a powerful tool to inspire change and foster empathy. Watch Streets of Change on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLJFw2hzkUE>

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>

Why Drop Litter Campaign?

West Northamptonshire is joining forces with other local authorities to ask, 'why do you drop litter?' The campaign aims to educate road users on how they can report litter dropped from a vehicle when they witness an offence and make those thinking of littering aware they could be liable for up to a £500 fine if

they choose to do so. We're asking why people drop litter – do they not care about the countryside, do they think others should clean up their mess, or are they an idiot?

Dropping litter from any vehicle, such as a car, van, lorry or scooter, is an offence and can result in a fixed penalty notice (FPN) being issued to the person dropping the litter by our Environmental Crime team. Anyone can report littering offences on WNC's website or via the West Northamptonshire Council app, available to download via the app store. Signage will be displayed along the A5, as well as at petrol stations and across social media channels to highlight that littering anywhere is an offence.



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 Road



Local Area Partnership Rural East

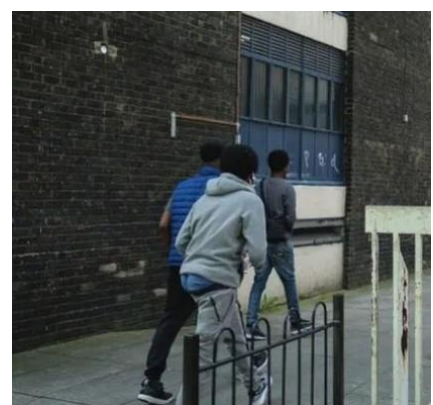
The next meeting is due to take place on 26th November at 13:15 to 14:15pm.

At the last meeting on 22 October 2024, we reviewed the LAP progress over the last month, details as follows:

Children & Young People (CYP)

Towcester had come onto the radar due to an individual having links with a Birmingham gang known as B4. Some key points included:

- Antisocial behaviour on the Recreation Ground and down through the brook area to the back of the leisure centre. A group of NEET young people was the catalyst.



- Young people gathering in Water Meadows drinking, smoking weed and swimming in the Weir.
- Vandalism/desecration of graves/anti-social behaviour at the Cemetery in the early hours of Sunday 4th August. Town Parish Councils had asked the SN Policing Team to include Towcester Cemetery in its regular patrols due to ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour and threatening/intimidating behaviour over the past 12 months or so. However, there is concern that local Police do not have sufficient resources to allocate to this. In addition, at the Schools Contextual Safeguarding meeting they raised concerns that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had increased significantly over the last few months and there were concerns this would further increase over the summer whilst schools had no oversight.

Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) forms had been completed where appropriate. A Task & Finish group was brought together to better understand the issue and seek some solutions.

Older Residents

Dementia Support

The Rural South and East insight data tells us that we have a higher number of over 75's and pensioner households than average. There's been a fundraising campaign for Dementia UK, and it could be a fantastic opportunity for social groups to come together and support the work being done for this illness. We've got the Dementia UK November Knitting challenge that will take place, the date for that is the 1st of November to the 30th of November.



Carers

Northamptonshire Carers are embarking on a roadshow of one stop shops across all LAP areas to offer information, advice, and guidance to unpaid carers. These one stop shops are funded by the Accelerated Reform Fund and will include: an informal café style area staffed by Care Support Workers and Volunteers, information about Northamptonshire Carers and the services we provide with the option to register with Northamptonshire Carers should they wish to do so, IT equipment and a printer for carers to use to complete forms, blue badge applications etc, a private room for pre booked carers assessments to take place and each one stop shop will include a form of holistic therapy i.e. hand massage.



