

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021 E Newsletter Issue 6/2021



**St Margaret's Church, Denton**  
**'Lest we Forget'**  
**Remembrance Day**  
**11 November**

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## NEWS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

I have great pleasure in presenting my sixth Monthly News Report for the Parish Councils and residents of Hackleton and Grange Park. I am thrilled to be out and about after my eye operation and to have met up again with several you over the past couple of weeks. Until I have my post-operative assessment, I won't be driving. But that's all right as my wife is driving me to all my appointments. Unfortunately, I won't be able to help with Litter picking for a bit. I am sorry about that; I just need to avoid any dusty environments for now. I have seen the great work that Leigh Mitchell and the Hackleton Wombles have done over the last month. They are really stealing a march on other groups.

The Cogenhoe fortnightly Community Coffee Mornings and Lunches are proving to be very popular, and I have enjoyed coming along and meeting more of you. The Mud Kitchen café has made quite a difference to the Cogenhoe Village Hall as a Community Hub.

It has been another busy month with committee activity and dealing with residents' casework. In Hackleton and Grange Park, the main issues have been potholes, surface water drainage, fly tipping, planning matters, an Article 4, speeding and parked cars causing obstruction, active travel including cycling, and walking, bus services, S106s, and dealing with various planning matters including the impact of the Spatial Strategy Consultation on West Northamptonshire.

I am disappointed to hear that residents of South Northamptonshire are likely to lose their free garden waste collections. Councillors will meet on 9 November 2021 to discuss proposals to unify garden waste collections across West Northamptonshire, so all residents have the same and equal service.

Have you seen the show of poppies in Denton and our other villages? 'Lest we Forget' Remembrance Day is held on 11 November each year. It is held in the United Kingdom as a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. Church Services are usually held at 11am on the second Sunday in November.

West Northamptonshire Council is considering whether to bid for Northampton city status as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours competition. Read about how you might contribute some of your Northampton Photographs to the submission.

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow is well underway and finishes on 12 November 2021. Over the last few days world leaders, young activists and climate advocates from around the world have raised their voices and committed to action on climate change. I look forward to hearing what progress we finally make next week.

The inaugural meeting of the new WNC Planning Policy Committee will take place on 16 December 2021. As Chairman of the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, I have been invited to attend. I will provide you with more information as things progress.

I have received my booster shot ahead of winter to protect myself and those around me - I would urge others to do the same. It is quick, effective and provides important protection against the virus. Thank you so much for the support you gave me during my recent eye operation. Now that I am much better, I look forward to catching up with you all again soon.

Best wishes,

*Steve*



## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

### Cogenhoe Community Coffee Morning

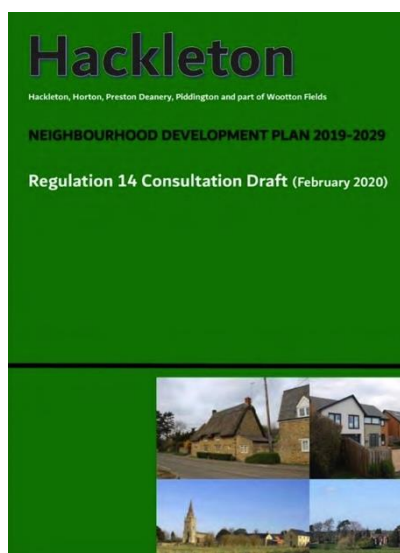


On 28 October 2021, I went to the Mud Kitchen Café at Cogenhoe Village Hall for a coffee and a catch-up with fellow villagers at the Community Coffee morning 11am-12pm in The York Room. I met with Debbie the Parish Clerk and heard about a couple of things she wished to raise with me. I also met with

several residents. The Mud Kitchen café has made quite a difference to the Cogenhoe Village Hall as a Community Hub.

### Hackleton residents to vote on Neighbourhood Development Plan on 2 December 2021

People living in Overstone, Hackleton and Clipston will get to vote on 2 December on plans designed to protect their communities. Three separate neighbourhood development plans (NDPs) have been created



by a group of people from each area, and on 12 October 2021, Cabinet members approved plans for local planning referendums to be held on these. The council's elections team will now start making polling arrangements for residents to vote on whether the plans should be adopted for their area, with further details to come in the run-up to 2 December. The referendum will follow a similar format to an election. All those registered to vote within the neighbourhood area would be given the opportunity to vote. Voters would be given a ballot paper with the question (the wording of which is specified in the Regulations) "Do you want West Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hackleton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote "yes" then the council is required to "make" the plan. If the referendum is unsuccessful then the council takes no further action and HPC would have to decide what it wished to do.

### Background Papers

Hackleton Neighbourhood Development Plan – Submission Draft

<https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/.../neig.../284/hackleton->

Report of the independent examiner into the Hackleton Neighbourhood Development Plan, August 2021

<https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/47/neighbourhood-plans/284/Hackleton-neighbourhood-plan>

### Land off Horton Road, Hackleton, NN7 2AW

On 5 October, I alerted Peter Gittins, WNC, Principal, Planning Officer to the problems that we had encountered with the sale of the land off Horton Road asking him to consider an Article 4. As Chairman of South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, I had worked with the Officers on an Article 4 for a similar proposal in Rothersthorpe. In that case the proposed activity was within the village, so I was seeking advice as to whether it could apply here in this case.

An Article 4 Direction (under the Town and Country Planning Act (General Permitted Development) Order 2015) may be used to remove 'permitted development' rights, including: the right to erect fences and other means of enclosure, temporary uses of land (e.g., temporary buildings, moveable structures, plant or machinery required in connection with operations being carried out on the land).



The field in Horton is up for sale through auction (Image: Google Maps)

development on the land is "very unlikely".

I am delighted to say that on 14 October, WNC issued an Article 4 Direction, associated plan and supporting statement relating to this site. The Direction had immediate effect and was served on the owners of the land and on the land itself. The details were advertised in the local press and on the Council's Website. WNC forwarded a copy to the Estate Agent. West Northamptonshire Council issued a stark warning to potential buyers of the land. Rebecca Breese, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs, said that the prospect of future

### Grange Park Parish Council and SEGRO

Following my previous meeting with SEGRO and subsequent email exchange, on 30 September I received an email from Kate Bedson, Senior Director, National Logistics, SEGRO. They had decided, on a one-off exceptional basis, to extend the benefits that have already been agreed for neighbouring Parish Councils to Grange Park Parish Council. It has been quite a negotiation on my part, and I am delighted that we have obtained a resolution to this longstanding issue. I am progressing the matter with West Northamptonshire Council and SEGRO. I understand that the S106 is being progressed by the lawyers.

### Cogenhoe, MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

In support of **WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Please come and support our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 1-4pm**  
**Cogenhoe Village Hall**

Adults & Children's Tombola's  
Jams, Marmalades & Chutneys

Meet with friends  
Activities for children

**HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT**

To donate cakes or items for the tombola please ring Maddie 07928 335597

**Fundraising for**  
**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**



On 25 October, I attended the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon event at Cogenhoe Village Hall. I enjoyed some Lemon Drizzle cake and coffee and meeting up with lots of villagers again. It was very well attended, and they raised over £400. This was my first day out since my eye operation and it was good to catch up on things. It was another great MacMillan fundraising event for people facing cancer.



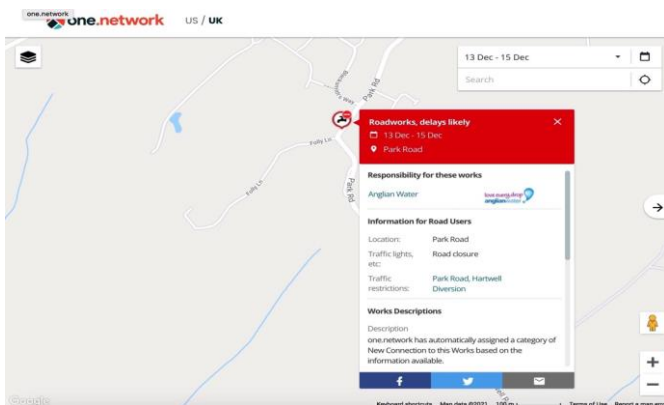
### Denton, Poppies

Pat Terry and other helpers at St Margaret's Church, Denton finished putting up their show of Poppies on 1 November 2021. It is a beautiful sight and well worth a visit. So many people have contributed in different ways to help bring this project to fruition. They have also decorated the inside of the church with a wonderful display of poppies of which all the contributors should be very proud. The church will be open from 12 until 2pm every day from 1 November until 14 November for anyone who would like to visit. Thank you to everyone who helped site and hang the net of poppies and I do hope the weather is kind and it withstands the elements until Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021 at 10.30am.



### Road Closure, Park Road, Hartwell

Anglian Water intend to install a new water connection outside 49 Park Road in Hartwell. To undertake the work safely it will require that the road is closed for up to three days from 13-15 December 2021.



The closure and the diversion can be viewed using the link below.

