

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022



**E Newsletter Issue 2/2022**  
**Brafield Walk About**  
**29 January 2022**

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## NEWS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

### Monthly Highlights

On Saturday 29 January 2022, I met with Gill Morgan and Dawn Allingham for our Brafield Walkabout. It was a very good opportunity for me to gain a better understanding of the village, its environment and the issues facing the residents of Brafield. Although, I have walked around the village several times in the past, this visit enabled me to capture in 2-3 hours the knowledge I needed. Our walk encompassed some of the hidden footpaths and bridlepaths as well as the various village streets. I gained more casework but experienced a real enjoyment of the place and the sense of local history, pride and love from someone who has lived in the village of Brafield their entire life. West Northamptonshire has a rich legacy of rural villages with communities that need our support and encouragement to continue to thrive and be socially and economically viable. I intend to complete a similar exercise in the other parishes.

On 31 December 2021, Northampton General Hospital banned all visitors after rising COVID figures, citing patient health as the 'top priority'. If you have a relative in hospital and would like an update on their condition, please call the ward team.

Following a meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) on Thursday, 27 January 2022, the Local Resilience Forum, has taken the decision to stand down the multi-agency Major Incident status declared in Northamptonshire on Friday, 7 January 2022. This decision was supported by all agencies.

The Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Centre is now at BILLING AQUADROME, CROW LANE, NORTHAMPTON until Sunday 6 February, 9am to 6pm.

Northampton College is backing National Apprenticeship Week by engaging with more than 600 employers as they host Q&As and drop-in sessions throughout the week of 7-13 February 2022. The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2022 will be 'Build the Future'; reflecting on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

The Supporting Those at Risk (STAR) fund closes at midnight on 7 February 2022 and the current round of the Community Funding Grant closes on 13 February 2022. So please get your applications in as soon as possible. As you know there is a Councillor COVID Support Fund to allocate money within our wards in order to make a positive impact on the areas we represent and to empower residents to be active in their communities' recovery from the impact of COVID. I have received 8 expressions of interest and two completed applications so far. The time limit for all applications is 31 March 2022.

On 27 January 2022, WNC Strategic Planning Committee approved subject to certain requirements set out in the minutes, WNS/2021/1860/FUL - Plot 7 Northampton Gateway SRFI Land west of M1 J15 Milton Malsor. However, objections were raised over the plans as the warehouse will be taller than regulations permit. Both Roade and Milton Malsor Parish Councils said by approving the development it could set a 'worrying precedent', given the height of the warehouse. Roxhill responded saying the proposed development of the building is 'not considered to give rise to significant adverse visual impact'. WNC stated that The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 establishes the principle of development for the application site as this authorises the development on the site of a storage and distribution facility and building. The DCO is a significant material consideration, which effectively overrides Development Plan policy considerations with respect to the distribution of development and the appropriateness of the location for employment development.

The WNC Budget Consultation has closed. Your feedback is important to us, and your responses will be analysed and considered, and it will help Councillors make a final decision on the budget at the WNC Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022. This meeting is held in public. Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by 6pm 23 February 2022. Up to three members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

Cabinet decided to approve plans to introduce a charge for garden waste collections for all residents of West Northamptonshire who opt into this service of £42 per bin per year, from 1 April 2022.

Thousands of vulnerable households in West Northamptonshire have received financial support to help them with the cost of living over winter. The Household Support Fund provides help ranging from Holiday School Meal Vouchers to a 'fuel bank concept', which supports the maintenance of energy within the household over the winter period. The scheme has been hugely successful with the number of applications received and approved far exceeding expectations - 6,441 in total so far. The original route to applying for support was via applications made to Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB). However, due to the significant volumes of applications, the council has also now developed an e-form so residents can make applications online. Those who access the application process through the CAB go through an interview and provide supporting documentation. We do not expect demand to reduce any time soon and in order to support this, the Customer Services department is providing additional resources to the Emergency Planning team. This will hopefully allow us to address the current backlog and catch up with demand. If your needs are urgent, please make an application via CAB – call 0808 2231133 or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Don't forget to regularly check our Forward Plan to see what future key decisions are due to be made by the Cabinet in the months ahead. The Forward Plan sets out what reports are expected to go to future meetings and can be found alongside the committee timetables, agendas and reports. The Forward Plan for 15 February's Cabinet meeting is enclosed in my monthly report.

Our campaign to encourage communities across West Northamptonshire to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' continues to grow. More than 30 councils have engaged with us to say they have planted or are planning to plant an impressive 1,768 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC). But we would love even more communities to get involved.

Are you someone who's passionate about your local community and making a difference? If so, we have an exciting job opportunity for a Neighbourhood Warden to join our team at West Northants. Help us to create and maintain an attractive, clean and safe environment in our local community.

Applications for SEGRO funding are made using a proforma which is reviewed by the WNC S106 team to confirm it is in accordance with the terms of the agreement and it is then circulated to the Community Liaison Group for comments. The proforma and comments will then be forwarded with a recommendation for consideration by WNC. If authorised, the funds are then paid out. The applicant and the Community Liaison Group will be advised of the outcome of the application for funding.

I plan to do regular walkabouts across Hackleton and Grange Park. This month's walkabout in Brafield was most beneficial as it helped me to discuss with the community and councillors the work that needs to be done to ensure that we have a safe and pleasant environment for those who live there. I hope that together we can come up with some key priorities to focus on, so we can make some real improvements in our villages.