Welcoming Spaces

These are the Welcoming Spaces in Rural East

- Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council
- Towcester Library
- Deanshanger Library
- Tove Benefice
- Roade Community Library
- Blisworth Baptist Church
- Yardley Gobion URC Chapel
- renew169 Wellbeing Cafe
- Nether Heyford Parish Council
- Bugbrooke Parish Council



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

- Blisworth Baptist Church
- Hackleton Baptist Church/ Coffee@Carey
- Grange Park Church
- Towcester St Lawrence PCC (Church)
- Space 2 Talk Training CIC
- Deanshanger Man's Club (Deanshanger Parish Council/Good Neighbours)
- St Margaret of Antioch Church Denton pcc
- Nether Heyford Community Lounge
- Denton Church

Young Enterprise

Following on from the highly successful two-day delivery of the business and life skills at Elizabeth Woodfield School, Roade Campus which comprised of fully funded delivery agreed for whole of year 8 from both EWS campuses to take part in a Business Skills Workshop. The aim is to grow workplace skills, confidence, finance, presenting, problem-solving real-life scenarios. This presents a valuable chance to influence the school curriculum to reflect the needs of the local community.

A second workshop is planned for the Deanshanger Campus in the Autumn term.



Introduction of new LAP members

At the last LAP meeting we were introduced to a number of new LAP members.

Debbie MacColl is the Serious Violence Prevention Co-ordinator at WNC and sits within the Community Safety and Engagement team. Her main role is to deliver the serious violence duty, working closely with partners. With the north, our focus for this first year is young people under 25, knife crime and robbery. She has spent a lot of time trying to get to know the rest of the area and based herself in Towcester at least one day a month, getting to know the Parish council, and then the more rural areas. As Towcester is a small market town it doesn't have too much in the way of county lines. Therefore, we have been trying to engage with young people to make sure they don't get involved. Over the last 12 months, we have funded South Northants Youth Engagement for some of their activities over the year.

Tom is from Alcoholics Anonymous and updated LAP members that with the priorities that have been identified in several of the LAPs. There's quite often an alcohol issue and a link between the violent crimes and alcohol problems. Recently the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, recently updated that quality standard 11 on alcohol use disorder and are now recommending self-help groups. That came about largely because of the Cochrane review that was published back in 2020 where the conference study was into the effectiveness of Alcoholics Anonymous. They said that virtually every stage of recovery was at least as good as, but in many cases better than the other therapies or treatments that were being offered.

But when it came to long term sobriety there was nobody that could match the results from AA. There is no cost whatsoever to the NHS for AA. We have no waiting list and help is available immediately for those that have a problem. Tom is keen to get this message out to people particularly associated with the medical profession, but there are other areas as well. There are two different types of AA meetings, closed meetings for people with drinking problems only and open meetings where friends and family and people with an interest are welcome to come along and see AA in operation.

Partner Updates

Erika Duthie, Community Team, West Northants Council updated that library drop-ins are ongoing in Towcester on the second Tuesday of the month. Then we are going to Brackley on the third Friday of the month. There is somebody there between 10:00 and 12:00. People can drop into the libraries on those days to say, what do adult social care do? How can you help me? The health and well-being team are going to start to join us as well.

Andrea Newman, Project Coordinator – Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire works for voluntary impacts and manages the Community Health Champion project, which is quite a new project. The idea of the Community Health Champion project is to have a network of people who on a voluntary basis, will share health and well-being messages with a community that they have contact with. They can interpret the word community as they wish. So, it could be locality where they live, it could be their colleagues. It could be a Sports Club, they belong to. It could be a cultural community that they're part of, if they've got a large digital following and they are West Northants people. The Community Health Champion project covers the whole of West Northamptonshire.

Sergeant Lorna Clarke Northants Police Staffing-they have had an uplift from one parish council. There are four different shifts running with a PC or PCSO on each of the four shifts. Towcester town got 3 PCs and 1 PCSO. They will have another PCSO when one comes back from leave. They've had problems in the church, kids smoking drugs and drinking and a sting attack where they caught someone with some drugs. A



risk assessment was carried out for them to have immediate justice. So, within eight days, they went from catching a person with some drugs to them doing 4 hours community service back at the church tidying the remembrance gardens.