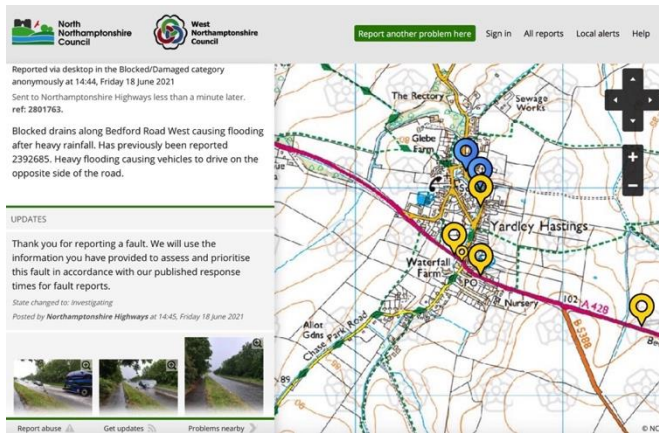
If you require more information about the works, please contact Tom Jackson on 02838 448139.  
<https://one.network/?tm=123966705>

### Brook Court, Horton - escalation

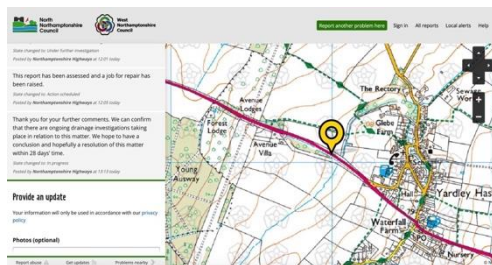


I have needed to escalate Brook Court again on 3 November 2021. It is targeted to take at least 13 weeks. I have contacted Highways to request that these defects can be repaired sooner. I will keep you informed as to the outcome.

## Yardley Hastings Fix My Street-Drains



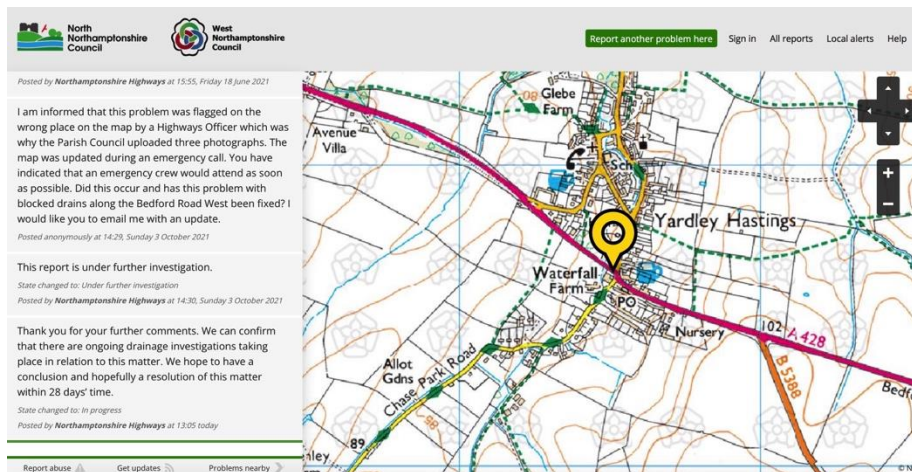
I escalated the Chase Park Storm Drain matter to Fix My Street as I understand that Yardley Hastings Parish Council were concerned at the lack of attention given to it, despite a categorisation of "Emergency Crew to attend." There is a broken storm drain in Chase Park Road Ref 2520777 and repeated flooding of the carriageway of the main A428 Ref 2801763 and Ref 2392685. I am being told that Highways have refused to engage in any meaningful conversation. I have asked them to email me with an explanation and an update.



On 11 October I received feedback from Fix My Street as follows: "Thank you for your further comments. We can confirm that there are on-going drainage investigations taking place in relation to this matter. We hope to have a conclusion and hopefully a resolution of this matter within 28 days' time." I will keep you updated. At the time of writing this report, the matter is still outstanding.

## Yardley Hastings Fix My Street-Bedford Road West

On 11 October 2021, I wrote to Highways yet again requesting that they expedite the flooding problem on Bedford Road West. On 13 October, I received the following update: "Thank you for your further



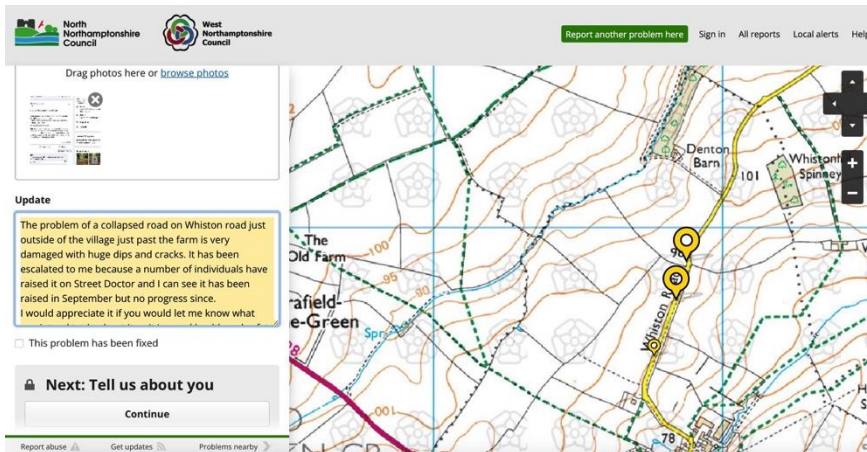
comments. We can confirm that there are on-going drainage investigations taking place in relation to this matter. We hope to have a conclusion and hopefully a resolution of this matter within 28 days' time. It clearly hasn't been resolved as it has flooded yet again. I have escalated this problem again on 1 November 2021. We must get Highways to fix these

issues on the A428 as it is a main thoroughfare and dangerous if flooded.

## Whiston Road, Cogenhoe

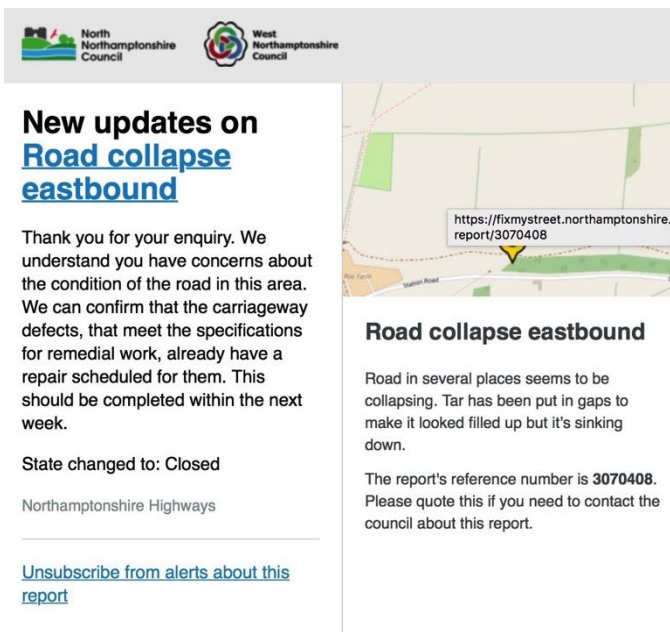
I have raised the problem of a collapsed road on Whiston Road outside of the village of Cogenhoe, just past the farm. It is very damaged with huge dips and cracks. It has been escalated to me because several individuals have raised it on 'Fix My Street', and I can see it was raised in September, but no progress has been made since.





I have asked Highways to let me know what they intend to do about it as it is a real health and safety issue.

I understand that someone drove past earlier and unfortunately someone was on that side of the road so they couldn't avoid it and it took their front bumper off.



Further to my earlier report regarding my escalation to Highways regarding Whiston Road, I have a new update from Highways on the road collapse Whiston Road, Eastbound:

"Thank you for your enquiry. We understand you have concerns about the condition of the road in this area. We can confirm that the carriageway defects, that meet the specifications for remedial work, already have a repair scheduled for them. I have since heard that the immediate carriageway defects have been made safe. However, they now say that any remaining defects, that meet our specification for repair, will be resolved within 6 months' time. Please be assured that you will receive an update once repairs are concluded. In the meantime, please

keep me informed about this problem, as the defects have only been partially fixed.

## FINANCE

### Outcome of the Consultation on WNC Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022 to 2023

On 9 November 2021, Cabinet will agree the WNC Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2022-2023. They will:

- Note the contents of the report.
- Recommend to Council a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for (LCTRS) 2022-2023:
  - to include the proposed changes
  - to amend the LCTRS Regulations for pensioners in line with the uprating announced by DLUHC and
  - to uprate the working age Regulations in line with those announced by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Recommend to Council that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director Finance to make any changes to the LCTRS up to and including 31 January 2022 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

A full report showing the results from the consultation process will be shown. In summary, 306 respondents either partially or fully completed a questionnaire on the draft proposals. Respondents did not have to answer every question. Three responses were received via social media and one oral response via telephone. 284 responses were received to the proposal to remove the minimum contribution of 20% for those working age claimants receiving War Widows and War Disablement Pensions and to allow Council Tax reduction to be calculated on 100% of Council Tax liability. Most of the respondents, 57.4% said they strongly agreed or tended to agree, while 14.8% said they strongly disagreed or tended to disagree.

Care leavers must currently pay a minimum contribution of 20% of their Council Tax liability. The proposal is to remove the 20% minimum contribution and allow Council Tax reduction to be determined on 100% of Council Tax liability. There were 274 responses to this proposal with 54% of respondents either strongly agreeing or tending to agree and 18.6% either strongly disagreeing or tending to disagree.

