

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JANUARY 2022



E Newsletter Issue 1/2022

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you’re not going to stay where you are.”

J.P. Morgan

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NEWS REPORT JANUARY 2022

Over the past year, I've been grateful for your extraordinary support. Thank you. Whatever the New Year has in store, we'll be in it together. A 'Happy New Year, 2022' to you all.

On 31 December 2021, Northampton General Hospital banned all visitors after rising COVID figures, citing patient health as the 'top priority'. It comes as COVID cases continue to soar in the UK with a new record daily high of 183,037 on 30 December 2021. On 7 January 2022, WNC and its Local Resilience Forum partners have declared a major incident in health and care, due to the impact increasing COVID-19 transmission is having on our services. The COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Moulton Park in Northampton is offering thousands of appointment slots to allow people to get their jabs as soon as possible this month.

I caught up with Matt Taylor, PCSO and the Beat Bus at Cogenhoe on 5 January 2022. This location had attracted the most interest from local residents. Matt and the Beat Bus had already been to Grange Park, Hackleton and Denton and they were off to Yardley Hastings and Hartwell after Cogenhoe.

On the same day, I met with Maddie at the Mud Kitchen Café following the Community lunch and we discussed the opportunity for her group to apply for project funding via the Councillor Empowerment fund. I promised to send her further information.

It was quiet over Christmas and the New Year but matters picked up significantly from 4 January onwards. In Hackleton and Grange Park, the main issues since last month have been the Causeway Bridge Repairs, 33/33A bus services, on-going surface water drainage, fly tipping, planning matters, speeding and parked cars causing obstruction-particularly in Grange Park, availability of affordable housing and the Grange Park S106.

On 14 December 2021, WNC Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that there was a need for the decision to universally charge for garden waste to be referred back to Cabinet and that the alternative course of action/recommendations as proposed by the call-in originators be investigated.

WNC is providing financial support to households struggling with the cost of living over the winter period, including vulnerable households with or without children. Support includes:

- Household hardship vouchers
- Vouchers to buy food, essentials, and
- Support for household budgets to pay essential bills.

Please alert those in need to this scheme.

The inaugural meeting of the new WNC Planning Policy Committee took place on 16 December 2021. There were two substantive items on the agenda, which were the adoption of the Deanshanger Village Design Statement as Supplementary Planning Guidance followed by the Homes in Multiple Occupation (HiMO) Policy Review. I have covered both decisions in my Monthly Report.

The severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) has been triggered and it will be operating from 11 January 2022 to at least 9.00am 14 January 2022. This will provide help for people sleeping rough in very cold or extreme weather conditions.

I was given a clean bill of health following my eye operations, so I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

All the Best, Steve

PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Cogenhoe Community Lunch



It was great to see the Cogenhoe Community lunch in action on 5 January 2022. Well done to Maddie



Ark who was managing the event and the Animal Game afterwards. Community events are the perfect way to connect and reunite. The Mud Kitchen Cafe at the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall provides a perfect location for such activity. To all those involved, keep up the good work.

Causeway Bridge Billing

We have had confirmation that the concrete barriers to protect the damage on the bridge will be installed Thursday 13 January and the road will be re-opened after that. This should be open for Friday morning.

Highways are currently liaising with Siemens to switch the signals back on before the road is re-opened.

The repair works will take place at a later date and we will confirm this once it has been agreed. We anticipate the repair will take approximately four weeks and will be under a full road closure. I will keep you informed.



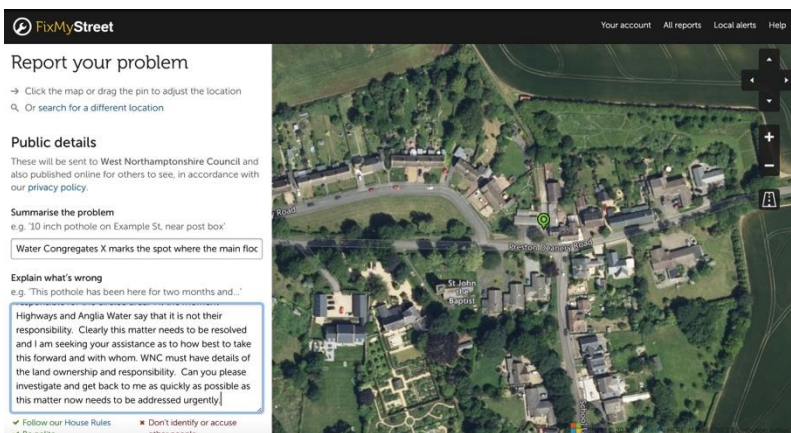
The Causeway has been closed after a vehicle struck the bridge over the Nene

Grange Park Parish Council and SEGRO

I have spoken to the lawyer involved in finalising the Grange Park Parish Council and SEGRO S106, which had been delayed due to the transition from South Northamptonshire Council to the new Unitary, West Northamptonshire Council. I have been advised that the matters are now resolved and that the first tranche of the Community Fund will be paid this month. I have advised Grange Park Parish Council accordingly. Further information on the application process to access the Community Fund can be obtained from the S106 Team at WNC South Northants Area. The email address is

Section106.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk

Quinton Surface Water Flooding, Further Update



On the 21st July 2021, I started the investigation into the ownership of the drains causing the surface water-flooding problem up School Lane. On 18 August, I was advised that the land in question was in the ownership of the Grand Union Housing Group (GUHG). I have now been informed that GUHG have agreed to clear the surface water drain that runs from the junction of Preston Deanery Road and School Lane to the field entrance below the garaged area. This should

help move the surface water away from the junction.

FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

Draft Budget 2022/23

West Northamptonshire Council has published its draft budget for 2022-23. Cabinet reviewed it on 21 December 2021.

The draft revenue budget of £733.8 million is made up of:

- Dedicated schools' expenditure (wholly funded by Government Grant) of £397.4m; and
- Funding for the investment of all other services of £336.4m.

Funding for all other services (£336.4m) represents a growth on the previous year of £42.2 million, which will fund investment in services, pay and other inflationary costs incurred against existing contracts as well as unavoidable and one-off budget pressures. These pressures are offset by £19.6m of productivity gains and additional income with technical budget adjustments of £12.8m providing for a net budget growth of £9.8m.



The budget assumes a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which is to be invested in local service provision. This would represent an average increase on a Band D property across the area of £46.84 per year or £0.90p per week.