Immediate justice was previously adults only, however we now have under 18s doing their four hours of immediate justice. It takes five staff to catch one person. However, in this case the entire group of seven now understands the consequences of their actions. They are still looking for areas and projects like the church initiative. If anybody else knows of any other projects that could do with sporadic support from volunteers, then the immediate justice team will bring over their volunteers to do whatever work it is. Generally, they work in four-hour blocks. They might get one person for four hours; or they might get 12 people for four hours. Clearing up a space is good, but it needs to be public, and it needs to be of benefit to the public. That's the only stipulation. So hopefully, this immediate justice scheme will deliver results. The consequence for cannabis before was to do an online course for £20. Well now they do their online course and four hours immediate justice service.

Rachael Byrne LAP Project Lead - Rural South and Rural East is working on the men in sheds project.

Tessa Matthews Social Prescribing Link Worker, Brackley and Towcester PCN updated that the Brackley and Toaster PCN now has a full health and well-being team. Tessa is one of the social prescribers. There is a second social prescriber, 2 health coaches and an age well team as well that helps and supports the over 65s. They have to be patients of the two surgeries in Towcester and the two surgeries in Brackley. The GP surgeries support the people in the rural areas as well as the people in the towns. It's a question of which surgery people are registered with, but as long as they're registered with one of the two surgeries in Towcester and Brackley, we will support them.

Rachel Page Operations Manager, South Northants Volunteer Bureau has been working on reducing health inequalities in Brackley and the surrounding villages project. She has a written report for the project.

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: -

- 12/11/2024
- 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>

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 Hambly 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

Celebrating the Contributions of Older People

Following on from the success of the Healthy Active Ageing event held in April 2024, we are joining Northamptonshire Sport in launching a Healthy Active Ageing Network for people across Northamptonshire. The Healthy Active Ageing Network is made up of people who have a professional role and/or interest in promoting the health and wellbeing of older people, and especially in reducing any



health inequalities they might experience. The network contributes to the shared ambition of Move Northamptonshire (A Framework For Active Lifestyles In Northamptonshire), and to the 'Live Your Best Life' Strategy - specifically ambition 3 'Opportunity to be fit, well and independent'. The launch of the network coincides with the celebration of International Day of Older People, which took place on 1 October.

The Healthy Active Ageing network will be working with Professor Sir Muir Gray to develop a local programme aimed at promoting healthy ageing in our community. Sir Muir Gray is a physician, academic, and health system innovator, who has held senior positions in the NHS, and has overseen national health screening and NHS RightCare programmes. This initiative will enable us to share national and international best practice across our local networks and coordinate our efforts to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and be active. Please join us in celebrating and supporting our older population to live healthier, more active lives.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../celebrating...>

Protect 2-3 Year Olds with Flu Nasal Spray

Parents and guardians across West Northamptonshire are being urged to get their child vaccinated with the free flu nasal spray.



The call from the Public Health team at West Northamptonshire Council comes as the Government prioritises flu vaccinations for all children. Toddlers, are amongst those groups who could have serious health implications from catching flu, including the need to be hospitalised. In 2023-2024 59% of children aged two to three, in West Northamptonshire, did not receive the vaccine, meaning a higher increase of children this age were at risk to catching flu. The West Northamptonshire Public Health Team are calling to parents and guardians to get their children booked in with their GP as soon as possible, to ensure they are protected against the contagious infection. Parents will receive an invite from their child's GP inviting them to take up the opportunity of a flu vaccine. It is important to ensure you take the time to get your child

vaccinate them ahead of the colder months. For further information, visit the: West Northamptonshire Council Immunisation page.

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

Parents to Get Children Vaccinated Ahead of Winter

Public Health West Northamptonshire are encouraging parents and guardians to ensure their school aged children take up the free flu jab this year, ahead of the winter months. Flu is a highly contagious infection which can be caught by anyone and can have serious health implications. As well as being an unpleasant illness, in some cases it can lead to more serious problems such as bronchitis, pneumonia, middle ear infection, sepsis, and can prove fatal.



When infected with flu, young people pose a risk of transmission to anyone they come in to contact with. Some people are more at risk of developing complications if they catch the virus, including the elderly, very young and people with pre-existing health conditions.

