

GRANGE PARK

High Level Overview

News Report July 2021

You have already received a copy of my second Monthly News Report. I am active on Facebook Stephen.Clarke.31924 and also on Community Group pages across Hackleton and Grange Park. Community matters appear on your local Community Group page and in my Monthly News Report and Daily Facebook postings. As will any actions I have undertaken on your behalf.

RSN-SPARSE

I have just heard that I have been confirmed as the WNC Lead representative on the Rural Services Network (RSN) previously known as SPARSE. I will be ably supported by, Councillor Alan Chantler, ward member for Braunston and Crick. The Rural Services Network is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association. It is a membership organisation and works on behalf of its members as the national champion for rural services.

The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative-Celebrate 70 years of Service

WNC is supporting the initiative and are encouraging town and parish councils to plant trees. Schools, community groups and clubs are invited to apply for free saplings from The Woodland Trust for planting from October 2021 to March.2022. Please find out more and apply by visiting the Woodland Trust website. Also visit <https://queensgreencanopy>

SEGRO

I wrote to SEGRO again regarding Grange Park Parish Council's request to be included in their Community Fund Scheme. Grange Park Council was advised that residents of Grange Park were experiencing relatively few or limited negative impacts from SEGRO and that they are a major beneficiary of the investment into the enhancement to M1 J15 which will hugely improve local traffic flows and journey times. Therefore, they were not considered eligible for a grant. I fail to understand why Grange Park should have been treated differently to the other local communities. Grange Park Council believe that they should have been included in the Community Fund Scheme at the outset. I had chased Gary Gaskarth, cc Andrew Pilsworth, MD, National Logistics. My email was passed to Kate Bedson, Senior Director who wrote to me on the 20th July. I have responded to Kate's request for a meeting as follows:

"Thank you for your email of the 20th July 2021 in response to my second e-mail to Gary Gaskarth. I am pleased to hear that there is some discretionary funding for local community projects that you can administer on an annual basis, but disappointed that you cannot revisit the initial Community Fund Initiative for Grange Park Council, which is at the heart of the present line of enquiry. I would be happy to meet with you and for you to introduce me to your colleagues Ian Rigby and Neil Impiazzi, so that we can discuss funding for Grange Park Community Projects and I can better understand SEGRO's position." I have offered a number of dates and I will let you know more when I receive an update. (26 or the 30 July; or the following week on 2 or 6 August).

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Foxfield Country Park Gym Equipment

I promised that I would go and sample the outdoor gym equipment placed in 6 specific locations around Foxfield Country Park. I went there on Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

Grange Park Café Bar 9 July

I had arranged to meet Councillor Julie Bainbridge, Grange Park Council at the Café Bar in Grange Park in order to find out about her Bertie Bottle campaign and their regular litter picks around Grange Park. It was timely as it coincided with a request for a meeting with the Clerk, Tracy Sampson and Councillor Mike Aluko to help progress their discussions with SEGRO. We were able to discuss at length a number of Grange Park related matters including SEGRO and I have agreed to help achieve progress on their Community Fund application. We also spoke about the Summer Fest, which is being held on the 4th September from 1.00pm-8.00pm at Foxfield Country Park. They extended an invitation to all three of their WNC Councillors. I was delighted to accept and agreed to help on the day.

GRANGE PARK Litter and Bus Stops

The Grange Park Parish Council have been asked by the community whether it is possible to move bus stops and if so how best to achieve this. The reason that this question has been raised is because the residents of Grange Park would like to make the local companies accept some responsibility for their staff littering the environment as they arrive and depart from their place of work, and create a better entrance to the estate. I have referred the matter to Highways and Waste for action. Thank you for your email on the issues being experienced a Grange Park. On 20 July, I received the following response from James Loader, Bus and Rail Department. "The main suggestion of seeking to have buses stopping within the confines of the warehouses does, as a first impression at least, feel problematic and will need some consideration. Some of the issues I can immediately think of are finding somewhere safe for a bus to turn in forward gear and for passengers to safely wait, the reliability issues it may cause if buses start getting blocked in by vans/lorries and that around 50% of buses on this route come from Milton Keynes and are therefore primarily aimed at other users for most of the day. The existing stops would also need to remain in use for non-warehouse passengers. Notwithstanding the above, I do have a weekly (except this week due to annual leave, typically) conference with Stagecoach and will take the opportunity to talk this through with them and come back to you. I would also agree that a level of ownership from the employers is also required to bring about a solution." I will let you have an update when I hear more.