Service improvements incorporated into the budget includes:

- Additional investment in the Highways service
- Additional investment in Refuse and Recycling
- The promotion of bus services
- Investment to drive forward the sustainability/green agenda
- Participation in the National Graduate Development Programme
- Investment in Young Driver Training
- Investment in the Flood Service
- The creation of an HS2 Marshall post for three years
- The impact of switching off the Bus Lane camera in the St. James' area
- Project resource to promote walking and cycling schemes.

We have an unavoidable growth of £16.3m in order to protect existing service levels and thereby ensuring no reductions in services. This budget also incorporates a contingency fund to mitigate against potential uncertainties. It provides for the use of one-off funding to fund one-off pressures, invest to save schemes, time limited projects or to deal with the continued response to the pandemic.

We face a challenging medium term financial position. This emphasises the importance of the on-going work across our council to reshape and continually improve processes and ways of working so we can reduce the cost-of-service provision, in order to protect against service reductions and to balance future years' budgets."

This proposed draft Budget commences a six-week budget consultation process enabling residents, businesses, local partners and other stakeholders to review the budget proposals and financial plans and provide feedback. The Budget will also be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and comment.

Cabinet will consider the final Budget for 2022-23 on 15 February 2022 for recommendation to the full Council meeting on 24 February 2022; subject to any changes made following consideration of the consultation feedback, the Local Government financial settlement and the latest financial position.

WNC Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022 to 2023

The LCTRS was approved at the Council meeting on 2 December, and it will be in place by 31 January 2022. The scheme applies to working age claimants only, as the government prescribes the scheme for those of pension age, which provides up to 100% support based on the circumstances of the individual.

1. At the Cabinet meeting of 14 September 2021, members received a report providing an update on the LCTRS for the year 2021-2022 and were asked to endorse no change to the minimum Council Tax contribution of 20% for working age claimants and to agree, for consultation purposes only, two proposals to the current scheme.
2. At their meeting on 9 November 2021, Cabinet members received a report on the results of the consultation and agreed to recommend to Council a LCTRS for the financial year 2022-2023.

Household Support Fund

WNC are providing financial support to households struggling with the cost of living over the winter period, including vulnerable households with or without children. Support includes:

- Household hardship vouchers
- Vouchers to buy food, essentials, and
- Support household budgets to pay essential bills.

If your application is successful, you will receive a voucher based on the size of your household. The vouchers may be exchanged for use in a variety of supermarkets



Winter fuel bank: Emergency £40 top-up vouchers for pre-payment energy meters. You can also contact your energy supplier for additional support in the event of severe hardship. We can grant a maximum of three vouchers, per household over the winter period
School holiday food vouchers: Food vouchers during the school holidays for parents or guardians of children living in low-income households. These have been issued for the school holidays. We will decide

whether to offer these vouchers again in February and April

Emergencies

Remember, this is not emergency funding. You can access emergency food sources via food banks, your community partners and social services.

How to Apply for Household Hardship Voucher and Winter Fuel Bank Vouchers

You will need to provide evidence of hardship with your application form and our team will assess your circumstances against our eligibility criteria. We can take up to 5 working days to assess applications and issue vouchers. Fuel vouchers will be prioritised where possible.

Applications will be accepted until 31 March 2022.

How to Apply for School Holiday Meal Vouchers

If you already receive means-tested free school's meals you do not need to do anything, you will automatically receive school holiday food vouchers. Parents of eligible electively home-educated children, or those without a school place should call 0300 126 7000 to request a school holiday food voucher.

Banking Glitch with Council Tax Payments

An investigation was launched after residents in the old South Northamptonshire District Council area had January's payments sent back to their accounts on Tuesday (January 4).



The authority is one of three — alongside Northampton Borough and Daventry councils — now part of the West Northamptonshire unitary authority, which collects council tax. WNC have investigated and discovered this was due to an administrative error.

This arose from the transfer to a new direct debit system from the three systems used by the previous tax collection authorities in West Northamptonshire, though this hasn't impacted those living in the former Daventry and Northampton areas. The result was that some people will have noticed a payment being made and then immediately refunded to their accounts, and others will have had no payment taken at all. WNC will make another attempt to take payments from bank accounts in the next few days, so we are urging everyone to ensure they have sufficient funds available to cover this month's council tax payment. WNC will do everything they can to contact those affected and alert them to this, and will use all other means at their disposal to ensure this message reaches the maximum number of people. WNC are extremely sorry if this has caused an issue for anyone and we would urge them to contact us if this has led to any money issues or issues with your bank. Please rest assured that all of our processes will be reviewed to guard against this happening again in the future. Council advice for anyone facing financial or bank issues as a result of the problem should call 0300 126 7000 selecting options 2, 3, 2 and 1 to reach the dedicated customer service team for the South Northamptonshire area.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Food Safety in Catering



The advertisement features the West Northamptonshire Council logo on the left. The main image shows a person in a kitchen setting, wearing a black uniform, chopping red and yellow peppers on a white cutting board. Below the image, there is a green box with white text that reads: 'Food Safety in Catering: Level 2'. Below this, it says 'Join our experienced food safety officers for courses at:' followed by two bullet points: '● Daventry: 17 January' and '● Northampton: 24 January'. At the bottom of the green box, the website address 'www.westnorthants.gov.uk/trainingcourses' is listed.

Achieve your 'Food Safety in Catering Level 2' qualification at one of our courses in the New Year:

- Daventry - 17 January
- Northampton - 24 January

Training is delivered by our experienced food safety officers and costs just £75 per person.

Find out more and book your place at

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/trainingcourses

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
- Blakesley 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 -Dismissed.
- 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 is preparing a new strategic plan, which will guide development for the area up to 2050. The West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP) sets out a vision for West Northamptonshire in 2050 and the objectives to realise the ambitions for our economy, our communities and our environment. The activity closed on 24 December and feedback is currently being analysed.

There is also an additional opportunity to put forward ideas for potential development sites through a further 'call for sites' exercise. If you have any suggestions for potential locations for new development, then please submit these using the online form.

Planning Policy Committee

The inaugural meeting of the new WNC Planning Policy Committee took place on 16 December 2021. The Committee noted the significant progress in making the Deanshanger Village Design Statement (VDS) by the Deanshanger community and the responses to the public consultation. The recommended modifications in respect of the Deanshanger VDS were accepted and it was adopted as modified as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Delegated authority was given to the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy to make further minor editorial changes to the VDS to address any factual and typographical errors and to reflect the fact that the document will be in its intended final form.