Dr Annapurna Sen, Consultant in Health Protection for West Northamptonshire Council says:

“In 2023-2024 52.2% of children from reception to year 6 and 63.5% from year 7 to year 11 in West Northamptonshire did not get vaccinated against flu, increasing the likeliness of them catching and spreading the flu infection. I urge parents to give consent and get their children vaccinated as soon as they are invited.”

By getting vaccinated children are protected from catching the virus and can help to protect others.

School aged children will be invited for their flu jab through one of the following routes:

- If your child attends school, they will be invited to attend a clinic held at their school
- Home schooled children and those who do not attend school will be invited to attend one of the school age immunisation service community clinics
- For parents or children who do not want their child to be vaccinated in either of the above settings, they can contact their GP directly and book a flu jab appointment

Rural East Children, Young People & Families LAP Summit

A Rural East Children & Young Peoples Summit has been planned for 26th November 2024 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm with refreshments from 12.45pm at Elizabeth Woodville School. The Purpose: Under the theme “Think Family First, Think Local Community Solution”, the summit will encourage 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 are aiming to achieve 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
- 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

We hope you can join us for this important discussion. Your participation and contribution will be instrumental in shaping a more connected and effective local early help network to support children, young people, and families in our area. I appreciate it if you know of any community groups or local organisations who you believe would be interested in forming part of this discussion, if you could forward an invitation to them so they can be included in the conversation. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to this collaborative event.

National Dialogue on NHS Future-A Call for Input

Last week, the government launched a significant public engagement initiative

<https://www.gov.uk/.../government-issues-rallying-cry-to...>

aimed at transforming the National Health Service (NHS). This nationwide campaign seeks to gather insights from the public, healthcare professionals, and experts to help shape a 10-year strategic plan intended to rejuvenate the NHS.



In a bold move to address the systemic challenges within the NHS, the government has unveiled a website, www.change.nhs.uk, <https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/>

as a central platform for collecting suggestions and experiences related to NHS services. This initiative reflects an inclusive approach, encouraging everyone in the country to contribute to the conversation until early next year. The feedback collected will directly influence the government's forthcoming 10 Year Health Plan, slated for release in spring 2025.

The government's plan emphasises three significant transformations:

- 1) **Hospital to Community:** By establishing neighbourhood health centres closer to where people live, the plan aims to make healthcare more accessible and community-centred. These centres will bring together a wide range of healthcare providers, including family doctors, nurses, and specialists in physical and mental health.
- 2) **Analogue to Digital:** A move towards a digital NHS will see the creation of a unified patient record accessible through the NHS App, streamlining the sharing of health information across NHS trusts and general practices. This transition is expected to enhance efficiency, reduce redundant tests, and improve patient care.
- 3) **Sickness to Prevention:** Shifting the focus from treating illness to preventing it, the plan includes exploring how technology, such as smartwatches, can help manage chronic conditions outside of traditional medical settings.

The government's call to action has been supported by voices across the healthcare sector, emphasising the critical need for public involvement. NHS England's Chief Executive highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by NHS staff, underscoring the importance of innovative solutions to ensure a sustainable future for the health service.

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.

October half term: Monday October 28 to Friday November 1.

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

South Midlands Devolution Bid

North and West Northamptonshire Councils have partnered with four other authorities in the South Midlands on an expression of interest to the Government toward devolution. Government announced in July that devolution would be a central strand for boosting economic growth inviting local leaders to identify regional partnerships which could benefit from enhanced powers in areas such as transport, housing, skills and employment. Councils in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and North and West Northamptonshire have successfully worked together for many years as part of the Central Area Growth Board, more recently becoming the South Midlands Authorities (SMA). They have worked jointly on a submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).



As well as enhanced powers, a devolution deal could also leverage in millions of pounds of future investment into the area. Following on from the expression of interest, the government will produce a

framework which will provide more detail on how and when devolution could become a reality and what the specific benefits could be for the SMA. Both North and West Northamptonshire Councils, along with the other four SMA authorities, have already approved the establishment of a Joint Committee governance model for the area as part of their South Midlands Authorities management of the former Local Enterprise Partnership functions.