*All the Best, Steve*

## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

### Brafield Walkabout

On Saturday 29 January 2022, I met with Gill Morgan and Dawn Allingham for our Brafield Walkabout. It was a very good opportunity for me to gain a better understanding of the village, its environment and the issues facing the residents of Brafield. Although, I have walked around the village several times in the past, this visit enabled me to capture in the 2-3 hours spent on our walk around the village and its environs, the knowledge I needed. Our walk encompassed some of the hidden footpaths and bridlepaths as well as the various village streets. We talked about the issues stemming from the A428 Highway with its staggered junction including highway safety and the impact of traffic on the village. We also covered the Grove Road parking issues and discussed the tremendous much-loved view of the whole of the Nene Valley from the highest point up by the church and the ability for residents to be able to walk up the plateau to the intersection of the footpaths and then along Church Lane, surveying the important sites in the Conservation area around the Green. We



looked at the significant Potholes along the Bridle Path, considered the future of the empty Chapel and the

damaged Grid, which is now being addressed. In doing so, I gained more casework but experienced a real enjoyment of the place and the sense of local history, pride and love from someone who has lived in the village of Brafield their entire life. West Northamptonshire has a rich legacy of rural villages with communities that need our support and encouragement to continue to thrive and be socially and economically viable.

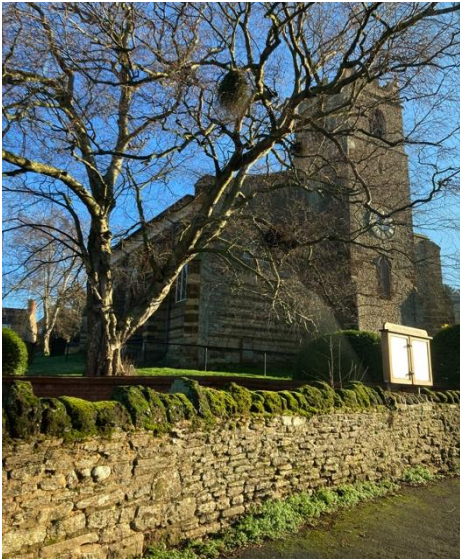


### Friday Coffee Mornings, Denton

I enjoyed the Friday Community Coffee Morning on 14 January in Denton. It was good to catch up with Marion, Alison, Philippa, James, Pat, Elias and Doug. I hope I have remembered everyone. It was the first session in the New Year. I enjoyed the toast, coffee and of course the friendly chatter. It was good to read about some of the history of Denton and talk about the Councillor COVID Support Fund. I returned on 28 January 2022, to follow up on my casework and respond to the expressions of interest for the Support Fund and I was able to meet with Carole Clarke, one of the previous Councillors together with John and other residents from Denton.



### Denton Conservation Area



Following the Friday coffee morning on 14 January 2022, I walked around Denton with one of the villagers to gain a better understanding of the problem of leaving bins out permanently on narrow streets in a Conservation Area. Not everyone leaves their bins out all week but some, particularly those who do not have



direct access to their rear gardens have become accustomed to leaving their bins out all the time. It is a difficult problem to resolve, and I have investigated it further. If anyone would like to contact me regarding this issue, please do so. I am working with WNC to seek a mutually acceptable solution.

### Cogenhoe Community Lunch and other events



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.

I attended the Community Coffee Morning with Parish Help desk on 27 January to follow up on some expressions of interest for the Councillor COVID Support Fund.

## Cogenhoe Farmers Market



Sunday 13th February is the next Cogenhoe Farmers Market and Craft Fair. It takes place at the Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, Cogenhoe, NN7 1NB.



## Causeway Bridge Billing



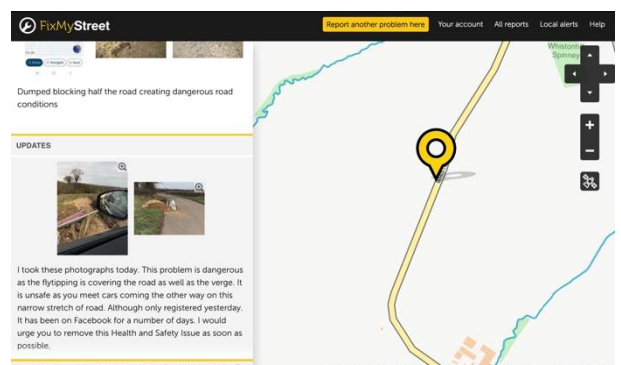
The Causeway Bridge opened on 14 January 2022 with concrete barriers in place to protect any further damage to the bridge whilst awaiting the final repair. The repair works will take place later, and we will confirm this once it has been agreed. We anticipate the repair will take approximately four weeks and will be under a full road closure. I will keep you informed. The emergency repairs have made a huge difference for the residents of Cogenhoe, Denton and Brafield.

## Grange Park Parish Council and SEGRO S106 Funding

Applications for funding are made using a proforma which is reviewed by the WNC S106 team to confirm it is in accordance with the terms of the agreement and it is then circulated to the Community Liaison Group for comments. The proforma and comments will then be forwarded with a recommendation for consideration by WNC. If authorised, the funds are then paid out. The applicant and the Community Liaison Group will be advised of the outcome of the application for funding.

## Fly Tipping Whiston Road, Denton

I took these photographs on 20 January. This problem is dangerous as the fly tipping is covering the road as well as the verge. It is unsafe as you are likely to meet cars coming the other way on this narrow stretch of road.