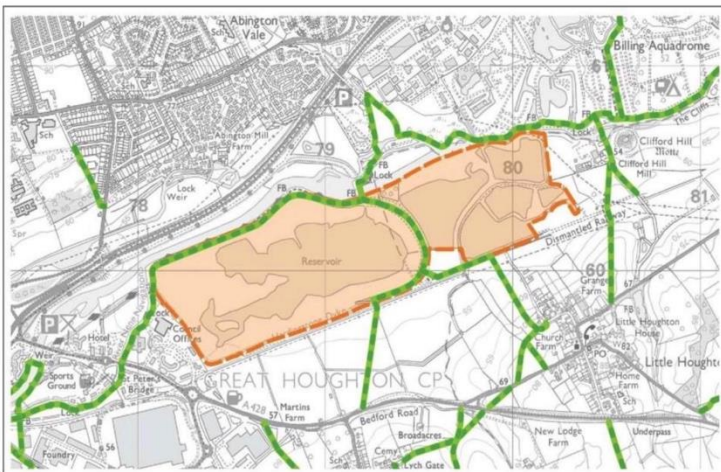
The other substantive item on the agenda was 'Homes in Multiple Occupation (HiMO) Policy Review'. The Planning Policy Committee resolved to establish a Member working group, to:

- Investigate the current rules concerning HiMO;
- Consider good practice from other similar local authority areas;
- Consider expert advice, to evaluate options for a way forward;
- Review the current rules, in light of evidence gathered, and suggest any amendments to the Planning Policy Committee for its formal consideration; and
- Endorse the relevant portfolio holder, Councillor Adam Brown, as Chairman of the Member working group

Views to be sought about visitor impact on former gravel pits

Public views are being sought on plans to limit the impact of recreational use on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) to the east of Northampton. The area lies between Brackmills Industrial Estate and Riverside Retail Park and is part of a series of former gravel pits running along the length of the River Nene between Northampton and Thrapston.

15 November 2021



Public views will soon be sought on plans to limit the impact recreational use has on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) to the east of Northampton.

On Tuesday 9 November Cabinet agreed that the WNC Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA Mitigation Strategy could go out for public consultation. The strategy will help safeguard birds such as the golden plover and lapwing, which are protected by national and international legislation, and which over winter at the gravel pits. Adoption of the mitigation strategy will allow WNC to put measures in place and to educate visitors about the wonderful wildlife they would like to protect. New development within 3km of the area will add visitor pressure and the strategy sets out the financial contribution developers will have to make for measures needed to protect wildlife, including fencing, signage, and wardens. Signage would encourage

visitors of the need to keep dogs on lead to avoid bird disturbance along with information on nearby green spaces where dogs can be exercised off lead.

The strategy is similar in nature to others around the country, which seeks to protect important habitats such as the Thames Basin Heath and the New Forest. The consultation will run for eight weeks from 13 December to 7 February. Details can be found on our Consultation page from 13 December onwards.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../views-be-sought...>

A copy of the mitigation strategy can also be found on the WNC website from 13 December.

ENVIRONMENT

Real Christmas Trees Recycling

WNC will be collecting real Christmas trees on weeks beginning 10th and 17th January.

Please place your tree next to your garden waste bin if you live in Daventry and South Northants or next to your recycling bin if you live in Northampton.

Please ensure any trees over 6ft tall are cut in a half. Residents on sack collection rounds can present their trees beside their recycling boxes and green sacks on their collection day.



Do you know the signs of [#BirdFlu](#)? See our list of signs here: <https://gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu...>

Contact your vet immediately if you suspect [#AvianInfluenza](#). It is a legal requirement to report it to us if you are in England, Wales or Scotland.

[#Chickens](#) [#Ducks](#) [#Geese](#) [#Turkeys](#)

Bird Flu



Fly Tipping on Private Land

Did you know? Private landowners who are the victims of fly-tipping can apply for grants of up to £1,500 to help cover the cost of removing it.

Local authorities do not remove fly-tipped waste on private land, as it is the responsibility of the landowner to clear. But under this scheme, farmers and private landowners can apply for a grant towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in putting prevention measures in place that will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner run the scheme, with support



from the West and North Northamptonshire Councils.

Grants of up to £1,500 are available and landowners can find out more on our website:

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

Councillors to re-think Garden Waste Collection charges in West Northamptonshire

On 14 December 2021, WNC Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that there was a need for the decision to be referred back to Cabinet and that the alternative course of action/recommendations as proposed by the call-in originators be investigated. Therefore, following the submission of all of the evidence, it was proposed and seconded that Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee uphold the call-in. It was resolved that after all the evidence had been heard, the call-in be accepted on the grounds the following alternative courses of action are considered:



- To allow for a lower cost than the £42 proposed whilst being cost neutral overall
- To await the outcome of the DEFRA consultation before placing reliance on the income stream proposed
- To clarify if the Christmas Tree Collection service is open to all residents or just those signed up to the garden waste collection scheme
- To open the Household Waste and recycling centres 7 days a week to allow residents not in the scheme to dispose of their garden waste
- To amend any proposed scheme to allow for payment by instalments
- To amend any proposed scheme to allow for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme support to have a lower cost or nil cost

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

BT has confirmed its 'Digital Voice'

BT has confirmed its Digital Voice rollout in the UK will 'enhance' calls for customers, after it announced that traditional landlines would be replaced in just under four years. By the end of 2025, BT aims to transition every household to the 'Digital Voice' technology and has already started converting some properties. Despite concerns being made from campaigners about the impact on rural communities, vulnerable homeowners and elderly residents, BT has clarified their position on what customers can expect between now and December 2025. This includes waiting until later in the rollout programme to move vulnerable residents to 'Digital Voice'.



RSN Meetings and Seminars in January

The following meetings and seminars take place in January 2022:

- 24 January RSN SPARSE Rural Meeting
- 24 January Rural Economy Sub Group
- 26 January RSN Seminar - Older People in Rural Areas

I shall be attending all of these scheduled on-line meetings.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

NGH bans all visitors after rising Covid figures

Northampton General Hospital has banned all visitors after rising Covid figures, citing patient health as the 'top priority'. The facility shut its doors to visitors on 31 December and only exceptional circumstances will be permitted. It comes as Covid cases continue to soar in the UK with a new record daily high of 183,037 on 30 December.