The new governance model replaces the current Central Area Growth Board and in particular its decision-making powers.

UK Roadshow to Visit Small Businesses

Small businesses in West Northamptonshire will be put on the map by the Small Business Saturday campaign later this year, after it has announced plans to bring its next national roadshow to the area this autumn. The Tour will visit local businesses in Northampton on Monday, 18 November 2024 as part of a month-long journey across the UK, telling the inspirational stories of the UK's 5.5 million small businesses and spotlighting the real people and communities behind them.



Supported by BT, the Tour will visit small businesses in over twenty UK towns and cities, undertaking 'behind-the-scenes' style scenes, interviewing local business owners and sharing these across social media. The Tour marks the official countdown to Small Business Saturday later in the year on 7 December. A grassroots, non-commercial campaign, Small Business Saturday celebrates small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and to support businesses in their communities. Running for over a decade the campaign is backed by principal supporter American Express and has engaged millions of people and seen billions of pounds spent with small businesses across the UK on Small Business Saturday.

Alongside the roadshow, the campaign will also offer a month of dedicated free online support for small businesses in the UK. This includes daily webinars and mentoring covering a wide range of relevant topics, as well as insight sessions with small businesses and industry experts. Travelling over 3,000 miles The Tour will make use of electric vehicles to reduce emissions and reflect the sustainable switches many small business owners are making, as part of their vital role in the race to net zero.

For more information on Small Business Saturday and to get involved in The Tour visit - <https://smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/the-tour>

Greene King IPA-Proud to Pitch Fund

Grants of up to £4,000 are available for registered charities, community groups, social enterprises, community amateur sports clubs, and other organisations across the UK to deliver grassroots sports activities that positively impact local communities. Examples of projects that have previously received funding include:

- 1) Renovations of a club's facilities to make them more inclusive and accessible.
- 2) Coaching qualifications and referee courses.
- 3) New equipment and kit.



Priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate how their sports club or project benefits members of the local community, and projects that will have a long-term impact. Funded projects should be delivered by 31 December 2024.

The fund is open to applications all year and grants will be distributed regularly.

<https://www.greeneking.co.uk/proud-to-pitch-in>

Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BLRF2)

On 15 October 2024 the Prime Minister announced that £68m has been awarded under the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BLRF2) to 54 councils in England, who will be able to use the money to turn surplus land into new homes. West Northamptonshire Council were allocated £2.6m.



land into new homes. West Northamptonshire Council were allocated £2.6m.

The funding will mean councils can clear empty buildings, former car parks and industrial land to make way for the homes. Brownfield land can be expensive to prepare for house building, meaning sites are sat empty and can be an eyesore for local communities. The

funding, delivered through the Brownfield Land Release Fund, will enable councils to cover the cost of decontamination, clearing disused buildings or improving infrastructure such as internet, water and power. As a result, land will be released to enable 5,200 homes to be built across the country.

The three-year £180 million Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 was launched in July 2022 to allow local authorities in England to be able to build on blocked brownfield land.

The BLRF2 is delivered through One Public Estate (OPE), a partnership between MHCLG, OPE and the Local Government Association. OPE is a cross public sector programme, aimed at bringing public sector bodies together, to create better places by using public assets more efficiently, creating service and financial benefits for partners and releasing land for housing and regeneration.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/.../brownfield-land-release-fund>

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Official Opening of Active Travel Route

A scheme that offers more than a kilometre of traffic-free routes for use by walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users in the south of Northampton Town Centre has officially opened. The 1,300-metre route provides an accessible path through Delapré Park to link Far Cotton with Brackmills and offers people the chance to use more sustainable methods of travel and a better connection to local amenities.

Funded by Active Travel England, the Delapre Active Travel route will encourage walking, wheeling, and cycling whilst providing a missing link between these areas and forms part of the Northampton Active Quarter. As part of the project a bike shelter has been installed, general hedge maintenance has been carried out to improve the appearance and the drainage system has been redirected to reduce the risk of flooding. Wayfinding signage and seating will be installed soon. This comes as work begins next week on the first phase of the Abington Active Travel scheme which aims to improve connectivity and accessibility in the Abington Park area, joining Rushmere Road to Wellingborough Road.