Although only registered on Fix My Street on 19 January, I escalated it on 20 January. I urged Highways to address this Health and Safety Issue as soon as possible. I went to look at the site a few days later and the fly tipping had been removed.

### Fly tipping Whiston Road, just outside of Cogenhoe

As I was checking on the Flytipping on Whiston Road, Denton, I found more Fly tipping along Whiston Road out of Whiston from Cogenhoe. This photograph is just one example of the Fly tipping on the verges. It seems a common problem when you look through Fix My Street. Therefore, I have asked Highways to seek a more permanent solution. I am yet to receive an update and I will keep you informed.



## FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

### Draft Budget 2022/23 Consultation

West Northamptonshire Council published its draft budget for 2022-23. Cabinet reviewed it on 21 December 2021, and it was released for consultation.

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.

WNC proposes the following increases in the former borough and district areas:

- Daventry - £62.93 per year
- Northampton - £36.24 per year
- South Northamptonshire - £46.84 per year

Through our Housing Revenue Account (HRA), we've identified £45m next year for our new-build and major projects programme, through which we aim to create 200 new homes per year to 2027. Most of the rest of our HRA budget will be targeted at repairs and improvements on our existing housing stock, along with disabled adaptations. To ensure we can do all of this, we'll need to increase rents in our rented housing by 4.1 per cent and charges for garages by 3.1 per cent.

The impacts of Covid 19 have and are likely to continue to place higher demands on all our services and it is clear we face a challenging medium term financial position. However, it is important we deliver long term sustainability and affordability to ensure services are fit for the future. As such, we will continue to review contracts, income sources and assets whilst also identifying wider service improvements and cost efficiencies. We also recognise 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. West Northamptonshire Council is focussed on becoming a greener and cleaner authority, a great place in which people can live and work, and visit. The Council aims to recover and grow the economy, playing a full role as one of the largest authorities within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, while establishing strong and safe communities with good housing. We want our residents to have the best prospects and the skills to succeed and for children to have the best start in life. Work will also continue to further the integration of adult social care and health services which is also key to the future, working towards a new way of delivering important services in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. This makes sense as not only is there a financial efficiency but also it is much less complicated for people who want to access the services.

The WNC Budget Consultation has closed. Your feedback is important to us, and your responses will be analysed and considered, and it will help Councillors make a final decision on the budget at the WNC Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022. This meeting is held in public. Anyone wishing to submit a statement to the meeting must contact Democratic Services by 6pm 23 February 2022. Up to three

members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each on any agenda item although this may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

### Household Support Fund

Thousands of vulnerable households in West Northamptonshire have received financial support to help them with the cost of living over winter. The Household Support Fund provides help ranging from Holiday School Meal Vouchers to a 'fuel bank concept', which supports the maintenance of energy within the household over the winter period. The scheme has been hugely successful with the number of applications



received and approved far exceeding expectations - 6,441 in total so far. The original route to applying for support was via applications made to Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB). However, due to the significant volumes of applications, the council has also now developed an e-form so residents can make applications online. Those who access the application process through the CAB go through an interview and provide supporting documentation. The CAB then collate all the evidence and screen out those ineligible. The applicant's case is accompanied by a recommendation

from the CAB to the central team in the Council, and other than a few basic additional checks, the application and supporting documents can be converted into the appropriate voucher in a few days. Fuel vouchers for those at imminent risk of disconnection are issued within one working day. Food vouchers are currently issued 3 working days after receiving the referral. For those who wish to apply through the online channel, which for some is more convenient, the application requires the same checks as the ones carried out by the CAB. This involves a higher degree of manual resource to fulfil all requirements prior to converting to a voucher. Due to the large volumes of applications, and the high rates of inappropriate applications, the processing time is currently at around two-and-a-half weeks. The cost of resources needed to process the applications is deducted from the overall grant provided. Therefore, any material increases to resources have to be assessed against the number of vulnerable people we hope to support. Websites and the application channels are all clear that those in urgent need of direct support are encouraged to seek assistance from existing sources like food banks and their energy suppliers. We have also informed applicants via online channels and the Contact Centre that the direct on-line applications, will take a few weeks once all necessary documents are received. We do not expect demand to reduce any time soon and in order to support this, the Customer Services department is providing additional resources to the Emergency Planning team. This will hopefully allow us to address the current backlog and catch up with demand. If your needs are urgent, please make an application via CAB – call 0808 2231133 or visit

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



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.

### Forward Plan

Don't forget to regularly check our Forward Plan to see what future key decisions are due to be made by Cabinet in the months ahead. The Forward Plan sets out what reports are expected to go to future meetings and can be found alongside the committee timetables, agendas and reports

The Forward Plan includes the following items scheduled for 15 February's Cabinet meeting

- Sixfields Report-This item may be postponed to a future Cabinet meeting, and will also be considered by a Full Council meeting before that)
- West Northamptonshire Council People Strategy 2022-2025
- Towns Fund: Four Waterside and Marefair business case and delivery strategy report
- Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Partnership Implementation Lead
- Final Budgets-HRA Revenue and Capital
- Final Budgets-General Fund Revenue and Capital
- Determination of admission arrangements for local authority maintained (community and voluntary controlled) schools in West Northamptonshire for the 2023 intakes
- Approval to consult on the West Northants Anti-Poverty Strategy and to seek delegated authority to approve the distribution of the funding to deliver the objectives outlined in the Strategy
- Towns Fund: 35 – 45 Abington Street business case and delivery strategy report
- Northampton Towns Fund – Town Centre Public Realm Improvements
- Update on social prescribing social impact bond
- Community programme to support growing, cooking and eating

## REGULATORY SERVICES



### Scrap Metal Licence Renewal

Are you a scrap metal dealer? You'll need to complete a quick tax check when you renew your licence from April 2022. Find out how to prepare:

<http://ow.ly/cl9Y50HI9hw>

## 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-Cancelled
- Yardley Gobion, land East of Northampton Road Hearing Date Offered of 27/07/22 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.