In some parts of the country, infections are almost tripling as the Omicron variant sweeps the UK.

In these limited circumstances visiting will be possible:

- Patients who are in the last days of life.
- Patients who are receiving a new significant life changing or life-limiting diagnosis.
- A birthing partner accompanying a woman in labour & in the immediate post-natal period.
- A parent or appropriate adult visiting a child.
- Patients suffering mental health issues, such as dementia, a learning disability or autism, where not having visitors will cause the patient distress.
- Critically ill patients in critical care unit, high dependency areas or A&E.

They will have virtual visiting facilities in place.



The daily number of new coronavirus cases in Northamptonshire went over 2,000 for the first time on Thursday 30 December.

There were 9,433 positive tests reported across the county during the last seven days of December.

Major Health and Care Incident Declared

Our Council and its Local Resilience Forum partners have declared a major incident in health and care, due to the impact increasing COVID-19 transmission is having on our services. The partnership includes agencies such as the NHS, WNC, NNC, Northants Police and Northants Fire and Rescue, and all are being severely affected. From our perspective in particular, our already stretched Adult Social Care services are coming under even greater pressure due to staff absence, and this means we will need to consider staff redeployment to ensure our responsibilities can be met.

Chief executive Anna Earnshaw said: “Declaring a major incident enables us to share resources with partners and to seek to divert staff from their day-to-day roles into other areas as an emergency measure. As you might imagine, staff across the organisation, and particularly in Adult Social Care, will be under huge pressure in the coming weeks so I would urge you to be patient and avoid adding to their workloads unless it’s absolutely unavoidable. We would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to ensure vital services continue to be provided, and I will keep you updated as the situation develops.”

COVID-19 Vaccination Centres

The COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Moulton Park in Northampton is offering thousands of appointment slots to allow people to get their jabs as soon as possible this month.

Chris Pallot, Director of Northamptonshire’s COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, said:

“We are really pleased with the progress so far in protecting people across Northamptonshire and that’s down to the incredible efforts of every single person involved. But we must go further, we are once again ramping up to deal with the impact of Omicron as cases are continuing to rise. The evidence shows that having your COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowers your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation. Also, having COVID-19 does not protect you from Omicron. Having your vaccines is the best form of protection against COVID-19 and its variants. If you are over 18 and it’s been at least three months since you had your second dose, do not delay getting your booster. Two doses of COVID-19 are not enough to protect against COVID-19 and Omicron. Our teams have been working hard to increase the capacity of our sites so that we can protect the public as quickly as possible. We have thousands and thousands of additional bookable appointments available as well as number of walk-in sites across the county.” A full list of drop-in sessions available around the county without an appointment can be found online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/covidvaccine. As well as offering the booster jab to everyone who is entitled to one, all drop-in clinics offer first, second and third primary doses to those eligible. Please check eligibility criteria before attending a drop-in session. Alternatively, appointments can be booked online at www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination or by calling 119.



COVID-19 update

A further 11,643 residents test positive and COVID related hospital admissions rise by 45%. The Omicron variant is now circulating in Northamptonshire and our coronavirus infection rate per 100,000 population is 1406.3.



From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people

with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19. People who do not have COVID-19 symptoms take lateral flow tests. Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should report their result on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

However, Northamptonshire's Director of Public Health is reminding all residents that, anyone who develops one or more of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

Lucy Wightman Joint Director of Public Health - North and West Northamptonshire Councils says:

"While cases of COVID-19 continue to rise across the county and the UK, this tried-and-tested approach means that LFDs can be used confidently to indicate COVID-19 infection without the need for PCR confirmation.

"It remains really important that anyone who experiences COVID-19 symptoms self-isolates immediately. They should also order a PCR test on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or by phoning 119.

"I'm really grateful to the public and all of our critical workers who continue to test regularly and self-isolate when necessary, along with other practical and important public health behaviours, as this is the most effective way of stopping the spread of the virus and keeping our friends, families and communities safe."

The data surveillance report, an analysis of the county's recent coronavirus cases and rates over the period 27th December 2021 – 02 January 2022, shows:

- 11,643 residents tested positive for COVID-19 this week. This is an increase of 53% compared with previous week.
- Northamptonshire's infection rate per 100,000 population is 1406.3, which is significantly lower than the national average (1588.1).
- The highest rates locally are Corby (1585.2) and Kettering (1578.1)
- West Northamptonshire's rate is 1330.4, significantly lower than both the Northamptonshire average and the national average.
- North Northamptonshire's rate is 1494.4, significantly higher than the Northamptonshire average but significantly lower than the national average.
- Seven people died in Northamptonshire within 28 days of a positive test.
- Overall, more women than men tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 28 days.

- The age group with the most positive cases for both males and females was predominately 30–39-year-olds, followed closely by 20- to 29-year-olds, 40-49 also remain high when compared to the previous week.
- Positive cases for both males and females aged 0 to 9 years have continued decrease when compared to the previous week.
- Over the last 4-week period the number of cases amongst people aged 60+ have increased, numbers remain high.
- The latest data shows a total of 139 COVID-19 patients occupied hospital beds in Northamptonshire on 4th January 2022, which represents a 45% increase when compared to the previous week (28th December 2021).

Plan B Guidance

Here is a run-down of the new Plan B guidance:

1. Face masks will be mandatory in most public indoor settings, including theatres and cinemas — but not bars and restaurants — From December 10
2. People should work from home, if they can, for a "limited period" From December 13
3. Nightclubs and other large venues will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination of at least two doses From December 15
4. Daily tests for those who encounter COVID-19-positive individuals, instead of self-isolation

Care Worker Bonus

Are you a care worker at a CQC regulated setting? If you continue to work until the end of March 2022 you will get a £600 bonus! Find out more at <http://ow.ly/njUn50HibQY>

EDUCATION

Consultation on School Admissions Arrangements

West Northamptonshire Council's School Admissions Team is co-ordinating a formal consultation on the admissions arrangements, which will apply for mainstream schools within the county for the September 2023 intakes (Primary, Junior and Secondary). This consultation period allows parents,



schools, religious authorities and the local community to comment on proposed admission arrangements. CONSULTATION will take place between 8 November 2021 and 19 December 2021.