WNC Gritters Being Deployed to Prepare for Winter

West Northamptonshire's fleet of gritters are being deployed to prepare roads for winter, as we enter the colder months.

With temperatures across the area expected to drop towards the end of October, precautionary gritting has already begun. West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) highways partner Kier Transportation, which is part of Kier Group, is set to treat over 1,100 km of roads — equivalent to driving from West Northamptonshire to Venice. The Council has over 5,500 tonnes of salt stockpiled for use on roads and footpaths throughout the winter, with over 880 grit bins ready for use.



With colder weather approaching, this increases the potential for potholes and other defects. We will continue to work closely with Kier to resolve issues as quickly as possible and encourage all residents to report any road defects through our website, providing as much information as possible.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../report-potholes-or...>

Proactive steps have been taken to ensure roads remain safe during the winter months, with a fleet of 12 gritters on standby, ready to deploy as needed. Through route-based forecasting, roads will be treated if the temperatures are forecasted to drop below 0.5C. As stocks run low, people can also report bins that need refilling.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and.../grit-bins>

Find out more about the precautionary and adverse gritting routes and other useful winter service information.

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

POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities For the South Northants neighbourhood policing area are as shown:

Local Policing Priorities

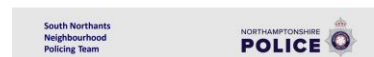
For the South Northants neighbourhood policing area

Every six months, with your help, we identify up to three local policing priorities.

From Oct 2024 to Mar 2025 we will be focusing on...

- **Road Safety & Road Traffic Offences**
- **Acquisitive Crime**
- **Drug Supply**

For more information about your local neighbourhood policing team, visit northants.police.uk/yourarea
 To get in touch, email SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.pnn.police.uk or SouthNorthants-Brackley@northants.pnn.police.uk
 To report a non-urgent crime or incident call 101 or report online
 In an emergency call 999



Handy Information

Northamptonshire Police work in partnership with a number of other agencies in order to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour and crime. You can often report to these organisations directly too, as they may be the most appropriate agency to investigate your matter. West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership have produced this handy reference guide that you may like to put on your family noticeboard.

COMMUNITY FIRST
TOWCESTER: HOW TO REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

REPORTING A CRIME:

- **EMERGENCY (IT IS HAPPENING NOW) - ALWAYS use 999 in an emergency**
- **NON EMERGENCY** - report using the QR code, call 101 or visit www.northants.police.uk/101
- **HATE CRIME** - report to the police on 101 or www.northants.police.uk/101/report/hate-crime/hc-av1/report-hate-crime/

REPORT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

- To Northants Police via - www.northants.police.uk/101/report/ab/ab1/report-antisocial-behaviour/

ANONYMOUS REPORTING:

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111
 Fearless - Fearless.org

REPORT FLY-TIPPING:

www.mycouncil.northampton.digital/report/tf.html or call 0300 126 7000

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Find your local scheme via - www.ownwatch.org.uk

REPORT A HMO/DISREPAIR ISSUES WITHIN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR (PRS)

privatesectorhousing@solutionssteam.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk

If you have a smart phone, open your camera and point it these QR codes to take you directly to the website.

Police Non-emergency
Police - Antisocial Behaviour
Police
Crimestoppers
Fly-Tipping
Neighbourhood Watch
Report HMO

West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership
West Northamptonshire Council

COMMUNITY FIRST
TOWCESTER: HOW TO REPORT

INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR LOCAL AREA

FIND OUT WHO YOUR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE OFFICERS ARE:

Towcester | South Northamptonshire | Northamptonshire Police | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)

FIND OUT WHO YOUR COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT PROJECT OFFICER IS BY EMAILING:

Forums.NBC@westnorthants.gov.uk

FIND YOUR WNC COUNCILLOR:

westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk

FIND YOUR TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCILLOR:

towcester-tc.gov.uk/town-councillors/

West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership
West Northamptonshire Council

Emergency Service Cadet Leaders Needed

Do you have experience and a passion for working with young people? Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadets are looking for leaders at Northampton Unit. NESC Units are run by dedicated adult volunteers who have given up their time to assist in delivering the cadet programme. To enhance our offer to young people we are keen to hear from anyone who can offer their skills and experience to support and develop young people. There is no necessity of previous experience of the Emergency Services.