### Asana Lodge Appeal Cancelled



**Economic Growth and Regeneration**  
**West Northamptonshire Council**  
South Northamptonshire Area Office  
The Forum Post Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire,  
NN12 6AD  
Email: [planning.SNC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:planning.SNC@westnorthants.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Copy Letter      Case Officer :      Matt Bailey  
                                 Telephone :      01327 322259  
                                 Email                      [planning.SNC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:planning.SNC@westnorthants.gov.uk)

                                 Date :                      12 January, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**  
**APPEAL UNDER SECTION 174**

**Site Address:**                      Land at Asana Lodge 48 Moorend  
Road Yardley Gobion NN12 7UF

**Alleged breach:**                      The unauthorised change of use of  
the land from nursing home to a  
rehabilitation centre known as Asana  
Lodge (Heal the Mind, Heal the Body)  
without the benefit of planning  
permission

**Application reference:**              S/2021/0200/EN  
**Appellant's name:**                      Step One Recovery UK Ltd  
**Appeal reference:**                      APP/22830/C/21/3268119  
**Appeal start date:**                      23 February 2021

The Council has sought legal advice in relation to the above site and to the Enforcement Notice issued 7 January 2021, which alleged the unauthorised change of use of the land from a nursing home to a rehabilitation centre. Based on the advice received, we have no choice but to withdraw the said Notice and the forthcoming Public Inquiry that was to start on the 8 February 2022 is cancelled.

It has been brought to the Council's attention that there has been a High Court decision by Mr Justice Sullivan, Tendring District Council V Secretary Of State For Communities and Local Government (EWHC 2122) July 2008, on an almost identical case, which found that there was no material difference in planning terms between nursing home and rehabilitation centre.

We are proposing to issue a further Planning Contravention Notice to gain additional information about the use of the land before deciding on any future enforcement action.

The appeal documents are available for inspection via the Online Planning Register at <http://snc.planning-register.co.uk>.

The arrangements for the 3 Day Appeal against the unauthorised change of use of land at Asana Lodge, Yardley Gobion have been cancelled. The Council sought legal advice in relation to the site and to the enforcement notice issued 7 January 2021, which alleged the unauthorised change of use of the land from a nursing home to a rehabilitation centre. Based on the advice received, we have no choice but to withdraw the said notice and the forthcoming public enquiry that was due to start on 8 February 2022 is cancelled. It has been brought to our attention that there has been a High Court decision by Mr Justice Sullivan, Tendring district Council V Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (EWHC 2122) July 2008, an almost identical case, which found that there was no material difference in planning terms between Nursing home and Rehabilitation centre. WNC are proposing to issue a further Planning Contravention Notice to gain additional information of the use of the land before deciding on any future enforcement action. As we have withdrawn the enforcement notice the Appeal has been cancelled.

### Strategic Planning Committee Plot 7 Northampton Gateway

On 27 January 2022, WNC Strategic Planning Committee approved subject to certain requirements set out in the minutes, WNS/2021/1860/FUL - Plot 7 Northampton Gateway SRFI Land west of M1 J15 Milton Malsor. However, objections were raised over the plans as the warehouse will be taller than regulations permit.

Both Roade and Milton Malsor Parish Councils said by approving the development it could set a 'worrying precedent' if approved, given the height of the warehouse. Roxhill responded saying the proposed development of the building is 'not considered to give rise to significant adverse visual impact'.

The Northampton Gateway development was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2019 and construction of the scheme is well underway. The wider proposal will see developer Roxhill build a rail depot capable of handling up to 16 trains a day on land east of the West Coast Main Line. It will include container storage and HGV parking, with landscaping, new access on the A508, a new bypass for Roade, and improvements to J15, as well as creating up to 7,500 of jobs. Roxhill Limited will build an 892-space car park, which will include spots for 200 goods vehicles.



WNC stated that The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 establishes the principle of development for the application site as this authorises the development on the site of a storage and distribution facility and building. The DCO is a significant material consideration, which effectively overrides Development Plan policy considerations with respect to the distribution of development and the appropriateness of the location for employment development.

The key issue remaining is the appropriateness of the proposed development in terms of its design, form and sustainability with respect to the context of the location. This requires consideration of factors such as scale, layout, appearance, landscaping of the proposed development and the assessment of the impact of these regarding the location and surroundings, the environment and for amenity, including visual impact. The DCO is also material to this consideration however as it provides site wide infrastructure for proposed developments on the development plots and through the approved parameters it defines the site layout and the scale of the development that is assessed as being appropriate to the NGRFI site within the environmental assessment undertaken in the supporting Environmental Statement.