DETERMINATION of school admission arrangements by admission authorities must be completed by 28 February 2022.

PUBLICATION of admission policies should happen as soon as possible after 28 February and must be completed by 15 March 2022 (published on schools' websites and copies to LA)

To view the consultation, please visit School Admissions | West Northamptonshire Council (westnorthants.gov.uk)

If you would like to respond to this consultation, then please email School Admissions Consultation at: Schooladmissionsconsultation.NCC@northnorthants.gov.uk

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.

Affordable School Uniforms come into law this year



After years of campaigning by the Children's Society to [#CutTheCost](#), affordable school uniforms come into law this year.

But schools still need to put this guidance into action. Share and help us spread the message so that by Autumn 2022, every school in the UK offers uniforms that families can afford.

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

Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services

The latest Ofsted monitoring inspection shows Children's Services in Northamptonshire are continuing to improve and that senior leadership have realistic plans in place, which are already proving successful. In the second monitoring visit since the foundation of Northamptonshire's two unitary authorities in April, Ofsted inspectors focussed on Children in Care aged 16+ and Care Leavers during their visit at the beginning of November.



In a letter to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and North Northamptonshire Councils, inspectors said: "Senior leaders demonstrate in their recently updated self-assessment that they know their services well and are committed to improving the lives of children and young people. "Improvement plans are realistic and continue to be implemented with success despite the on going challenges

of the pandemic." Inspectors did recognise there are still improvements to be made and that the quality of the service was still too variable, but said senior leaders have realistic plans in place to address this.

Much of what we need to do to is to improve consistency of practice and the recruitment and retention of staff. The inspectors acknowledge we are relentlessly pursuing a recruitment campaign, which will result in better workloads for staff and better outcomes for children and young people in this county. A lot of hard work has gone into improving the service, so it is pleasing to see that work beginning to pay-off. The letter from Ofsted is available to read online. Northamptonshire Children's Trust is also currently offering welcome bonuses for anyone joining the team.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Funding for West Northants community groups

The next funding round for the Community Funding Grant Scheme, which is for grants up to £5,000 will open on 10 January 2022 and close on 13 February 2022.



These grants allow WNC 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...>

Councillor COVID Support Fund 2021-22

The new fund, which was agreed on 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.

The Covid pandemic has had a huge impact on local community and voluntary organisations that rely on small grant awards to remain sustainable. The Councillor Covid Support Fund exists to support our local



communities to recover from the impact of Covid during the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year. These grants are available to voluntary and community groups (not individuals or Town and Parish Councils).

Each Councillor has been allocated £2,500 to make local decisions on grant funding awards for the benefit of the communities' they represent. The grant must be used within the electoral ward of the Councillor and needs to be used to empower local residents to be active in their communities' recovery from the impact of Covid. The minimum grant award is £200.

A Councillor may co-operate with other Councillors within an electoral ward to pool their fund allocations for the purpose of this grant.

How do I obtain a Councillor Covid Support Fund grant?

The expectation is that each Councillor will already be aware of the community and voluntary organisations within their electoral ward impacted by Covid and seeking this type of grant funding.

The process for a Councillor Covid Support Fund grant award is as follows:

1. The Councillor identifies a community or voluntary sector organisation impacted by Covid and that needs financial assistance to recover within the Councillor's ward
2. The Councillor gives the community or voluntary sector organisation an application form
3. The community or voluntary sector organisation completes and signs Part A of the application form to accept the Terms and Conditions of the grant and returns to the Councillor
4. The Councillor completes and signs Part B of the application form and emails the application form to communitygrants@westnorthants.gov.uk
5. The Assistant Director Housing and Communities (or delegated officer) approves and signs the application form for payment
6. The grant is set up for payment by the Community Grants Team and the community or voluntary sector organisation is informed that payment has been made and that they will need to provide the

Community Grants Team with evidence of grant use and defrayment (payment) as per the Terms and Conditions they accepted on signing the application form

I have already received two enquiries, but please let me have your recommendations for a community or voluntary group in need of support, as soon as possible.

Social Enterprise Support Fund – National Lottery Community Fund

This fund is open for applications now. It provides grants to help social enterprises rebuild from COVID-19. The National Lottery Community Fund and five social enterprise support agencies established it in partnership. Grants between £10,000 and £100,000 are available to social enterprises in England. They want to reach the most marginalised communities and to promote inclusion. They want to support social enterprises that are helping communities affected by COVID-19 to recover, and to help social enterprises themselves to recover and rebuild their trading.



The deadline for applications in Round 1 is 21 December 2021. Round 2 will open on 28 February and close on 24 March 2022.

<https://socialenterprisesupportfund.org.uk>

Supporting Those at Risk (STAR) Fund

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), Public Health Northamptonshire and The Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum have been awarded £635,500 from central government to help local charities and groups across West Northants who have been supporting the most vulnerable members of society during the pandemic. The Supporting Those at Risk (STAR) Fund is to help address the long-term impact of COVID-19 by supporting organisations that provide local services to the most at risk residents in West Northamptonshire. Charities and groups will need to explain what they intend to spend the money on and how it will benefit at risk people. These may include:

1. Existing schemes which support people struggling to afford food and other essentials,
2. Projects advising and providing information to people to help them access longer term support, such as benefits,
3. Projects that provide targeted support in areas of greatest need and deprivation, including rural areas.

WNC particularly welcomes applications from groups showing collaborative working, those working together to support specific local communities, minority groups and those most in need or at risk.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../star-fund-supporting...>

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week 2022 will take place from 7 to 13 February 2022. It provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate apprenticeships and bring the whole apprenticeship community together. The Week will shine a light on the positive differences that apprenticeships can make to individuals, employers

and to the wider economy. The Education and Skills Funding Agency has announced today that the 15th annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place from 7 to 13 February 2022.

The annual weeklong celebration of apprenticeships, which takes place across England, will showcase how apprenticeships have helped employers of all sizes and sectors, and people of all ages and backgrounds. We are encouraging employers to promote the outstanding work their apprentices have been involved in over the past year.