Quinton

Please find an update on Quinton in News Report.

Fix My Street-Grange Park

I successfully achieved an acceptance that Highways will install more signs on the

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roundabout on Bridge Meadow Way by the Tricker warehouse saying unsuitable for HGVs.

NHS 5 July

I supported a number of the special celebrations to say thank you for the continued hard work and dedication of NHS, social care and frontline workers. I am particularly proud of the many incredible NHS staff and frontline workers, who throughout the pandemic have shown such strength and resilience by bravely stepping forward to support others.

Brafield on the Green- new plaque

A special thank you to Gill Morgan, the Jubilee Committee and Brafield on the Green Parish Council for the new plaque, which is now installed upon the village sign. This is intended to thank the NHS workers, the Essential workers, the Volunteers and to remember all those who unfortunately lost their lives to COVID-19. Nurse Karen Tilley, as a representative from Denton Village Surgery unveiled the beautiful plaque. I was honoured to attend the official unveiling.

Hackleton

The Larkfleet site off Lyne Walk and Elm Way, Hackleton has kept me busy this month. On the 26th June 2021 a number of residents alerted me to Larkfleet's non-compliance with their Construction Management Plan. There is a very detailed description on Facebook and the Hackleton Magazine.

School Minor Works Budget 2021/22

On the 20th June the Cabinet approved the 2021/22 'School Minor Works' budget. The WNC allocation was £1,629,546 'School Condition Allocation' funding for 2021/22. This would be utilised as WNC's 'School Minor Works' budget for 2021/22.

Enhanced Partnership and Bus Improvement Plan

By the end of the October 2021, the Council will form an Enhanced Partnership and publish a local Bus Service Improvement Plan, detailing how we propose to use our powers to improve services. Government expects actual delivery of Enhanced Partnerships by April 2022. From that date, the new discretionary forms of bus funding from Government will only be available to services operated, or measures taken, under an Enhanced Partnership or where a franchising scheme has been made. The Department for Transport expect that the Bus Service Improvement Plan will be reflected in the Local Transport Plan, and this is likely to require an update of at least the Bus Strategy, which forms part of the Local Transport Plan.

North West Relief Road

The Cabinet has agreed to progress a bid for £20 million of Government funding for Northampton's North-West Relief Road. The Levelling Up Fund is a £4.8 billion government programme to support investment in infrastructure, such as local transport projects.

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Purchase of The University of Northampton's Avenue Campus

On the 20th June the Cabinet approved the acquisition of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus in St George's Avenue. The purpose for the acquisition of the Avenue Campus site is for the development of up to 170 new affordable homes.

Planning Appeals

Since my appointment, I have been getting up to speed with all of the current written submissions from application to appeal stage.

Hartwell, land North of Ashton Road-Dismissed

Bakesley Hill, Greens Norton-Heard Awaiting a Decision

Greens Norton, Land of Mill Lane-Withdrawn

Milton Malsor, land East of Lower Lane- In Progress-Stalled

Blisworth, land South of Station Road-Dismissed

PLOT 7 Northampton Gateway

A screening opinion is needed.

Fix My Street-Horton

Pothole in Horton, is subject to a six months work order as at 5th July.

Blocked drain, Brook Court, Horton supposed to be fixed a week from 26th June.

Fix My Street-Brafield on the Green

Surface Water, near the Old Barn, Brafield on the Green. I have escalated again today, 19th July, as I have not had an update since the 6th July 2021.

LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I have given you an update. There are some Interesting articles on Planning see my Facebook too.

Planning Bill

See my article also on Facebook

COVID-19

See the weekly surveillance report

2023 Constituency Boundary Review

The current Constituency boundary review will conclude with a formal report and recommendations in June 2023. I encourage you to participate in the process by giving them your views through the BCE Portal. Consultation is currently open until Monday 2nd August 2021 - please make sure they receive your response by that date at the latest, or it will not be considered.

Litter Charter

Parish Councils have asked me how they can get involved with the WNC Litter Charter, which was launched by WNC on 16 July. The Litter Charter, that sets out how the council will actively tackle litter by working with community and voluntary groups, providing education

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and taking enforcement action against those who drop litter across the whole of West Northamptonshire. I have asked for the relevant information to be sent to Parish Councils.