With respect to the scale of the proposed building, WNC said that this is within the DCO parameters for development in Zone A4, apart from the maximum height parameter. The roof level for the greatest part of the building will be some 5.9 metres higher than that of a building that could be constructed in accordance with the DCO height parameter, and the roof of the two stairway towers, which comprise a relatively small roof area compared to the rest of the building will be 8.8m higher than that of a building constructed in accordance with the DCO parameter. The increased height will result in some visual effects becoming more adverse in comparison to the assessment within the ES for the consented NGRFI



development. These changes in effects will not change the effect on landscape character or the visual effect assessed within the ES for the consented NGRFI development to the extent that these would be considered to amount to a significant adverse effect. The proposed development of this taller building is therefore not considered to give rise to significant adverse visual impact. The increased effect of the extra height can be reduced using the most appropriate external cladding to minimise the visual impact of the highest building elements and through enhanced landscaping proposals. Subject to these the proposed development would broadly accord with LLP1 Policy S10 – Sustainable Development Principles and with LPP2 Policy SS2 – General development and design principles.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 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...>

### Cabinet confirmed £42 a year Green Waste Collection charges in West Northamptonshire

On 18 January, WNC Cabinet confirmed the £42-a-year green waste collection charge for Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire. Cabinet was asked to re-think their previous decision by the WNC Scrutiny Committee. But members voted unanimously on Tuesday night to turn down the request to cut the fee because they said that the cash was already earmarked for other services. The subscription scheme — the same as one operating in Northampton since 2020 — is expected to raise around £800,000 in revenue. Council officers estimated that it would turn into a £1million deficit if the charge was lowered to £30. Daventry residents already pay the equivalent of £42 a year for garden waste collections.



The Cabinet also agreed that the:

- Customer service and administration of the green waste collection service be operated in-house for all residents of West Northamptonshire, ending the arrangements with West Northamptonshire Norse, in the Daventry area.
- Establishment of a subsidised home composting scheme, be launched at the same time as the charge 2022/23, to offer residents an alternative.
- Free collection of real Christmas trees will continue across West Northamptonshire.
- Household Waste Recycling Centre opening times be unchanged.

- Intention to introduce a scheme for payment by instalments and a discount scheme to support those on low incomes in the future.
- Changes are agreed without the need to wait for the outcome of the DEFRA consultation

The change means residents in the former South Northamptonshire District Council area will now need to pay extra for the first time from April after having green waste collections provided as part of regular services paid for out of their council tax.

## RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

### RSN Meetings and Seminars in January

I attended the following meetings and seminars, which took place in January 2022:

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

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

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### NGH continues its Visitors Ban

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.

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.

### Decision to Stand Down Major Health and Care Incident

Following a meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) on Thursday, 27 January 2022 the Local Resilience Forum, has taken the decision to stand down the multi-agency Major Incident status declared in Northamptonshire on Friday, 7 January 2022. This decision was supported by all agencies. After careful cross-organisational management and multi-agency working, which was enabled by the major incident status, the SCG agreed the current situation was unlikely to deteriorate soon. Also, based on the current situation, we do not anticipate significant ongoing needs for mutual aid on this basis. We have also seen staff absence across all partner agencies decrease, albeit they remain higher than normal. The military will continue to support hospitals and EMAS until February 11 when it will be reviewed. Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to support EMAS, and mortuary work as required.

“While we acknowledge the situation remains serious across health and social care, it is felt that the arrangements that are in place between health and social care colleagues are sufficient to manage the situation and therefore the LRF governance arrangements are no longer required.

“Consequently, we are standing down the weekly multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) meeting and will now revert to fortnightly multi-agency briefings in order that the LRF can maintain a watching brief over the situation. “COVID-19 Case rates are still high and we expect the additional work and challenges in securing care to be with us for many months ahead. We will be working hard to resolve this with our partners to ensure residents and patients are safe and receiving the best possible care.”

### Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Centre

The Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Centre is now at BILLING AQUADROME, CROW LANE, NORTHAMPTON until Sun 6 Feb, 9am to 6pm. [#GetBoosted](#) if you're 16+ and your second vaccine was 3+ months ago. No need to book! For more info visit <http://ow.ly/ChLu50HKaxU>

### COVID-19 update

In the week to 23 January 2022, 9,869 Northamptonshire residents have tested positive for COVID-19. The largest number of positive tests in the last week was recorded in 30- to 39-year-olds, followed by 20- to 29-year-olds. The national average for infection rates per 100,000 population is 993.5 and Northamptonshire's rate is significantly higher than the national average (1232.7). The highest rates locally are Northampton (1469.2) and Corby (1404.1)



**GET BOOSTED NOW** 

- Mobile Vaccination Centre at: Billing Aquadrome, Crow Lane, Great Billing, Northampton NN3 9DA
- Monday 31 January to Sunday 6 February 9am to 6pm
- Drop in for your COVID booster – no need to book!
- Boosters for age 16+ if your 2nd dose was at least 3 months ago
- 1st or 2nd doses\* for ages 12+, 3rd primary (for those eligible)

\* If you are under 18 your 2nd dose should be at least 12 weeks after your 1st dose  
For ages 18+ your 2nd dose must be at least 8 weeks after your 1st dose

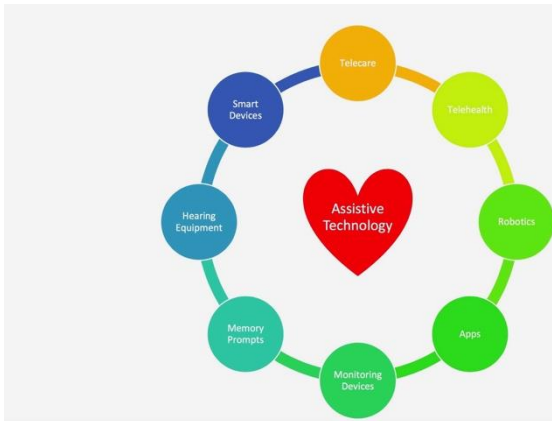
### Care Worker Bonus

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>



## Assistive Technology Framework

On 18 January 2022, Cabinet approved the establishment of a framework, which allowed West Northamptonshire Council to procure a range of assistive technology goods and services from appointed suppliers. They gave delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing, and Health Integration, to establish the Assistive Technology framework to procure goods and services from appointed suppliers where not already delegated.