We collect specific demographic information from those people who took part in the consultation to build up an understanding of the communities we serve and to inform service delivery. Whilst not all the respondents answered the questions relating to demographics, we can confirm that 269 of the responses were received from individuals and 3 on behalf of organisations. 233 of the responses were received from people in 25-66 age group and 201 responses were from people receiving LCTRS. Many of the consultation responses were completed as a result of a letter from the Council promoting the survey (208).

### **Advice on offer for residents with money worries**

There are several free advice services for people who live or work in West Northamptonshire. If you live in the South Northamptonshire Area you can access the Money Advice Service - a free, independent and confidential service that provides advice about debt, budgeting, and how to apply for benefits. Appointments can be booked by emailing [moneyadvice.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:moneyadvice.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk)



In Northampton, the Citizens Advice Bureau has a presence in the One Stop Shop at The Guildhall, while Citizens Advice Daventry and District offers free advice and support from its offices at The Abbey, in Market Square, Daventry. Dealing with money issues can sometimes be off-putting, but if you don't understand how things like credit or mortgages work, you could end up losing out financially or getting yourself deep in debt.

By contacting the free advice services on offer you will obtain the information you need to make the right choices, including help to deal with your debt problems, how to avoid losing your home and how to get your finances back into shape. So, if you are anxious about finance then get help to work out how much money you owe and which debts you should pay back first.

## REGULATORY SERVICES

### Boundary Review Changes for 2025

WNC Members can meet the Lead Commissioner for the planned review of West Northamptonshire's electoral boundaries at a session next month. Appointed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the commissioner will be on hand to speak to members at the online session on 24 November from 6pm to 7.30pm, to explain the review process and how we can get involved as the process moves forward between now and summer 2023. Plans for a boundary review would then be implemented in 2025 after the first four-year term of West Northamptonshire Council.

### Northampton City Status

West Northamptonshire Council is considering whether to bid for city status as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours competition. With the national deadline for submitting bids on 8 December, councillors will decide whether to go ahead at their meeting on 2 December.



The winning cities are expected to be announced on Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee extended Bank Holiday weekend of 2-5 June 2022. You can show your support by sharing your favourite photographs of places in Northampton. Fifty photographs can be included in the bid and the Council is aiming to include as many taken by residents as possible. Submissions could feature an

iconic landmark or building, a local park or open space or any other favourite feature you would like to highlight. The best photographs will also be used in the social media campaign to showcase the town as an ideal candidate for city status. Submit your views and photos by emailing [citybid@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:citybid@westnorthants.gov.uk). By emailing your photo to WNC, you give us permission to use it in any future bid, and in our publications, website and other publicity material including our social media channels. You have the right to withdraw your consent for the use of your image at any time, by emailing [citybid@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:citybid@westnorthants.gov.uk). A successful bid would bring economic and cultural benefits to towns and villages right across West Northants.

## PLANNING MATTERS

### Planning Appeals

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

- Hartwell, land North of Ashton Road-Dismissed
- Blisworth, land South of Station Road-Dismissed
- Bakesley Hill, Greens Norton- Awaiting decision
- Greens Norton, land off Mill Lane-Withdrawn
- Milton Malsor, land East of Lower Lane-Dismissed
- Blisworth, land off Northampton Road -Awaiting Decision.
- Yardley Gobion, land at Asana Lodge Appeal-Inquiry 8 February 2022 for 3 days starting at 10:00am



- Yardley Gobion, land East of Northampton Road Appeal Hearing date TBC

### West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, Spatial Options Consultation

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is preparing a new strategic plan, which will guide development for the area up to 2050. We are still at an early stage in plan preparation and the options being presented are potential rather than preferred, so this is an opportunity to influence the outcome of the plan. As part of this spatial options consultation, WNC wants to hear your views on:

- The **spatial vision** setting out the plan's ambition for our economy, our communities and our environment
- A set of **spatial objectives** to help achieve the vision
- The **housing and economic needs** that we need to plan for
- The potential **spatial options** that could be considered as part of the development strategy for the area

WNC is still running a series of in-person events where you can learn more about the plan and ask questions. Details of the events can be found on the West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub, using the link below.

**This consultation closes at midnight on Monday 6 December 2021.**

Please visit the [West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub](#) for further information about the consultation and how to have your say.

If you have any questions or enquiries about the consultation, please contact the Strategic Plan Team at [strategicplan@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplan@westnorthants.gov.uk).

### WNC Strategic Plan in Person events

People will have the chance to help shape plans for housing and businesses across West Northants during the consultation. The following public drop-in sessions are still planned:

- Tuesday 9 November – Moulton Community Centre, 1pm to 5.30pm
- Wednesday 10 November – Brackley Methodist Church, 2pm to 6pm
- Thurs 11 November – The Forum, Towcester, 2pm to 6pm

Physical copies of the documents will also be available to view at all public libraries in West Northamptonshire, and from the Council's offices at Lodge Road in Daventry, The Guildhall in Northampton, and The Forum in Towcester.

### Spatial Option 1e Northampton South-East Residential

I have set out below Spatial option 1e which is an area situated to the south-east of the existing Northampton urban area adjoining Grange Park and Wootton with the potential to deliver approximately 3,000 dwellings. Key access points for this option would be from the Newport Pagnell Road for the

northern and central area, and from the Wootton Road for the central and southern area. The southern area of the option could also gain access from the Quinton Road. The plan sets out the following strengths and weaknesses.

#### Strengths

The area is located adjacent to principal urban area of Northampton with the potential to connect new communities

**Spatial Option 1e - Northampton South-East - Residential**



to the established services and facilities in Northampton and would be of a scale to provide local facilities on site to meet the needs of future residents. The area is well located in relation to employment opportunities at Brackmills, Grange Park and the consented Northampton Gateway strategic rail freight interchange.

The option presents opportunities to deliver net biodiversity gain and through an appropriate landscape framework present a more sensitive edge to the countryside in this part of Northampton. Development would need to retain and enhance existing open spaces such as Foxfield country park.

There are no overriding physical or environmental constraints that would prevent development. The option is being actively promoted by landowners and developers and would be deliverable in the plan period.

### **Weaknesses**

Parts of the option fall within flood zones 2 and 3 which would constrain the extent of the area to be developed and appropriate flood risk management measures would be required. The design of development would also need to acknowledge the presence of 2 high pressure gas pipelines which cross the area.

Further consideration will be required on the impacts of development on the capacity of both the local road network and the strategic road network especially the A45.

As with all options at Northampton further consideration will be required regarding the potential impacts of development on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, including potential mitigation of the loss of functionally linked land.

### **Spatial Option 1f-South of M1 Junction 15-Employment**

Spatial option 1f is an employment area in close proximity to the existing employment site at Grange Park to the north of the M1 and adjoins the consented Northampton Gateway strategic rail freight interchange immediately to the west.

**Spatial Option 1f - South of M1 Junction 15 - Employment**



It is an area situated to the south of Junction 15 of the M1 and Grange Park on the southern edge of the Northampton urban area. The area could come forward for employment use across an area of approximately 68ha. Access could be gained from the A508 to the west of the site taking advantage of the highway improvements related to the adjoining Northampton Gateway development. The plan sets out the following strengths and weaknesses.

### **Strengths**

The area benefits from access to the M1 at Junction 15 and is in a strategically significant position for logistics with connectivity to the UK's motorway network. Development of this area could be a logical expansion of existing and proposed employment development in this area. The option is close to the Northampton Related Development Area including planned residential development at the Northampton South and Northampton South of Brackmills SUEs and therefore has ready access to a potential labour market.

### **Weaknesses**

The option is close to the grade II listed Courteenhall historic park & garden which lies to the south, and the impact of large-scale employment development on the setting of this important heritage asset would require careful consideration.

A portion of the area (approx. 10%) falls within flood zone 2 and parts of the site may also be affected by surface water flooding. This could reduce the capacity of the site and would need to be thoroughly assessed and effective flood risk management measures will be required. Public rights of way that cross the area will need to be retained (diverted) and the impact on them mitigated.

### **Spatial Strategy and Grange Park**

I met with Jonathan Nunn, Leader, WNC on 2 November 2021 to discuss several Ward Issues including the impact of the Spatial Strategy on Grange Park. I set the scene reminding him that the Manor Oak Homes site was previously dismissed at Appeal.

Grange Park Parish Councillors met last week to discuss the Spatial Strategy and the WNC approach to Strategic Planning. I have been asked why we are rushing to do this now and why we are not waiting for the ARC Spatial Strategy to be issued before we build our own Spatial Strategy? I told Jonathan Nunn that there is no explanation as to how many of the previous Spatial Strategy sites have been delivered. Residents must have a reconciliation of this plan versus the delivered previous plan if they are to believe that there is a need for new spatial sites.

I had already written to Jonathan on 13 September 2021 asking him to present my letter to Cabinet Members at the Cabinet meeting on 14 September 2021. Whilst he did distribute it to members beforehand, there was no attempt to refer to it or discuss it at the meeting, as I had requested. I have two primary concerns relating to Item 11, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan: Spatial Options Consultation-Appendix A-Spatial Options 1e and 1f.