Our Cadet leaders help deliver training and activities on our NESC Programme. We are looking for Cadet Leaders to assist with our programmes and activities, such as:

- Helping to deliver life skills and good citizenship
- Experience and skills around the Emergency Services
- Assisting at residential camps and adventure activities
- Helping with running activities and supervising the cadets
- Helping to make a difference to young people in your community

You will receive a uniform and training to assist you in this role. This is a volunteer role, however the volunteering does not need to be every week, you are welcome to drop in on specific curriculum subjects which will be gratefully received. Northampton Unit meet on a Thursday evening during school term time between 18:00 and 21:00. For further information please contact the Citizens in Policing Team by email: citizensinpolicing@northants.police.uk



Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadets
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Adult Cadet Leader Volunteers

Could you volunteer to help make a difference to young people and our communities?

Our Cadet leaders help deliver training and activities on our NESC Programme. We are looking for Cadet Leaders to assist with our programmes and activities, such as:

- Helping to deliver life skills and good citizenship
- Experience and skills around the Emergency Services
- Assisting at residential camps and adventure activities
- Helping with running activities and supervising the cadets
- Helping to make a difference to young people in your community

For more information or to apply please email citizensinpolicing@northants.police.uk



CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Basketball Project to improve Young People's Well Being

Northamptonshire Serious Violence Prevention Partnership (NSVPP) has awarded £116,430 to Athletic Elite, a basketball coaching and development organisation, to launch the Side line Project. The Side line Project uses basketball and sports coaching to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of young people across Northamptonshire. It focuses on those young people who are identified as vulnerable to risk, delivering tailored sessions about physical health, confidence, resilience and emotional well-being, aiming to empower young people to make healthier choices, and create safe places for them to belong. The project will create six-week programmes for secondary schools in priority areas, offering evening basketball and mentoring sessions for students with attendance problems and/or those referred by the police.

These will support young people between the ages of seven and 19. Alongside these programmes, the Side line Project will support the upskilling of basketball coaches in crime prevention.



Four priority areas - Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby - have been identified using the data collected as part of the NSVPP Serious Violence Duty Strategy. This partnership approach ensures that primary interventions, like the Side line project, are specifically designed to address serious violence in targeted areas.

It is a part of the NSVPP's plans to implement a public health approach to violence prevention,

gaining an understanding of the causes of violence to develop evidence-based interventions which focus on both reduction and prevention.

New Civic Protocol

A new Civic Protocol for Northamptonshire has been published to help establish a countywide approach to our civic functions. The protocol outlines the roles and responsibilities of various civic figures, such as the Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, the Chairs of West and North Northamptonshire Councils and all the Mayors and Chairs of town and parish councils across the county. It seeks to celebrate and preserve Northamptonshire's rich history and civic tradition while providing for a consistent approach



to civic matters, such as the order of precedence at civic engagements and events. It also aims to support local businesses and charities, to promote the visitor economy, and to recognise deserving individuals and organisations within the county.

The Civic Protocol has been developed by the Northamptonshire County Civic Working Group - a group originally established by the Lord-Lieutenant in 2021 as the Platinum Jubilee Committee.

Chaired by the Lord-Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson, it includes Father Oliver Coss, Rector of

Northampton and representatives from Northants CALC, North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, and Northampton Town Council. A link to the Civic Protocol was sent to Town and Parish Clerks across the

county earlier this month. It is available as a download from the Northants CALC website here:

<https://www.northantscalc.com/civic-protocol>

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 Match Schedule

World Rugby has announced that six matches will take place at the cinch Stadium at Franklins Gardens in Northampton as the match schedule for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 is revealed, setting the stage for six weekends of compelling competition in what promises to be the largest celebration of women's rugby.