They also supported the implementation of the Assistive Technology and Remote Support

Strategy. These decisions enable WNC to comply with legislation and West Northants procurement policy so that the service could continue to purchase equipment which supports people to live more independently and reduces the need for higher cost care packages.

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### 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](http://westnorthants.gov.uk))

If you would like to respond to this consultation, then please email School Admissions Consultation at:

[Schooladmissionsconsultation.NCC@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Schooladmissionsconsultation.NCC@northnorthants.gov.uk)

### Half Term Lunch Vouchers

The most vulnerable children in West Northamptonshire will once again receive lunch vouchers during the next two school holidays. The scheme will support 9,500 families during the February half-term and the Easter break by providing them with a £15 meal voucher per child per week, to pay for lunch during the three weeks of school holidays. Schools are currently being asked to provide lists of eligible families from which WNC will generate individual pupil vouchers that will be returned to schools for distribution. The initial period of voucher distribution will cover the February half-term period only. Schools with the largest number of eligible pupils will receive the vouchers first and the rest in descending order in time for the start of the school holidays this month.



### Help address the Digital Divide

Despite the pandemic having brought the stark realities of the digital divide to the nation's attention, and the roll-out of free laptops, the problem persists and risks getting worse.



Research suggests four out of five schools with pupils from low-income families do not have enough devices and internet access and according to recent data published by Ofcom, it is estimated that between 1.14m and 1.78m children in total in the UK have no home access to a laptop, desktop or tablet. This equates to around 13,500 children in West Northants who will experience digital poverty. When it comes to schoolwork a smartphone is not sufficient – but the hard truth is that some families simply cannot afford the most appropriate IT equipment. During the recent

pandemic when schools across the UK were forced to close, families in need were desperate for access to technology to support their children to continue their education from home. TowFood Community Larders in Towcester and Roade were asked by schools for help and managed to get sufficient grant funding to recondition 46 laptops and Chrome books for primary and secondary school pupils in villages in West Northants. Working with the Technology industries within County the charity has been able to recondition computers and get them to the schools to set up for the children to be able to continue their schoolwork at home, but this is only the tip of the iceberg.

They now find themselves once again in a situation when schools are reporting a lack of devices at home which, continues to form a divide in the classroom therefore the charity are applying their energy and asking local contacts to donate unwanted laptops, desktops or tablets so that they can get these to the children in greatest need and help to level up our communities where everyone can get the best education. Please donate equipment to your local TowFood or SNVB Volunteer or to Towcester Town Football Supporters Club, 19 Islington Road, Towcester NN12 6AU – Please place in shed in the car park during hours when the club is closed. [Team@towfood.org.uk](mailto:Team@towfood.org.uk) or 01327 636982 ; donations to <https://local.giving.org/charity/SNVB/>

### Cricket Sessions for Juniors



Would your child be interested in joining cricket sessions in Daventry?

WNC are working with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club to gauge the appetite for putting on fun sessions for juniors this summer.

Complete their survey at <http://ow.ly/x4iL50HBrze> to share your views and be in with the chance of winning a £100 Amazon voucher. Northamptonshire Sport.

### 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 realistic and continue to be implemented with success despite the on-going challenges of the pandemic."

### Independent Improvement Chair for Children's Services



A new role to oversee positive change in Children's Services in Northamptonshire has been created – following improvements over the past year. The Minister for Children and Families Will Quince has appointed Jenny Coles MBE to the post of Independent Improvement Board Chair, which will report on progress and provide assurance to Government. Starting at the end of January, the role will replace that of Children's Services Commissioner, which was introduced in

the county in November 2018. Andrew Christie has held the commissioner post since October 2019. Last



year, Andrew advised Minister Quince that sufficient progress had been demonstrated by Northamptonshire Children's Trust that the role of commissioner was no longer required.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

### Funding for West Northants community groups

The current funding round for the Community Funding Grant Scheme, which is for grants up to £5,000 will 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 being added to the notification list when the next funding round opens so as to apply 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...>

### Job opportunity as a Neighbourhood Warden

Are you someone who's passionate about your local community and making a difference? If so, we have an exciting job opportunity for a Neighbourhood Warden to join our team at West Northants. Help us to create and maintain an attractive, clean and safe environment in our local community! Find out more or apply here:

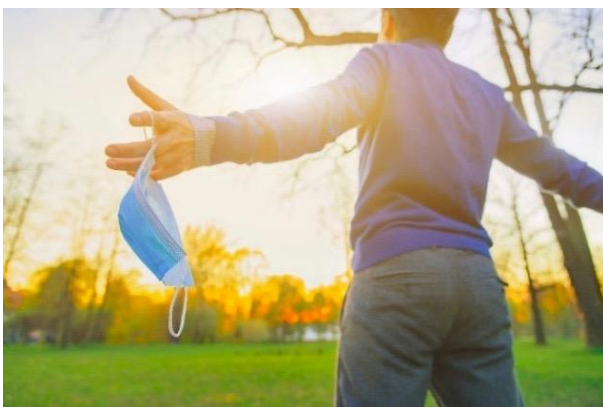
<https://bit.ly/3H8clGr>

[#wearewestnorthants](#) [#westnorthantscouncil](#)