We also want to highlight the many benefits apprenticeships bring to businesses of all sizes. National Apprenticeship Week brings together Apprenticeship Ambassadors, MPs, training providers, EPAOs, apprentices, parents and employers to celebrate the work being done across the whole apprenticeship community, promoting apprenticeships and their impact. More information on National

Apprenticeship Week 2022 will be announced on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and on social media channels, @Apprenticeships on Twitter and National Apprenticeship Service on LinkedIn. To find out more about apprenticeships visit the apprenticeships website.

HOUSING

WNC Launch Safe & Sound

Working in partnership with organisations from the Single Homelessness Forum in West Northamptonshire, WNC have launched 'Safe & Sound', a winter accommodation project for people sleeping rough. Individual rooms will help protect them from the increasing spread of COVID-19, by providing somewhere safe to stay, regular meals and bathroom facilities.



The service launched Monday 20 December and will continue through to the end of March, through a partnership with the University of Northampton, which also supported our efforts during the Government's 'Everyone In' project last year. It is vital that we do all we can to protect everyone from COVID, especially during the winter months when viruses tend to spread far more quickly. This is particularly important, now we have a new variant and we need to make sure everyone is up to date

with his or her vaccinations, though we've already done a lot of work around this alongside Public Health England. We know that there might be a few people sleeping rough who are reluctant to engage with the service, and we will continue to enact our severe weather emergency protocol should we need to.

Safe & Sound will run alongside services already provided through the Single Homelessness Pathway, which supports many people who are sleeping rough or are at risk of doing so to address their challenges and transition to settled housing. The partnership working involved to set up and run Safe & Sound includes a

wide range of services provided by the Hope Centre, including food, employability and financial advice, and direct access to mental health support. We are also working with charitable organisations, like the Sikh Community Centre and Youth Club, which are providing food, clothing, toiletries, and a few little luxuries to make people's stay a bit more special. Workers from a range of agencies will be on hand, offering a comprehensive package of support services to address health issues and improve life chances.

Colleagues from our Adult Social Care team and the new Northampton Homeless Treatment Team will be available with help to tackle drug and alcohol addiction and ensure physical health issues are addressed. We will also be working with our housing provider partners, including Keystage Housing, which runs the Homeless Assessment Rapid Resettlement Pathway (HARRP) at Trinity House in Northampton, and NAASH. International Lighthouse will also be helping us liaise with those from other countries around possible repatriation or gaining settled status, whichever is the most appropriate solution.

Father Oliver Coss, rector of All Saints Church in Northampton and a member of the Single Homelessness Forum, said: "Those involved in bringing this together have worked tirelessly for it. Making it happen will be a source of gladness for them, and more so for those it helps. Built out of experience and hard work during this pandemic, we're in a good position to make a difference and to contribute to holding back the tide of coronavirus. No one comes off the streets due to the sole work of just one organisation – it is always a partnership between different agencies which makes the difference. This is really good news, for those who need good news the most."

The scheme is being funded through the Government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) fund for this year. All known rough sleepers are being contacted and provided with details of how to access the Winter Accommodation. However, if you know someone who is sleeping rough in Northampton, Daventry, or South Northants areas and requires access to the accommodation,

Please:

- Advise them to contact the relevant locality team by calling 0300 126 7000
- Call our Northampton Outreach team directly on 07775 036773
- Make a report online through Street Link

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol Triggered

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) will be operating from 11 January 2022 to at least 9.00am 14 January 2022. This will provide help for people sleeping rough in very cold or extreme weather conditions. During periods of severe weather people who are sleeping rough in the West Northamptonshire area will be provided with somewhere safe, warm, and dry to stay through our Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). Anyone known to be at risk of sleeping rough will be contacted and provided with details of how to access the emergency accommodation. However, if you know someone who is sleeping rough in the West Northamptonshire area who needs accommodation, please advise them to contact the homelessness team by calling 0300 126 7000.



We are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The earlier in the day you contact us, the more time we will have to help you. Outside of these hours, you can use the same number to contact our Out of Hours service. If you are concerned about someone you believe may be sleeping rough, you can inform StreetLink who can investigate further and identify local support services. Public authorities and all organisations including

Registered Partners, can also contact us under the Duty to Refer.

SWEP has two main aims, to ensure that:

- No one dies on the streets due to severe weather, and
- Every effort is made to reach out to people sleeping rough to help them get the services they need.

We will, barring exceptional circumstances, provide accommodation for individuals who are known to be rough sleeping in the district, with which we can make contact.

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

North West Relief Road

West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet has agreed to invest £20m to enable the construction of Northampton's North-West Relief Road. The funding will come from borrowing, after a bid to the Government's £4.8b Levelling Up Fund was unsuccessful. The project will link the A428 Harlestone Road with the A5199 Welford Road to increase capacity and mitigate some impact of planned housing growth west and north of Northampton. It also aims to ease congestion in the locality, and to discourage motorists from using some local residential roads as rat runs.



Phase one of the scheme is the section from the A428 to a roundabout near Grange Farm, just south of the railway line, and will be constructed by the developers of Dallington Grange. The first section of phase one has already been built as part of the Harlestone Gate development. West Northamptonshire Council is responsible for building phase two – the section of road across the railway line connecting the

developer's road to the A5199 Welford Road. Around £32.5m had previously been secured against the scheme's £54.5m budget. The £20m investment, plus a £1.95m council contribution agreed by Cabinet in June, will cover the shortfall and allow the scheme to go ahead. Design and build contractor Balfour Beatty has been appointed, with works expected to be completed by autumn 2023.

Major Shake up in Highway Code

The Highway Code is set to undergo a major shake-up in 2022, giving overtaking - or undertaking - cyclists going straight on a right of way over drivers turning into junctions.



The Highway Code revisions also include a new Hierarchy of Road Users, which implies automatic culpability for drivers in accidents with more vulnerable road users (cyclists or pedestrians), while another change states drivers should stop and give way to pedestrians waiting to cross the road before turning into or out of junctions. The final major change will be establishing guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists or horse riders.