- Flood Risk; and
- Appeal Dismissal

Despite setting out my reasons, I have not had a response nor clarification as to what the Council intends to do about either. In Jonathan's reply to me, he poses the question perhaps it should be included in the consultation, but I am seeking more than this. I am seeking assurance that none of the Spatial Options including 1e and 1f will be chosen to go forward in the Spatial Strategy without the appropriate Flood Risk Assessment being carried out. After all, it is a new requirement of the NPPF. Whilst there were several other considerations when the Manor Oak Farm appeal was dismissed, I sought assurance that the Inspector's reasons for dismissal (Northampton Modal Shift) would be addressed before this site was even considered for consultation, otherwise we just repeat the previous outcome at great cost to all concerned.

At my meeting with Jonathan, I said **"At the very least WNC needs to give Grange Park and its residents a proper consultation meeting in person at Grange Park."** Jonathan apologised for not presenting my letter to Cabinet and he agreed to address the points I had raised. I have emailed him requesting that this should take place as soon as possible.

### **Planning Policy Committee**

The inaugural meeting of the new WNC Planning Policy Committee will take place on 16 December 2021. I have received confirmation that as Chairman of the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, I have been invited to take part. I will provide you with more information when I have it. In



the meantime, I will write to Rebecca Breese requesting that she adds several of my concerns to the meeting agenda.

## ENVIRONMENT

### UK Net Zero Strategy

The UK Government has published its Net-Zero Strategy, a comprehensive run-through of how the nation will de-carbonise in a way that "transforms every sector of the global economy". The strategy collects all previous climate commitments as well as building on them. The document outlines how spending will be prioritised to deliver job growth while reducing emissions from transport, power, heavy industry and the built environment. The policies and spending brought forward in the Net Zero Strategy mean that since the Ten Point Plan was introduced last year, the Government has introduced more than £26bn in capital investment geared towards net-zero.

The Strategy claims this will support up to 190,000 jobs by 2025, and up to 440,000 jobs by 2030, and leverage up to £90bn of private investment by 2030.

### Power

The Net-Zero Strategy has a heavy focus on power. Earlier this year, the UK Government confirmed that plans to end fossil fuelled electricity generation by 2035 would be enshrined in law.



As well as reiterating that commitment, the Strategy outlines that the UK will support 59,000 jobs by 2024 and up to 120,000 by 2030. This will be facilitated by mobilising between £150-£270bn in public and private investment. On floating offshore, the Strategy points to the North and Celtic Seas as potential hotspots for deployment and the technology will be backed by £380m in funding. While renewables are touted as a key driver in decarbonising the grid, the

Strategy earmarks £120m in new investments for a Future Nuclear Enabling Fund, retaining options for future nuclear technologies, including Small Modular Reactors.

### Hydrogen, oil and gas

The Strategy emphasises that not all sectors can rely on electrification to reach net-zero. As such, the Strategy outlines the role that hydrogen can play in providing low-carbon energy.

According to the Government, hydrogen can support up to 10,000 jobs by 2030 in fuel supply alone and the Strategy commits to mobilising between £20-30bn in investment as part of an existing plan to deliver 5GW of hydrogen production capacity by 2030. This, the Strategy claims, will halve emissions from oil and gas.

The Government has already set up the Industrial Decarbonisation and Hydrogen Revenue Support (IDHRS) scheme to fund new hydrogen and carbon capture clusters. The Strategy notes that up to £140m will be provided here, including up to £100m to award contracts of up to 250MW of electrolytic hydrogen production capacity in 2023 with further allocation in 2024.

### Heavy industry

As mentioned, the Government is keen to utilise low-carbon solutions like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCS) to decarbonise industrial clusters and the Net-Zero Strategy outlines steps to decarbonising heavy industry.

The Strategy outlines steps aimed at supporting 54,000 jobs by 2030. This will be kickstarted through £14bn in public/private investment at minimum, which in turn will deliver four CCUS clusters and capture 20-30 MtCO<sub>2</sub> across the economy, including 6 MtCO<sub>2</sub> of industrial emissions, per year by 2030.

The Hynet and East Coast Clusters will act as the economic hubs and a testing ground for decarbonisation. This puts Teesside and the Humber, Merseyside and North Wales, along with the North East of Scotland as “reserve clusters”, the Strategy notes.

The Government will also aim to “incentivise cost-effective abatement” across industry. This will be delivered through the UK Emissions Trading System and the Government will consult with business on a cap consistent with net-zero. This will be introduced in partnership with the Devolved Administrations.

### **Heat and Buildings**

The Heat and Buildings Strategy was launched on 19 October 2021 and is reiterated in the Net-Zero Strategy.

The Government will aim to support up to 100,000 green jobs across the built environment by the mid-2020s, rising to 175,000 by 2030. Investment here will reach around £200bn.

As outlined in the Heat and Buildings Strategy, the Government will aim to ensure that all new heating appliances in homes and workplaces from 2035 are low carbon. This will be facilitated through a £450m boiler upgrade scheme for homes as part of a broader £3.9bn funding package.

The Strategy also includes previously confirmed funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme and Home Upgrade Grants (reaching £1.75bn) and £1.425bn for Public Sector Decarbonisation, with the aim of reducing emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037.

The Government is focusing on energy efficiency upgrades for the built environment, but the strategy mentions little about buildings standards and the role they can play in improving the overall efficiency of housing and non-domestic stocks.

### **Transport**

Transport is the UK’s highest emitting sector and decarbonisation levels have stagnated in recent years. Earlier this year, the Government moved forward the commitment to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars to 2030, with an extra mandate that all cars must be zero-emissions capable by 2035. The Net-Zero Strategy aims to build on this by ensuring consumers have a smooth transition to electric vehicles (EVs). “A zero-emission vehicle mandate to improve consumer choice”, the Strategy notes.

Additionally, £620m will be made for zero-emission vehicles and EV infrastructure (although the Government doesn’t disclose how this is split). A further £350m will be invested on top of the existing £1bn Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF) to support the electrification of UK vehicles and their supply chains. Trials for low-carbon Heavy Goods Vehicles will also continue to take place, although no ringfenced funding has been provided. Existing commitments, including £2bn to make sure half of journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked by 2030, £3bn to create new bus networks, delivering 4,000 zero-emission buses and creating a net-zero rail network by 2050 are all included.

Overall, the Government believes it can support 22,000 jobs across the transport sector on the road to net-zero by 2024, rising to 74,000 by 2030. Investments surpassing £220bn will need to be delivered, the Strategy notes.

### **Nature and biodiversity**

The Net-Zero Strategy commits the UK Government to boost the existing £640m Nature for Climate Fund with an additional £124m, ensuring that at least £750m will be spent by 2025 on peat restoration, woodland creation and management.

Another commitment will include restoring approximately 280,000 hectares of peat in England by 2050 and trebling woodland creation rates in England. This, the Strategy claims, will contribute to an overall target of increasing planting rates to 30,000 hectares per year by the end of the Parliament.

### Greenhouse Gas Removals

The Net-Zero Strategy outlines ambitions for the UK to remove emissions from the atmosphere, contributing to the “net” aspect of its net-zero target.

The Government will mobilise around £20bn in funding in a bid to deploy at least 5 MtCO<sub>2</sub> /year of engineered (greenhouse gas removals) GGRs by 2030. This aspect remains largely undefined in the Strategy, however, with the Government pointing to ways to explore regulation of the market and incentivising private investment as current stumbling blocks for action.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/102665/net-zero-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/102665/net-zero-strategy.pdf)

### Highways Gritting team now on standby

A 20-strong gritting team is now officially on standby for when the cold weather hits and the council’s depots in Brixworth and Towcester are fully stocked with tonnes of salt ready to spread. The team, which will provide the service for highways countywide including West and North Northants has been preparing for the new season, which started Friday, 15 October.



Like last year, Northamptonshire Highways has made sure that drivers providing this essential service are as Covid-safe as possible.

The fleet of gritters has enhanced technology meaning the need for two people in a vehicle is not required unless there is heavy snow. The technology provides route data and feeds back to the snow desk to ensure gritters are on route and safe.

Weather stations and sensors along the roads will be used to return temperature readings every 15 minutes and weather forecasts every hour. A team monitors the sensors 24 hours a day.

Individual roads from the precautionary network will be gritted when forecasts predict the weather will drop below 0.5C for that area. Additionally, 1,500 grit bins have been filled for use on public roads and footpaths.

### Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme

On 14 September, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Cabinet:

1. Noted the work to date on securing £6.2m of Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme grant allocation for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire, and the next steps required to progress the project.



2. Approved the use of the ring-fenced Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme grant funding of £6.2m to deliver innovative flood resilience measures across the two catchments, one in each of West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire, as set out in the report. The government-funded scheme is for the areas around Wootton Brook in Northampton and Harpers Brook between Corby and Thrapston. This Project is funded by central government and came with the



caveat that it could not be used to supplement or fund capital schemes which would otherwise be funded by 'grant in aid. Northamptonshire County Council originally bid for £6.2 million for Wootton Brook and Harpers Brook through the Environment Agency's £200 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Project. Of 358 reports of flooding across the two areas since detailed records started in 2012, 237 were for the Wootton Brook area, which includes Collingtree, Wootton, East and West Hunsbury, Hunsbury Meadows and Hackleton. WNC will manage the project, on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council, which will engage with landowners and residents to implement a series of measures and assess their effectiveness. I have asked for more details about the impact of this project on **Hackleton**. I have arranged to meet a member of the Project team and I will give you an update in due course.