Job vacancies from the public sector partners across Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire and regions

### 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](mailto: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...>

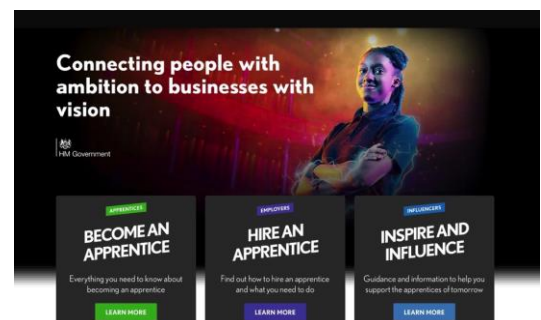
The closing date is midnight on 7 February 2022.

### National Apprenticeship Week 7-13 February 2022



Northampton College is backing National Apprenticeship Week by engaging with more than 600 employers. The college will host Q&As and drop-in sessions throughout the week to help students. Northampton College has engaged with more than 600 local partners including employers such as the NHS, Balfour Beatty, Taylor Wimpey, Kier and Engie, to ensure its curriculum is effectively aligned to industry and economic needs. Now the college is backing the national campaign, which runs from February 7 to 13, as it shines a light on a

new wave of ambitious, workplace-ready students available to companies as they prepare to emerge from the pandemic. Pat Brennan-Barrett, principal of Northampton College, said: “We are passionate about apprenticeships and will be putting on a range of activities throughout Apprenticeship Week from school visits and assemblies to Q&As and drop-ins, where people can ask questions and find out more about apprenticeships. “Employers in multiple sectors are still recruiting for apprenticeships and we are keen to give our students the best possible chance of securing work in their chosen industry.” Now in its 15th year, National Apprenticeship Week aims to raise the profile of apprenticeships amongst employers, individuals, teachers, parents and the media in order to celebrate the





positive impact they have on businesses and the wider economy. The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2022 will be 'Build the Future'; reflecting on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

### **The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme**

New grants for hospitality and leisure businesses are now available from the Council. The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme is open for applications until Monday, 28 February, with grants of between £2,667 and £6,000 offered to eligible businesses, depending on the rateable value of the business premises.



The scheme aims to support businesses that offer in-person services, where the main service takes place in fixed rate-paying premises that trade in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors. Personal care businesses, such as hairdressers, beauty salons and tattoo artists are not eligible for an Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant as they were able to apply for the Additional Restrictions Grant until 24 January. Following the latest central government guidance published on 12 January, gyms and sports businesses are also excluded from the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme, but were

able to apply for an Additional Restrictions Grant until 24 January. For information on all current grants and to access the applications portal, please visit the business grants page. The Council's Economy Team also offers free business and employment support to all businesses in the West Northamptonshire area. More information can be found on the Council's business support page.

## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **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.

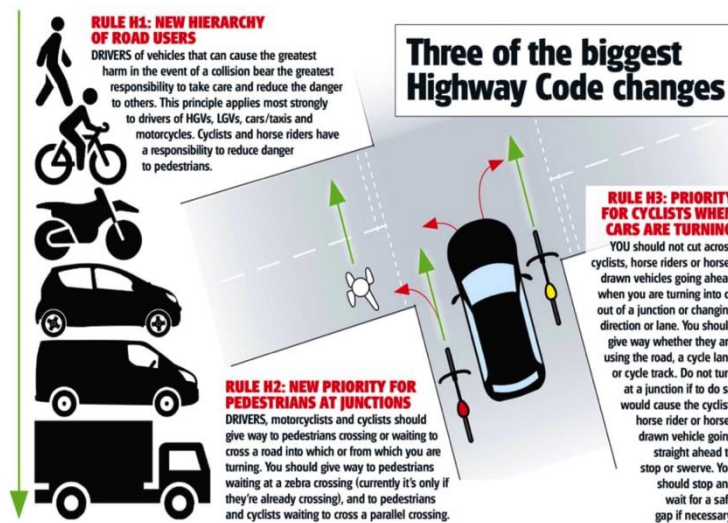
The updated Highway Code came into effect on 29 January 2022.

What are the 2022 Highway Code changes as proposed?

**Rule H1: New Hierarchy of Road Users** (left) 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 to cross a zebra crossing (currently you only have to give way if they're already on the 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.



## Reporting Highway Problems

Report and track highway problems via Street Doctor  
Before you start

Some problems cannot be reported through Street Doctor because they are the responsibility of other organisations. Please check first whether the problem you wish to report is listed below:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Flooding
- Speeding
- Trunk roads (e.g. M1, A5, A14, A43, A45)
- Street lighting
- E-Scooters



Report or track a problem using Street Doctor

Any highway related issues or defects should be reported via Street Doctor, the Local Authorities public reporting system. By using Street Doctor, your report will be logged appropriately, go to the right team and you will, receive updates of what we are going to do and why. Issues reported will be looked at initially within 5 working days to determine what further action may be required. Please do not try to report issues

and defects via Twitter or on any other social media channels. Some lesser known issues you can report using Street Doctor are:

Rights of way e.g. gates, livestock, stile

Winter maintenance e.g. grit bins, gritting, snow

You can tell us about most problems on the roads or highways (apart from those listed above) - or you can track a problem you have already logged.