A statutory instrument has been laid before Parliament that means the updated Highway Code will come into effect on 29 January 2022, but there's no

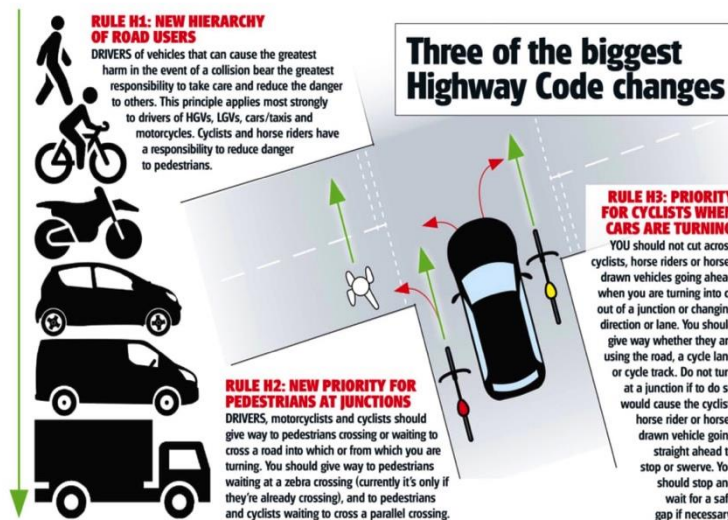
official plan to communicate the changes until they actually come into force. Indeed, the Department for Transport (DfT) says some of the new Highway Code wording still needs to be finalised. However, the DfT is pressing on with a programme started in 2020, when it invited cycling lobby groups to propose new rules, and a subsequent 12-week public consultation on their proposals. "The majority of respondents to the consultation were in favour of all the changes proposed, believing that they would improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders," the DfT claims.

What are the 2022 Highway Code changes as proposed?

Rule H1: New Hierarchy of Road Users (right) Drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of HGVs, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

Rule H2: New priority for pedestrians at junctions At a junction, drivers, motorcyclists, horse riders and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting at a zebra crossing (currently it's only if they're already crossing), and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

Rule H3: New priority for cyclists when cars are turning You should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane. This applies whether they are using a cycle lane, a cycle track, or riding ahead on the road and you should give way to them. Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist, horse rider or horse drawn vehicle going straight ahead to stop or swerve. You should stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists if necessary.



POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Neighbourhood Policing team

The Beat Bus

I met up with PCSO Matt Taylor on 5 January 2022 whilst he was out and about with the Beat Bus. At Cogenhoe, one of the residents, Jim asked me to speak to Highways about providing 30 mph signs to prevent the speeding traffic on the main road out of the village. I will action this and other highways matters raised.

Several others wanted to know about the Billing Bridge, which had been severely damaged. I have since had an update from Highways about the bridge.



"We have been working to assess the damage and can report the following: We are hoping to have a concrete barrier up in the next week and can then reopen the road as it was. This will protect the damaged section of wall. Repair works will be later in the year. This will require a full closure and should take about 4 weeks. We also need the Environment Agency (EA) consent to remove debris from the water. This is not affecting the navigation channel. This work may need to be carried out under a closure but not confirmed yet. We also need to work with the EA to arrange the necessary permits to work and this follows a specific process of approval

Please be assured we are doing all we can to get this road reopened as quickly as possible and we will continue to provide updates."

Matt and the Beat Bus had already been to Grange Park, Hackleton and Denton. They were off to Yardley Hastings and Hartwell after Cogenhoe.

PFCC asks for views on police and fire budget

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold has launched a budget consultation to ask for views on the level of council tax precept for policing and fire and rescue services next year. The PFCC sets the budget for both Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police. The budgets are made up from money raised from central government grants and the policing and fire precepts, which are part of the council tax. Around 18% of the total council tax bill paid by a Northamptonshire household goes towards policing and fire services, 14% for policing and 4% for the fire service. Over the past five years, the council tax paid towards policing and fire has been invested to give more police officers than ever before – from 1,170 to around 1,500 by March 2023 - which has enabled a new focus on neighbourhood policing; and in more firefighters, with the appropriate equipment to help them do their job. The Commissioner has recently set a new Police, Fire and Crime Plan for the county, following a public consultation that overwhelmingly supported visible and effective response from the two emergency services.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Budget consultation for your
fire and police services

www.northantspfcc.org.uk



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
Stephen Mold



The Government's financial settlement, published last week, expects that Commissioners across the country will raise the council tax for police by an extra £10 a year for a band D property – an increase that is lower than inflation. The central government funding for Northamptonshire Police is less than anticipated in the next financial year, so an increase in the council tax precept of £10 would mean the increased number of officers can still be afforded. The settlement also gave the Commissioner the flexibility to ask for an additional £5 a year – less than 10p a week - for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, because it is one of the lowest-funded in the country. Now Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is asking the public for their views on the level of council tax they would pay so that the improvements that have been made in both services can be sustained into the future.

"I know this is another challenging year and the financial decisions that I have to make will be tougher than ever," Stephen said.

"People have clearly told me that they want to see more police officers in their neighbourhoods, and that they want fire services that are able to respond quickly when needed.

"We have committed to ensuring that Northamptonshire Police has 1,500 officers, the most it has ever had, and we are well on track to reach that number. I want to ensure that we can sustain a force of that size, to serve this fast-growing county. The £10 a year increase on the policing precept that the Government expects will not cover the costs of inflation, but it will ensure that we can keep on making improvements in the policing."

Stephen said that Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service needs the £5 precept increase so that it can achieve a stable financial base from which to modernise and extend the work it does in the community.

"I am very grateful that the Government has listened and enabled us to ask for £5 a year for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. That would put the service on a more stable footing to make the changes that it must make. People have made their priorities clear, I now want to know what they think about the precept increase that would allow these priorities to be met."

The consultation can be found at

<https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/public-budget-consultation-2022/>

The consultation runs from Monday 20 December 2021 until 11.59pm on Sunday 16 January 2022.

Responses will be considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in deciding the level of council tax precept. The PFCC Panel will consider the Commissioner's recommendation on 3 February 2022 at a meeting held in public. While the population of England grew by 14.4% between 2001 and 2020, the population of Northamptonshire grew by 20%. In 2020, the population was 750,000.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Support for armed services personnel, veterans, and their families

Support for armed services personnel, veterans, and their families is set to improve in Northamptonshire after the unitary councils received bronze awards in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council have already signed the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) which puts in writing both council's commitment to supporting those connected to the forces. The ERS Bronze award is now the first step in a constant improvement programme which makes it easier for reservists to find flexible employers and improves employment pathways between the forces and the private and public sectors.