### Let's create a real legacy in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.



Communities across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to 'plant a tree for the jubilee' to help mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne next year. WNC is working closely with the Northamptonshire Lord Lieutenant's Office to help galvanize tree-planting activities across our area and you, can play a key role in supporting these efforts by encouraging residents, community groups, businesses and

other organisations in Hackleton and Grange Park to get involved.

### What is the initiative all about?

With a focus on planting sustainably, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) encourages planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

Everyone from individuals to community and voluntary groups, schools, businesses and local organisations are encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees. WNC is also getting arrangements under way for several local tree-planting initiatives in the run-up to next year's Jubilee celebrations, and we will keep you updated as these activities take shape.



[WWW.QUEENSGREENCANOPY.ORG](http://WWW.QUEENSGREENCANOPY.ORG)

### How can local groups and organisations get involved?

You can spread the word about this fantastic initiative with local groups, clubs, schools and businesses and let them know about how they can apply for free saplings from The Woodland Trust.

Official planting season started in October and runs until March next year, with a second round of tree planting starting in October next year through to

the end of the jubilee year. The Woodland Trust have over three million saplings in tree packs, available on a first come first served basis.

All the information about how to apply for saplings, along with step-by-step guides on how to go about planting them is available on the Queen's Green Canopy website.

### **What about individuals and families?**

The initiative offers a great way for families to mark the Platinum Jubilee with their own personal planting and to record it on the Queen's Green Canopy map. Advice on what types of tree to choose for your garden, where to get them from and how and when to plant them is available on the QGC website.

### **How can businesses take part?**

Corporates and businesses are encouraged to join in the initiative, by either planting trees on their sites in West Northants to benefit employees and the wider community or supporting proposed community forest planting projects that have been earmarked by the QGC partner, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We are also keen to hear from local housing developers in your areas who would be interested in joining in the initiative and planting trees as part of their landscaping proposals.

### **What permission is needed to plant trees?**

People can plant trees on their own private land but must always seek permission from the landowner if they want to plant elsewhere. Planning permission is not required to plant fewer than two hectares (20,000 sq. metres) in a low-risk area. These are places that have no existing designations. Otherwise, you would need an Environmental Impact Assessment from the Forestry Commission.

Schools and community groups thinking about planting at your school must ensure they speak to the Council's Education team to plan their planting and ensure it is in a suitable location and the right species are being used. Residents can find out more information on issues such as permission and space needed for planting trees on the QGC area of our website.

Let's create a real legacy in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.

### **Cabinet to unify Garden Waste Collections across West Northamptonshire**

I am disappointed to hear that residents of South Northamptonshire are likely to lose their free green waste collection. Councillors will meet on 9 November 2021 to discuss proposals to unify garden waste collections across West Northamptonshire, so all residents have the same and equal service. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) currently runs three different fortnightly collection schemes for garden



Councillors will meet next week to discuss proposals to unify garden waste collections across West Northamptonshire so all residents have the same and equal service.

waste, inherited from the old district and borough councils it replaced in April this year. Since 2018 people living in the former Daventry area and since 2020 in the Northampton area have chosen whether they wish to have garden waste collections. If they do, they pay an extra, yearly fee to help fund the service. Residents in the former South Northants area however currently receive the collections at no extra charge. Cabinet will consider plans to harmonise the service across all areas by introducing chargeable garden waste collections to homes in the former South Northants council from 1 April next year. Harmonisation is a requirement set by Government in establishing the new West

Northamptonshire Council. If approved, all residents across West Northants would have the option to

choose whether to receive garden waste collections for 2022/23 by subscribing to the service for an annual charge. At their meeting, Cabinet members will also consider plans to offer residents discounts on home composters in the run-up to 1 April next year as an alternative to signing up to the garden waste service. There is currently great disparity in the way we're delivering garden waste collections across the area, which is why we're reviewing the arrangements we took on from the old councils. Some residents really value having garden waste collections, but we also know that others don't need or use them, so the proposal to make it an opt-in chargeable service for everyone aims to ensure that only those residents who want them end up paying for them. Chargeable garden waste collections have already been running successfully in the Daventry and Northampton areas for a varying number of years now and residents are very familiar with how the service works, although extending these to cover the whole of West Northants would mean significant changes for households in the south of our area. Part of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet outline plans to set the annual subscription charge for all West Northants households that use the service at £42 per year for 2022/23 – the equivalent of £1.65 per collection. The proposed charge is in line with the current annual fee in Northampton and Daventry.

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

### **RSN-Uniting Rural Communities to tackle climate change**

On 12 October 2021, I attended the RSN Countryside COP special meeting - uniting rural communities to tackle climate change. The purpose of the event was to set the scene for rural areas re decarbonisation.

Rural areas must be included in policy solutions for decarbonisation. There are characteristics of rural areas which can make decarbonisation challenging

- Distances required to travel to access services,
- Employment and education/training,
- Transport options,
- State of Rural Housing Stock,
- Fuel Poverty gap is large in rural areas,
- Lower incomes earned in rural areas,
- Opportunities for rural areas in relation to the green economy and diversification of land use,
- Changes in the way we live with less travel and focus on local food and support for local businesses.

Revitalising Rural Campaign sets out asks of Government in relation to Decarbonising Rural Communities and Economies together with challenges facing the transport sector in rural areas moving towards net zero. The option of all moving to electric cars, is not the overall solution to moving towards net zero, it still causes congestion and is currently an expensive option. There is a need for a modal shift of transport away from car to public transport.

Issues remain for rural communities:

- Public transport is not a statutory service and there have been cuts in services where they are not financially viable in rural areas and councils have been unable to provide ongoing financial support due to reduced government grants.
- Electrifying the bus network has its own challenges – electric buses are significantly more expensive, range of electric buses not suitable for average rural route, concerns over capacity of the national grid in rural areas
- Hydrogen fuel cells are an alternative although the buses are significantly more expensive
- Important to educate the public about the choices they make in relation to transport and encourage the shift to public transport to support decarbonisation and realise wider benefits.





The challenges of net zero heating in rural homes are significant. Around 2 million homes in rural areas are off gas grid and a high proportion are hard to treat, for example it's hard to move to high levels of energy efficiency without significant disruption and cost.

Rural homes will need alternatives to heat pumps,

which require high levels of energy efficiency and insulation in order to be effective. Green Gas Bio LPG could be an alternative – same molecules as conventional LPG but derived not from fossil fuel but instead renewable sources, mixture waste and crop residues. It is suitable for use in normal boilers.

Government is pursuing 'rural first' approach to fossil fuel phase out however rural households won't benefit from economies of scale, high costs and absence of consumer testing in that technology in rural homes. There is a need for regulatory and policy support from Government to recognise benefits of Bio LPG. The future of heat in off-gas grid UK should be diverse and decarbonised, and choices made dependent on options suitable for homeowners' situation in order to ensure that rural areas contribute to the post-pandemic recovery to their full potential.

### Useful Links from RSN discussions

[World Wildlife Fund tool to calculate your carbon footprint](#)

[Impact Community Carbon Calculator](#) - Impact, the parish-level carbon emission estimator, gives parishes and small communities usable data on their carbon emissions that is easy to interpret and easy to share.

[Great Collaboration – local actions for a healthy planet](#) – track and capture carbon reduction actions that individuals, businesses and community groups are doing. Platform can inform Parish Carbon Reduction Action Plans

[Cheshire Net Zero Carbon Conference](#)

[Biomethane Powered Buses launched in Bristol](#)

[CPRE report into Every Village Every Hour Buses](#)

[Low Emission Car Hire Service in South West](#)

[Driverless Pods on roads 'within two years'](#)

[Driverless Pod Trial in Lake District](#)

[How renewable liquid fuels can deliver a low carbon future for rural households](#)

### ACRE Northamptonshire Village of the Year Awards



ACRE announced that the annual Northamptonshire Village Awards, which are an opportunity for villages and groups to celebrate and share what they like about their village and what makes it a great place to live, are back. The awards have been put on hold for the last two years due to the pandemic, but they will go ahead again in 2022. Villages can enter from now until 31st January 2022 and the judges will visit each entrant during April and May to assess them. Once all the judging is complete, the Presentation Evening, celebrating all entrants, will take place on the evening of Tuesday 11th July 2022 at the Hunsbury Hill Centre in Northampton. The 2022 Northamptonshire Village Awards are again sponsored by CPRE Northamptonshire and are open to all villages in the county with a population under 6,000. These awards are a wonderful way for residents to showcase their rural community as well as a chance to audit village life and build for the future. Every entrant will receive either a Bronze, Silver or Gold level award as well as small cash prizes, courtesy of CPRE Northamptonshire's sponsorship. One village will win the Best Overall Village 2022, just like Glapthorn did in 2019.

The level of award given is based upon how well the village does across a range of criteria that covers all aspects of village life, from its facilities and amenities, local activities, tidiness and presentation to its environment, future sustainability and most importantly community spirit! The closing date for applications is Monday 31st January 2022. So, if you are proud of your village and want to share that with others, why not enter?