Brazil, who became the first team from South America to qualify for a Women's Rugby World Cup earlier this year, will make their tournament debut against South Africa at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton on Sunday, 24 August 2025.

The Pool stage matches at Franklin's Gardens will also include:

- Sunday 24 August: Ireland v Japan (kick-off 12 noon)
- Sunday 24 August: South Africa v Brazil (kick-off 2.45pm)
- Saturday 30 August: England v Samoa (kick-off 5pm)
- Sunday 31 August: Ireland v Spain (kick-off 12 noon)
- Sunday 7 September: Italy v Brazil (kick-off 2pm)
- Sunday 7 September: France v South Africa (kick-off 4.45pm)

The match schedule has been developed with team and fan experience at heart, with exciting matchups in each of the eight host locations, family friendly kick-off times and optimised team travel. Aligned with World Rugby standards, each team will also benefit from a minimum of six rest days between pool matches enabling the world's top teams to prepare and perform at their best. View the full match schedule on the World Rugby website.

<https://www.world.rugby/.../pools-confirmed-for-womens...>

Five double header fixtures will take place during the pool stages, generating a festival atmosphere in the host locations and creating a day-out for families and local communities. With child prices available at all matches including the opening and knock-out matches and a vast majority of kick-off times in the afternoon, Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 promises to be the family event of the year inspiring the next generation of players in England.

The pool stage will culminate in a huge weekend of matches across four venues, with the two best teams on competition points in each pool qualifying for the quarter-finals and the knockout phase.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 Managing Director, Sarah Massey, said: "The confirmation of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 match schedule brings a wave of excitement as fans in the host nation and around the globe can now mark their calendars for this era-defining tournament.

With 95 per cent of the population in England within two hours of a match venue, fans will have an



unprecedented opportunity to see rugby's biggest stars in action, while host cities are getting ready to welcome international travelling fans with iconic and vibrant local experiences. With excitement building, fans will have the opportunity to apply for tickets for all matches from 11am (GMT) on Tuesday 5 November until 11am (GMT) on Tuesday 19 November. Ballots will be used for any price categories which are oversubscribed. Fans can register to be the first to hear about ticket news here.

Prior to the two-week ticket application phase, Worldwide Partner Mastercard is offering its cardholders access to a 48-hour priority sale for all matches from 11am (GMT+1) today until 11am (GMT+1) on Thursday 24 October at tickets.rugbyworldcup.com. Only Mastercard payments will be accepted during this priority window.

Festive Fun in Daventry

Get into the festive spirit at Daventry's Christmas Market, where you can shop from a variety of independent stallholders offering unique gifts, crafts, and delicious festive food and drinks. The event will



be held on Saturday, 23rd November 2024, from 10am to 3pm, across Daventry High Street, Bowen Square, Foundry Walk, and Sheaf Street. Entry is FREE and the event is family-friendly, so everyone is welcome. Parking around the town is free (just check signage for any time restrictions). It's a perfect opportunity to kick-start your Christmas shopping while enjoying a day out with the whole family!

Santa will be arriving in his sleigh, courtesy of The Rotary, to greet children on the High Street—no appointment necessary, just drop by! Other exciting attractions include Santa's real reindeer, a giant snow globe experience, face painting, a choir, children's crafts, a Christmas tree trail, and even a stilt walker. Make a day of it by visiting one of Daventry's many cafés and restaurants, or explore the independent shops around town. For more details, follow the Discover Daventry Facebook page. Please note that the

High Street and Sheaf Street will be closed to traffic on the day of the event. This festive day is funded and organised by Daventry Town Council.

Find Remembrance Events Across West Northants

Communities across West Northamptonshire will come together in Remembrance in November, to honour those who served and remember their sacrifice. View the round-up of events on our website and let us know of any further events taking place.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../find-remembrance...>