<http://ow.ly/bOUQ50FjHul>

## Disabled Parking Permits



A disabled parking permit (Blue Badge) allows people with severe mobility issues or non-visible (hidden) conditions, causing them to severely struggle with the journeys between a vehicle and their destination, easier access to public facilities by allowing them to park close to where they need to go.

Check if you qualify, apply, renew or replace a Blue Badge online at

<http://bit.ly/WNbluebadge>

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a matter of priority for Northamptonshire Police. There is no excuse for this type of behaviour and they will continue to go after offenders, no matter what time of year it is. They will seek justice for victims and continue to safeguard individuals and families affected by this offence.

The Police work closely with statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure anyone who suffers domestic abuse gets the help they need, to highlight the issue of domestic abuse and to explore ways in which they can protect our community.



I want to encourage anyone suffering from domestic abuse to call their local police on the non-emergency 101 or, in an emergency, always call 999." If you're a victim of domestic abuse or know someone who is and there's an emergency or life is in danger, call 999 immediately. In non-emergency cases and for general advice, call 101. A national 24-hour domestic abuse helpline is also available on 0808 2000 247. For help and advice on domestic violence, contact any of these organisations:

Voice Northants phone 0300 303 1965,

The Sunflower Centre phone 01604 888211, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service phone 0300 012 0154, EVE, domestic abuse service providing women and family refuge, supported programmes and training and consultancy.



## Silverstone Police Appeal

Witnesses are being sought after various vehicles were stolen during a commercial burglary in Silverstone. The incident took place between 9pm and 10.30pm on Wednesday, January 26, when three offenders



wearing dark-coloured clothing forced entry into a unit at Shacks Farm Barn on the A43 Oxford Road. Once inside the offenders stole a van, which was later recovered, two motorbikes and a quadbike, before leaving the site via a farm track towards Whittlebury. Officers would like to hear from anyone who may have seen anyone or a vehicle acting suspiciously

in the area or who may have captured such vehicles travelling in convoy on CCTV or dash-cam footage. Anyone who may have any information regarding this incident is asked to call Northamptonshire Police on 101 or alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Incident number: 22000052181

## CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

### Armed Forces Community Hub



New Armed Forces Community Hubs have launched across West Northants, offering serving personnel, veterans and their families a warm and welcoming place to go. The Armed Forces Community Hubs, are going to be run once a month across the county, with the first one having taken place in Daventry on 27 January 2022. A range of organisations will be at the Hubs, such as Veterans Community Network, the Department of Work and Pensions, Veterans UK, and the Royal British Legion. Along with all the public services in

Northamptonshire, WNC has signed the Armed Forces Covenant which puts into writing the community's duty to support members of the armed forces and their families. For more information about the support available in Northamptonshire, visit the Armed Forces Covenant website - <https://www.afcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/Pages/home.aspx>.

### For the Love of Books

LibraryPlus has been awarded a Marketing Excellence Award from the Chartered Institute of Libraries and Information Professionals (CILIP) for its hugely successful 'For the Love of Books' challenge, which ran in 2019 and 2020. The CILIP Awards recognise and celebrate successful marketing and promotional campaigns from libraries of all sizes and sectors across the country. The campaign, which was open to residents from across Northamptonshire, challenged the public to read 25 books over 12 months and included a series of mini challenges for those who wanted to stretch themselves further.



The judges commended LibraryPlus for the campaign's clear aims and objectives and for their responsiveness to changing situations. They were also praised for producing high-quality marketing materials to support the campaign. The logo, which was integral to the brand, was designed by a local graphic designer, who received business support from the Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire. The award-winning campaign, which was delivered in libraries and on social media proved a hit with over 1,000 people taking part. Following its initial success, the team behind the campaign decided to run it again in 2021 but this time it was accompanied by a 'For the Love of Books' podcast series. LibraryPlus will be running the 'For the Love of Books' challenge and podcast again so keep an eye out for details in your local library. The team also run a 'For the Love of Books' digital book club, which introduces a new book each month to participants. Find out more here [For the Love of Books Facebook Page](#). LibraryPlus runs the libraries across Northamptonshire on behalf of West Northants and North Northants Council.

### 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 statements
- 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.**

### **Community Backing for Queens Jubilee Tree Scheme**

Our campaign to encourage communities across West Northamptonshire to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' continues to grow, and we have been heartened by the support shown by some of our town and parish councils. More than 30 councils have engaged with us to say they have planted or are planning to plant an impressive 1,768 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), which is fantastic.

But we would love even more communities to get involved, so why don't you join in if you have not done so already.

A special mention should go to Greatworth Parish Council, who are supporting the campaign with 830 new trees, but we realise that not every council owns land or can gain permission for planting on land locally, so any contribution is very much welcomed.

Here's a list of some of those supporting the campaign:

Billing Parish Council, Blakesley Parish Council, Brackley Town Council, Canons Ashby Parish Meeting, Daventry Town Council, Deanshanger Parish Council, Duston Parish Council, East Hunsbury Parish Council, Far Cotton & Delapre Community Council, Greatworth Parish Council, Hackleton Parish Council, Hardingstone Parish Council, Harlestone Parish Council, Harlestone Manor Parish Council.

Others who are getting involved

Helmdon Parish Council, Kings Sutton Parish Council, Kingsthorpe Parish Council, Moulton Parish Council, Northampton Town Council, Overstone Parish Council, Roade Parish Council, Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council, Upton Parish Council, Walgrave Parish Council, Welton Parish Council, Woodford-cum-Membris Parish Council, Wootton Parish Council