## AUDIT & GOVERNANCE

### Audit and Governance Committee

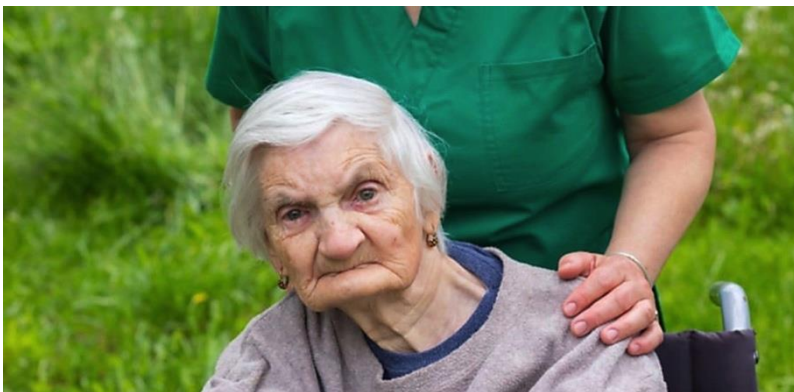


My next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee is 10 November at 6.00pm. At the last meeting, we agreed that we will meet our external auditor without officers. This will be a good time to discuss the risk register with them and to identify which risks would have the priority for our deep dives. It would also help our officers to have the deep dive about the economic recovery in January. Although we will have a lighter agenda in November, we will be setting the next

steps for our scrutiny of the risk register and starting an open dialogue with our new auditor. I am looking forward to this.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### Winter Workforce urgently needed



West Northamptonshire Council fully supports NHS calls for more funding to urgently attract care workers. Northampton General Hospital CEO Heidi Smoult warned recently that volunteers and firefighters could be needed to prevent gaps in care services leading to a logjam in hospital beds this winter. In a joint statement issued with council chief executive Anna Earnshaw, Ms Smoult said: "We are calling for immediate and sustained

funding from central government to enable us to recruit and bolster the care workforce. We need to attract workers with competitive salaries and offer proper remuneration for the caring, sensitive and challenging

work they do as our ageing population grows. We desperately need to recruit quickly to the sector but, in the meantime, I encourage anyone who thinks they could help out to come forward, even if it's just as part of a 'winter workforce'." A report by MPs earlier this year revealed that 149,000 workers had quit the care sector nationally leaving up to 17 percent of jobs vacant. The situation will get worse next month when around 750 care workers will be disqualified from working in the sector by government rules requiring them to be fully vaccinated.

Data from charity Skills for Care showed 900 people employed in direct care — carers, senior carers, and support and outreach workers — by public sector organisations across Northamptonshire during 2019-20 were paid an average of £9.62 an hour, the lowest in the country. Workers in the independent sector earned even less, £8.80 an hour.

### COVID-19 update

Public Health Officials are urging residents to get the maximum vaccine protection possible to protect against COVID-19 as a further 3,088 residents test positive this week. Vaccines give high levels of protection, but immunity reduces over time, particularly for older adults and at-risk groups. It's vital that vulnerable people come forward to get their COVID-19 booster vaccine to top-up their defences and protect themselves this winter.

The latest evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) shows that protection against symptomatic coronavirus falls from 65%, up to three months after the second dose, to 45% six months after the second dose for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, and from 90% to 65% for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Protection against hospitalisation falls from 95% to 75% for Oxford/AstraZeneca and 99% to 90% for Pfizer/BioNTech. Although the protection against severe disease remains high, a small change can generate a major shift in hospital admissions. For example, a change from 95% to 90% against hospitalisation would lead to doubling of admissions in those vaccinated. The booster programme is designed to top up this waning immunity. The COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others.

Booster vaccine doses are now available on the NHS for people most at risk from COVID-19 who have already had two doses of a vaccine. The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have one. If you have been contacted by the NHS to say that you are eligible for a booster dose, you can book your appointment now. See more information about the COVID-19 vaccine on the NHS website: Covid vaccine - NHS.

Alternatively, patients can call 119 or visit the National Booking Service.

This Weeks' Data surveillance report, an analysis of the county's recent coronavirus cases and rates over the period 25 – 31 October 2021, shows:

- 3,088 residents tested positive for COVID-19 this week. This is a decrease of 23% compared with previous week.
- Northamptonshire's infection rate per 100,000 population is 437.2, which is significantly higher than the national average (418.3).
- The highest rates locally are Northampton (496.0) and Daventry (467.7).
- Eleven people died within 28 days of a positive test.
- Positive cases for both males and females aged 0 to 9 years increased rapidly since September but have now started to decrease.
- The age group with the most positive cases for both males and females was predominately 10 to 19 year olds, followed by 40 to 49 year olds.
- Over the last 4-week period the number of cases amongst people aged 60+ has plateaued but numbers remain high.



- Overall, more women than men tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 28 days.
- The latest data shows a total of 99 COVID-19 patients occupied hospital beds in Northamptonshire on 2nd November 2021, which represents a 10% decrease when compared to the previous week (26th October 2021).

The following Public Health advice has also been issued:

- Wash and sanitise hands regularly
- Do not share bowls of crisps or individual sweets with those outside your household
- Wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Keep windows open if gathering indoors
- Stick to smaller groups where possible
- Make space for you and your household if in a crowd
- Stay at home if you're not feeling well or have any COVID-19 symptoms
- Continue to take LFD tests at least twice a week and before going out.

Link to testing on NCC website:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirusupdates/Pages/coronavirus-testing-in-northamptonshire.asp>

### **Covid Booster Vaccinations**

Drop-in clinics have opened in a bid to speed up rollout.



Covid-19 booster jabs are being made available at drop-in clinics across Northamptonshire in a bid to speed up delivery. Those over 50 or clinically vulnerable who had their second jab more than six months ago can now choose to visit centres in Northampton, Corby, Wellingborough and Towcester, rather than book appointments online or wait for their local GPs. But only those who have

been contacted by the NHS offering the booster jabs can drop in.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/.../coronavirus...>

### **My Booster Jab**



I received my Booster jab on 24 October 2021 at the Whitefield's Pharmacy, Northampton. Third jabs are being given to people in certain groups at least six months after their second dose.

I have received my booster shot ahead of winter to protect myself and those around me - I would urge others to do the same. It is quick, effective and provides important protection against the virus. Thank you so much for the support provided by the staff at Whitefield's.

### **Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) annual awards**

Voting is now open for the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, (NHFT) annual awards ceremony, with two categories decided by patients' votes. The awards are intended to celebrate and recognise quality health teams and good practice across the trust over the last 12 months. Patients are encouraged to nominate those individuals and teams who they think have delivered quality care and generated a sense of pride among team NHFT. These nominations can include community locations where NHFT offer their services, including St Mary's Hospital, Kettering, Isebrook Hospital, Wellingborough, Corby Community Hospital and Berrywood Hospital, Northampton.

There are twelve award categories, two of which, the Patient Choice and Engagement and Involvement Award, are open to patients, service users, carers and families to nominate individuals or teams who have made a difference for them.

First there is Patient Choice - an opportunity for patients, service users, carers and families to submit their choice for the staff member who leads and provides compassionate care. It recognises and celebrates excellent care through the patient's experience.



Last year's winners were the Adult Community Inpatient Beds from Corby Community Hospital.

Second is Engagement and Involvement – new to this year's award ceremony, the category is open to all service users, carers, governors, volunteers, clinical and non-clinical staff from all services and others who use the trust's services. This one is meant to highlight successful initiatives implemented by NHFT staff driven 'using co-production, engagement and involvement with others, whilst always putting the patient and

service user experience at the heart of everything they do'. The event is an opportunity to celebrate innovation and compassion in the NHS. The NHFT Quality Awards provide a unique chance to reflect on the achievements, milestones and challenges NHS colleagues, service users and carers have had over the last 12 months. Anyone who would like to vote has until polls close at midnight on 10 November 2021. If you would like to find out more about the awards categories and nominate a member of team NHFT who you believe has gone the extra mile, visit the trust's website.

## **EDUCATION**

### **COVID Vaccine offered to students**

Students aged 12 to 15 have begun to receive the COVID- 19 vaccine as the Northamptonshire Vaccination Programme begins its rollout to secondary schools across the county. The programme is being led by the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) school-aged immunisation service, and parents or guardians of children aged 12 to 15 have begun to receive letters with details of when the vaccine will be offered.

They will also be asked to provide consent for their child to receive the vaccination. This will be done either through an online e-consent process or via a paper form if required.

Parents or guardians do not need to contact their local GP or other NHS services about getting the vaccine, and the local school-aged immunisation service has put in place processes to exclude children who have already received a first dose of the vaccine under previous advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination



and Immunisation (JCVI), for example if they are clinically vulnerable. Parents and guardians of home-schooled children in our county have been contacted separately to invite their children to receive their vaccine at the Northamptonshire Vaccination Centre in Moulton Park. At this time, the UK's Chief Medical Officers advise that healthy 12- to 15-year-olds should be offered a first dose only, which will be the Pfizer-BioNtech (Comirnaty) vaccine, the only vaccine currently authorised for those aged 12 to 15.

### **Application for School Places**

Parents and carers should have applied for school places – to start in September 2022. All applications, whether postal or online, must be received by the deadline to be considered on time. Find out more here <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Time has run out to apply for September 2022 for Year 7 places to start secondary school in September 2022.

If you have missed the deadline your application will not be processed until after the National Offer Day on 1 March 2022 and you may miss out on the school place you want for your child.