In addition to signing the AFC, Bronze ERS holders must show they promote being armed forces-friendly to partners and show they are open to employing reservists, armed forces veterans (including the wounded, injured and sick), cadet instructors and military spouses/partners. Among other measures, Silver ERS awards are given to employers who have a policy in place which will allow reservists to fulfil their military

commitments, while Gold award holders have committed to taking on those leaving the services via the Careers Transitions Programme and have registered for the Forces Family Portal. Both WNC and NNC offer a range of support for serving personnel, veterans and their families which could include help with housing and Council Tax. For more information, visit - www.afcnorthamptonshire.co.uk.

Nominations for the Most Inspirational Woman 2022

Do you know an inspirational woman? Members of the public are being asked to get their thinking caps on as nominations opened on Tuesday, 4 January for the 2022 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Inspirational Women Awards. The Women's Forum at WNC is calling upon residents, businesses, schools, and community groups to nominate women in their lives who inspire them. Now in their 10th year the awards publicly recognise and promote those women who inspire and have a real impact on the lives of others.

There are two categories for the 2022 awards:

- Business Award
- Community Award

Potential nominees for the Business Award could include someone who has inspired through their paid employment, an inspirational business owner or someone who has inspired you in your career.

For the Community Award it could be a family member who has been a rock during this challenging year, a neighbour who has set up a community group to support local children and families, a friend who has campaigned for better healthcare, or a colleague who fundraises for charity.

Last year's winners, Dolores Sanders (Business) and Theresa McCarthy-Dixon (Community) have been invited to join the judging panel for 2022.

Professor Sarah Gilbert, vaccinologist



Nominations open on 4 January 2022 and close 26 January 2022. The shortlisted finalists will be announced on 18 February 2022. The awards will be presented at a ceremony to mark International Women's Day (IWD) on Saturday, 5 March 2022.

The theme for IWD 2022 is [#BreakTheBias](https://twitter.com/BreakTheBias). Further details of the awards ceremony will be announced nearer the time. The online nomination form will be live from 4 January.

For more information on IWD, visit - <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/2022theme>.

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation grants

Applications are open for the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation's 2022 funding round to support access to arts and heritage across the country. Grants of up to £25,000 will be offered to arts, culture and heritage projects that enrich lives, support potential, improve skills and reach diverse communities.

This round will award grants of up to £25,000 per year for 3 years and will prioritise applications from: Organisations and projects increasing diversity in the arts and heritage by breaking down social, economic and geographical barriers, encouraging engagement and providing high quality training to young people aged under 25, e.g. youth theatres, youth orchestras, side-by-side music initiatives, music therapy groups, music in prisons, heritage skill training.

Organisations and projects providing specialist training and work-place experience and apprenticeships for emerging artists and newly graduated professionals, e.g. theatre director schemes, actor mentoring and training, heritage building craft apprentices and training schemes, young composer schemes, writers' workshops.

The deadline for stage 1 applications is 28 February 2022.



Let's Create Jubilee Fund

The Let's Create Jubilee Fund will support voluntary and community groups to develop creative and cultural activities as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022. Arts Council England (ACE) has created this fund with funds from the National Lottery. It is open to voluntary organisations with charitable aims and working towards a common goal, which does not have to be based solely around arts and culture. Groups can apply for amounts between £750 and £10,000. Projects must:

- Focus on art and creativity
- Engage with at least one of the art forms that ACE supports (see below)
- Be high quality and inclusive in their approach
- Culminate in June 2022
- Benefit people in Northamptonshire particularly those on low incomes or facing disadvantage

Applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with an artist, creative or cultural organisation that has been in receipt of ACE funding within the last 4 years to help deliver their project. Although this is not an essential requirement, in general we would expect larger awards (i.e. 5-10k) to be made to projects that involve a partnership between a community organisation and an ACE funded organisation; the lead partner should be the community organisation, who will receive the grant and distribute funds as needed to their partner arts organisation. You can find out more about **ACE supported artists** or **organisations** in your local area on their website.

Let's Create Jubilee Fund



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

All applicants will have a funding decision by Friday 1 April 2022. The project can begin from 1 April so that preparation can take place such as rehearsals. Public-facing activity should take place in June near the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Types of projects eligible for funding:

Culture and creativity come in all shapes and sizes, so we do not want to be too prescriptive about what form projects could take; it's more important for you to consider how to deliver creative and cultural activity that your local communities will want to take part in and find a partner who can help you deliver it. To be eligible projects should engage with at least one of the art forms which ACE supports through its funding. These are:

- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Visual Arts
- Literature
- Combined Arts - including festivals and carnivals
- Museum and Library activities

Please note: you should not be making a profit from the activities or events.

You can apply for a grant if you are a:

- Constituted voluntary or community organisation
- Registered charity
- Not-for-Profit company including community interest companies where there is no PSC

The above organisations need to:

- Be a local or regional organisation, i.e. only working in Northamptonshire or in the East Midlands. Please note: people benefiting from the grant must live in Northamptonshire.
- Be a branch of a national organisations with a local management committee based in Northamptonshire, your own constitution, and a bank account you control
- We can accept applications for funding from organisations working as a consortium, partnership, network or group. For non-constituted consortiums or groups, one organisation must act as the lead organisation and send us the application. If the application goes on to be successful, this organisation would then be accountable for the grant.

Your organisation must have:

- A business address in the UK

- An active voluntary management committee with at least three people who are not:
- Related to each other or in a long-term relationship
- Living at the same address
- A project lead that is at least 18 years old

Your organisation needs the following financial arrangements and documents:

- A bank account in the exact name of your organisation with two signatories that are not related to each other
- Less than 12 months running costs in unrestricted reserves. This means in your end of year financial accounts, Unrestricted reserves (not including Designated funds) must be less than your Expenditure
- Financial records or accounts
- A recent bank statement
- A constitution
- A financial plan or budget showing this year's expected income, expenditure and reserves. If you do not have these we will discuss this with you when you apply.
- A Safeguarding Policy (where relevant) and an Equality Policy

Who isn't eligible for funding:

- Non-constituted community or voluntary groups
- Statutory bodies such as city, county or parish councils or health institutions
- Organisations that have been established for less than 12 months
- Limited companies, sole traders or partnerships without charitable aims

TO APPLY PLEASE CLICK ON THE [ONLINE APPLICATION LINK HERE](#)
PLEASE READ THE GUIDANCE BEFORE APPLYING OR SPEAK TO THE GRANTS TEAM TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT.
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 28 FEBRUARY 2022.