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

Closing date for Primary applications is:

**5 p.m. on 15th January 2022.**

### **Free school meals**

Free meals are automatically available to all Key Stage 1 (reception, year 1 and year 2) children under the Universal Infant School Meals Scheme.

You can apply for free school meals for older children in full-time education up to the age of 18 if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Find out more here

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-information-parents/free-school-meals>

### **Measures to help students with exams next summer**

Department for Education (DfE) (@educationgovuk) DfE have announced measures to help students who are sitting GCSE, AS and A level exams in England next summer. They'll reduce the impact of the disruption to their learning due to the pandemic and make assessments as fair as possible. Students will benefit from a range of adaptations to GCSE, AS and A level exams in England – these adaptations will help them reach their potential following the disruption they've faced. They include:

A choice of topics or content on which students will be assessed in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography. Providing advance information on the focus of exams to support students' revision in subjects where there is not a choice of topics. Giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths and revised equation sheets in GCSE combined science and physics. Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments to ensure fairness. These changes will also apply to the November 2022 GCSE English language and mathematics re-sit exams. There will be advance information deployed for both subjects in July, and a formulae sheet will be available for mathematics. While it is the Government's firm intention for exams to go ahead next year it is right for contingency plans to be in place in the event they cannot. Ofqual and the department plan for Teacher Assessed Grades to be used and have launched a consultation on how this might work in 2022, building on the 2021 process



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

### Funding for West Northants community groups now available.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is pleased to announce that its new Community Funding Grant Scheme is now open for applications. Grants of up to £15,000 are available to community and voluntary sector organisations in West Northants to enable them to deliver important services and activities to our communities. The first round of funding, which opened Wednesday 27 October and closes on Tuesday 7 December is for applicants seeking a grant up to the value of £15,000. The next funding round, which is for grants up to £5,000 will open on 10 January 2022 and close on 13 February 2022.

These grants allow us to support local community and voluntary groups who are providing vital services to



our communities. We know how difficult the last year has been for many community groups, who have seen demand for their services increase. We're delighted to be able to offer these groups much needed

funds, which will help to support local communities as we recover from the pandemic. The scheme is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, with priority given to projects that support the council's key priorities and the strategic aims. If you are interested in applying for a Community Funding Grant, you will need to complete an expression of interest form, which is available on the WNC website. If you would like to speak to the Community Funding Officer about your eligibility to apply for a grant, please call or email: Peter Worth. Email: peter.worth@westnorthants.gov.uk Telephone: 01327 3222

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

### New Councillor COVID Support Fund

A new £232,500 Councillor Covid Support Fund will provide members with £2,500 each to allocate to community and voluntary groups that need support.



The new fund, which was agreed at 12 October Cabinet meeting, will enable Councillors to efficiently and effectively allocate money within their wards to make a positive impact on the areas they represent, helping them to empower residents to be active in their communities' recovery from COVID-19. Please let me have your recommendations for a community or voluntary group in need of support.

### Kickstart Scheme

You can provide young people with a job for 6 months without any salary cost to your business\*

Plus, up to £1,500 per placement\*

Find out more about the Kickstart Scheme for business and other Government support.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/.../kickstart...>



**2 KICKSTART SCHEME**

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Employers from all industries and across the private, public and voluntary sectors can get involved.

ONLINE	APPLICATIONS	CANDIDATES	INTERVIEWS
 <p>All the information you need to apply is available online: <a href="https://gov.uk/kickstart">gov.uk/kickstart</a></p>	 <p>There is no minimum number of jobs an employer can apply for. Employers can apply directly to the scheme or partner with an approved Gateway.</p>	 <p>Once your application is accepted it will be sent to your local Jobcentre where a Kick Start will select a number of suitable young people who are at risk of long-term unemployment and ready for work.</p>	 <p>Employers will interview applicants and select the best candidates for the role.</p>

### BossItBrunch



Clear the first hurdle to your future career! If you're a young person who has left care, join us for our [#BossItBrunch](#) event on Saturday 13th November, offering career advice, CVs, apprenticeships and much more. It is taking place at One Angel Square, NN1 1ED, from 11am-2pm.

## HOUSING

### Afghan Resettlement Scheme

WNC thanks everyone for their extremely generous offers of support for our guests as part of the Government's Afghan resettlement scheme. The most immediate needs have now been met and we will be unable to accept any further donations of items. Partners working on the relief effort have received a total of 485 offers of help from members of the public and businesses. Many of these have already been gratefully received and we will continue to liaise with those who might be able to help with additional requirements in the future.



Young Afghan guests enjoy activities that have been provided for them

This has been a huge partnership effort by a range of agencies including local authorities, health and emergency services and the voluntary sector. The Salvation Army has co-ordinated many of the physical offers but after Wednesday 27 October they will no longer be taking item donations.

"We've been astounded at the level and kind of support people have offered. The feedback we've had from families is that

they are so grateful for the welcome they've had in West Northamptonshire and WNC couldn't be prouder of everyone's response.

As we continue to look at more permanent arrangements for our guests, further support is likely to be required and we'll continue to outline that as and when we can.

For now, though, we're having to stop taking physical donations as immediate needs such as clothes have now been met. We are continuing to work through some outstanding offers of community support, housing, befriending, education, employment and so on.

The Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire Resettlement Appeal Fund is also still open and has now reached upward of £11,000.

## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

### Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Hackleton

I have been exploring this since 9 August 2021 and I escalated it to Jonathan Nunn on the 1 October 2021. As I had not heard from him, I raised it during a Hackleton and Grange Park meeting with all three of us on 2 November 2021 and I am pleased to say that he agreed to work on it. I promised to send him a copy of my list of items which required his attention, which I did on 3 November 2021.

There are examples of Community Action projects that have emerged post lockdown, which create active travel routes improving access for all. These projects present significant opportunities to invest in and promote active sustainable travel which connects rural communities and inspires people to reduce car use for everyday journeys. I am looking forward to us making progress with this exciting project.



I wrote to Members Enquiries on 9 August looking for advice as to how best to progress an enquiry as to whether West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) intended to access the DfT Capability fund to improve rural and inter urban connectivity. By converting old train lines that criss cross Northamptonshire into cycle paths. For example, Olney could be linked to Northampton providing links for Hackleton, Horton, Brafield and other locations on the way. As the old line goes directly to Northampton station it might mean that

commuters could safely cycle rather than drive.

On 2 September, I wrote to Michelle Johnson, Highways saying that I was disappointed to hear that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans had been very urban focussed, particularly as I had several residents and Parish Councillors that would like me to help them to implement a cycleway which links the local villages to Wootton and then on to Northampton. In addition to the idea of using the old railway line that goes directly to Northampton station, I had now heard further from Hackleton Parish Council who had already progressed the idea of a new off road shared footway/cycleway linking their villages to amenities at Wootton and beyond. This proposal is included in the Hackleton Neighbourhood Plan, which will be subject to a referendum on 2 December 2021. Helen Howard at Highways has provided them with a rough order of magnitude of costing.

I suggested that by creating a project team involving the Parishes impacted by such a proposal we could aim to complete the feasibility study and route options by the end of Q1,2022, and then hope to complete the build of the shared paths by Q1 2023. We could seek Government/Sustrans Funding and any other sources of funding. I was just seeking her advice as to how best to take this forward.

On 8 September, Michelle sent me a brief e-mail:

“The key question in taking forward a feasibility study is funding already identified? Unfortunately, the highways service does not have revenue budgets to undertake feasibility work on potential schemes, which is one of the challenges we face in bringing things forward.”



So, I seemed to have exhausted Highway's support in this matter, which is why I am looking for Jonathan Nunn to advise me on how best to proceed.

I am seeking a positive response from Jonathan Nunn and the Cabinet to start working on an initiative that will bring a solution by 2023 for Hackleton and other Villages as appropriate.

## **Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)**

On the 18th September, WNC announced the Bus Services Consultation, which closed on 10 October 2021. Residents, parish councils, businesses and groups have shared their views on the improvements they would like to see in bus services across the county.

Many in the Hackleton and Grange Park villages have spoken and written to me about the lack of bus services.

Having committed to form an Enhanced Partnership, the Council now must publish a final local BSIP, detailing how we propose to use our powers to improve services, and develop an Enhanced Partnership 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. However, an outline has been provided, which follows the headings required by the government's guidelines.

Key areas that are being developed for inclusion in the BSIP include:

- The need to return patronage to pre-COVID levels before considering expansion
- Patronage growth will mainly come from enhancing existing commercial services
- Filling gaps in evening and Sundays on the most frequent services
- **Reinstating withdrawn services in rural areas, and the need to consider reinstating a bus subsidy budget**
- The need for improved bus priority to improve journey times and reliability
- The need for better roadworks liaison to improve journey time reliability
- Introducing zero-emission buses to tackle air quality and decarbonisation issues
- Improved information for bus passengers
- Publish a Bus Passenger Charter



Improvements could be made to bus services. (File picture).

The BSIP provides a means for the Council to secure significant additional funding for bus service improvements. However, to maximise the impact of improving our bus services in West Northamptonshire, the Council must consider options for match funding, particularly for Manifesto priority areas such as the reinstatement of rural bus services. As such funding would be beyond current budgets, the final BSIP will make clear that options for funding would need to be considered as part of the Council's budget for 2022-23 and beyond and included in the public consultation thereon.

Hackleton and other villages need us to make sure that there is a focus on reinstating withdrawn services in rural areas, and WNC needs to reinstate a bus subsidy budget.

I am seeking a positive response from Jonathan Nunn and the Cabinet to start working on an initiative that will bring a solution by 2022.

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership



## West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership

The Home Office places Community Safety Partnerships in groups considered to have enough similar characteristics to allow a meaningful comparison of their crime rates; this is known as the Most Similar Group and the fourteen other partnerships which make up each Group are listed below the respective tables. The Home Office has not yet merged the previous two partnerships. Northampton and Daventry & South Northamptonshire.

They produce the tables below using data from this system. The Current Position column tells us whether performance is In line with, Above or Below the upper and lower control limits from the average for the Group; the Distance column gives the gap between our crime rate and that average; next we have our Rank within the Group, with lower numbers indicating better comparative crime figures; the final columns show the current Crime Rate per 1,000 head of population and the same figure at the 2020/21 year-end.

Data from the Home Office lags slightly: the tables below show data for the twelve months to the end of August 2021, while the rest of the figures quoted in this report are to September.

### Daventry and South Northamptonshire

Crime Type	Most Similar Group			Crime Rate (per 1,000)	
	Current Position	Distance from Average	Rank	2021/22	2020/21
All Crime	Inline	7.6%	12	50.13	50.60
Burglary	Inline	-0.6%	10	2.64	2.96
Robbery	Above	53.9%	14	0.29	0.33
Theft from Vehicle	Inline	13.2%	12	2.44	2.63
Theft of Vehicle	Inline	-2.2%	8	0.70	0.68
Theft from the Person	Below	-55.0%	2	0.12	0.09
Shoplifting	Below	-50.8%	1	0.93	0.91
Bicycle Theft	Below	-56.0%	2	0.19	0.17
All Other Theft	Inline	-9.2%	11	4.07	4.22
Violent Crime	Above	17.0%	14	26.86	27.02
Sexual Offences	Above	25.2%	13	2.33	2.40
Racially Aggravated Offences	Inline	-22.0%	13	0.40	0.43
Drug Offences	Inline	-19.9%	4	1.28	1.07
Criminal Damage	Inline	-12.7%	2	4.61	4.51

Most Similar Group: East Cambridgeshire, East Hampshire, Harborough, Horsham, Huntingdonshire, Rutland, South Cambridgeshire, South Oxfordshire, Stroud, Suffolk Coastal, Test Valley, Uttlesford, Wealden, West Oxfordshire.

The picture for Daventry and South Northamptonshire is positive, with the rate for all crime decreasing from the year-end baseline: violent crime has been the main factor in the increase in the all crime figure, now that those figures are decreasing we are seeing a reduction.

### **Performance analysis: Daventry and South Northamptonshire**

Numbers for crime groups recorded by Northamptonshire Police: data for the year to September 2020 versus data for the year to September 2021 show an overall picture which is positive: the total crime figure reduced by 5.4% over the past 12 months. All other theft remains a significant feature, however numbers have decreased in each of the last three years and fell by 11.9% in the 12 months to the end of September 2021.

Figures for theft from a vehicle show a reduction of 38.0% over the past 12 months and figures for theft of a vehicle are down by 18.9%; numbers for the latter crime type are low, with 120 offences recorded in the last 12 months. Public disorder offences rose by 16.4%, from 675 to 786: whilst a number of these can be attributed to COVID breaches, there has also been a change in recording protocols, leading to more offences being recorded. Drug possession was up 44.5% and drug trafficking up 66.7%, although numbers for both remain low. Miscellaneous crimes against society decreased by 12.1% with 270 crimes recorded: the largest group within this category was obscene publications at 105, followed by threat of criminal damage at 69.

Offences of violence rose by 0.8% in the year to September 2021 and violent crime currently accounts for 45.6% of all recorded crime. Violent crime breaks down as 34.8% without injury, 25.2% with injury and 39.9% stalking and harassment, with similar proportions being returned for offences with and without a domestic flag. Stalking and harassment is the largest element of the overall figures and was the only category to increase over the past 12 months.

In the 12 months to September 2021 violence with injury reduced by 7.9% and violence without injury reduced by 10.2%; stalking and harassment rose by 21.0%, however as the graph illustrates, this rise has been steeper, but figures have fallen over the past four months. Domestic violence accounts for 36.3% of all violent crime and these offences rose by 2.7% during the last 12 months.

Domestic-flagged offences of stalking and harassment increased by 23.5% but, as with the overall figures for violence, have fallen recently. Recorded offences of rape increased by 19.4% and other sexual offences increased by 13.4%. Cross-referencing with the domestic offences we see no correlation for other sexual offences, however in the 12 months to September 2021 there were 129 offences of rape recorded, and 60 of these had a domestic flag, an increase from 47 (of 108) in September 2020.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

Incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by Northamptonshire Police have fallen by 30.5% over the past 12 months, following a rise of 63.6% during 2020/21. Northamptonshire Police recorded many breaches of the COVID regulations as anti-social behaviour offences, which had a significant impact on the figures.

As COVID regulations eased there was a sharp fall in recorded offences, so it is useful to compare the current figures with those before the pandemic: in September 2019 there were 2,677 incidents recorded, compared to 2,481 in September 2021; this is a reduction of 7.3% and continues the long-term trend.

A secondary measure for anti-social behaviour is criminal damage and figures for Daventry and South Northamptonshire decreased by 3.2% during the last 12 months.

### **Rural Crime**

During the 12 months to the end of September there were 2,331 crimes with a rural tag recorded, which equates to a decrease of 3.2% from the year-end figure: this follows a reduction of 31.6% during 2020/21.



The Partnership previously ran a rural crime group for Daventry District and South Northamptonshire but in 2018/19 we merged with the countywide Police tasking meeting to form one body that covers the whole county. There is good engagement from partners: ACRE, the Country Land and Business Association, the Farming Community Network, the British Trust for Shooting and Conservation and the National Farmers Union all attend. These partners are very engaged in the work of the group and are valuable in getting messages to and from their members.

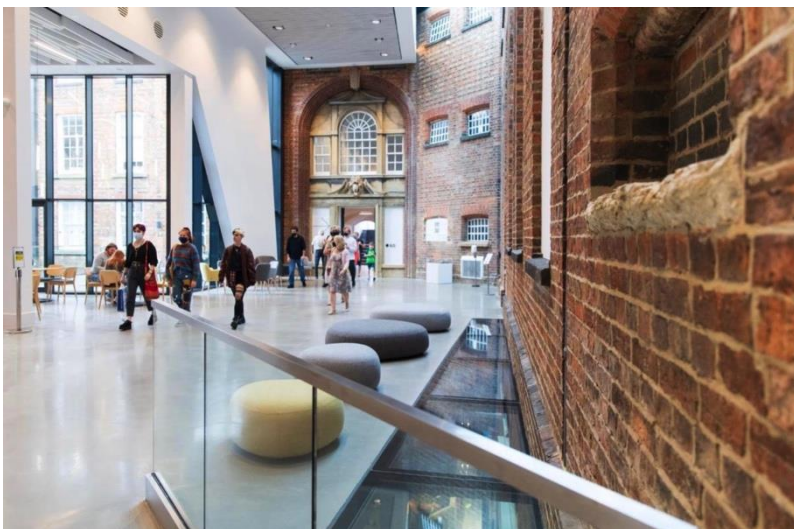
### **Burglary**

There were 464 burglaries recorded in the 12 months to the end of September 2021: this breaks down as 200 offences of burglary business/community (down by 46.7% compared to September 2020) and 264 offences of burglary residential, (a reduction of 23.9%).

While the change in people's habits during the pandemic have had an impact on this crime type, the reductions pre-date the lockdown: burglary residential reduced by 32.0% in 2019/20 as the result of a Police initiative devoting more resources to the investigation of these crimes.

## **CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT**

### **Northampton Museum and Art Gallery**



Northampton Museum and Art Gallery is the East Midlands regional winner of a Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Award for the 'best non-residential extension' category and is now shortlisted for the National Building Excellence Awards in January 2022. The accolade was recently awarded to the project team, including Kettering-based firm GSSArchitecture, Wild goose Construction and West Northamptonshire Council, who worked in collaboration with Northampton Museum and Art Gallery to design the nine-metre-high atrium extension, that

now links the original museum to new galleries and houses the world-renowned shoe collection. The extension was judged against a range of criteria, including how the project team overcame design problems and how the extension exceeded minimum building regulations standards.

The large amount of glass used in the extension presented a challenge, as the inside space could get overheated during the summer months. To resolve this, the architects carried out thermal modelling on several design options, resulting in the use of solar control glazing and the glass walls being positioned so they benefitted from shade cast by adjacent buildings.

The new and improved spaces are proving to be a huge success following the museum's reopening to the public earlier this year and this award further recognises the great work carried out by the project team.

The award entry highlighted how the atrium extension has created a large communal space, housing a café and outdoor terrace, overlooking the museum's new courtyard. Additionally, a previously hidden historic arch was revealed while works were taking place, which has now become a prominent feature of the extension. The shoe gallery on the lower floor of the extension was designed to extend into the older vaulted cellars underneath the existing museum, creating an interesting and unique visitor experience.