

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT APRIL 2022



E Newsletter Issue 4/2022
Councillor Stephen Clarke & Miranda Wixon
Castle Ashby Community Larder Launch
15 March 2022

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NEWS REPORT APRIL 2022

Monthly Highlights

WNC raised Ukrainian flags at our civic buildings in Daventry, Northampton and Towcester in solidarity with the country's people. We continue to send a message of support to the people of Ukraine, for the horrific situation they find themselves in. They have our sympathy and our support, but they also have our huge admiration for the brave way they are pulling together in the face of adversity. WNC will be provided with £10,500 per person relocated to our area, from which we will be required to cover a wide range of essential support including:

- Assessing host properties
- Carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on hosts – enhanced checks will be required for homes which will be hosting children or vulnerable adults
- Providing immediate financial assistance, potentially until access to benefits and work entitlement is arranged
- Continuing to support the household over the first 12 months and help with access to services and integration into UK systems and processes.

I have included other information in my report about the Government's Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme

On 15 March 2022, a group of volunteers in Castle Ashby launched a new community larder. They have been looking at a way to get affordable sustainable food to the villages and saving waste, by building on the work that they did during lockdown for the community. I was pleased to see the new Community Larder at the Compton Club, Castle Ashby in action and I was impressed by the local interest and the work of the volunteers. TowFood Community Larder offers different categories of membership, and it is a community larder network that partners with local supermarkets, businesses and food surplus providers to reduce food waste and distribute affordable food throughout the community. They welcome everyone, with their main ethos being to reduce food waste. I had intended to visit the Denton Community Larder at St Margaret's Church the following week, but unfortunately, I was diagnosed COVID positive, and I was out of action for two weeks.

For those of you that gave your views and ideas on how we shape services and support communities to help West Northants thrive, here is what to expect next. We will analyse the resident's conversation and draw out the themes that we heard from our residents. We will share these with staff in a second big conversation for council colleagues to consider along with offering an opportunity for them to shape how the council is working. This conversation for staff will be live from 4 to 22 of April. Then WNC will consider everything that has been contributed in the big conversations to create neighbourhood strategies, a citizens charter between the council and residents, and set out the council's ways of working for staff.

I promised to let you have an update regarding the recent speed limit review panel meeting. They considered Denton Parish Council's request for a 40mph limit between the two access points into the village on the A428. There was a lot of discussion surrounding the request and it was decided that it would be useful for Police colleagues to gather some up-to-date speed data on the sections of road in question. This will enable the panel to make a more informed decision. The request will be considered further at the next meeting when the speed data will be available. In my monthly report, I have included an update on the Red Route process along the A428 between Great Houghton and Yardley Hastings.

If any other residents want to send information for the Panel in support of the proposal or any related matter, then you can send this to me directly: stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk

I will keep you informed.

I received eleven expressions of interest and seven completed applications with seven awards issued for my Covid Support Fund. One application didn't meet the criteria, three weren't progressed and one project was funded jointly. I have allocated my entire £2,500 available fund. Councillors Andrew Grant and Fiona Cole may still have some funding available. I have set out in my monthly report, a complete list of projects, supported by me.

We will be providing those most in need with immediate financial help in the form of vouchers that can be redeemed against shopping costs in a range of supermarkets. With the recent and ongoing rises in the cost of living, it is often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged that have the hardest choices to make, sometimes as stark as "heating" or "eating." Using a grant provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), West Northants Council will be providing a one-off payment in the form of vouchers. All previous recipients of the Household Support Fund fuel voucher scheme, which has operated from December 2021 will receive a payment of up to £80. All house owner/renter recipients of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR), both working and non-working and including pensioners will receive a voucher payment of £50. The vouchers can be redeemed against shopping costs at a range of supermarkets but must be redeemed by 30th April 2022. All eligible recipients will start to receive a notification together with the voucher(s) from 30th March.

The community business movement is growing, with the number of community businesses increasing by 3% in 2021, resulting in 840 businesses trading across the UK. To support the 27 businesses opening in 2021, 6,300 people raised around £3.4m in community shares. Read more about the Plunkett Foundation Impact Report in monthly report.

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. All that remains is for Grange Park Parish Council to apply for the funds for an eligible project.

Councillor Fiona Cole has called in the Planning Application WNS/2022/0154/FUL, the Runway West of Forest Road, Piddington for consideration. It relates to a change of use from Agricultural to grass runway with associated facilities for use as a microlight airfield (retrospective).

I have enclosed a copy of the WNC letter confirming the above Article 4 direction relating to the removal of permitted development rights for means of enclosure (gates, fences, walls etc) relating to the above land. I have also attached a copy of the Direction and associated plan, which remains unchanged, but will now continue to have effect unless the local planning authority make a subsequent direction or cancel the Direction.

We are encouraging residents and businesses to make personal pledges on how they will do their bit to make West Northants a more sustainable place to live and work. Last week saw the launch of Sustainable West Northants – an ambitious new approach towards protecting and improving the local environment, economy and society for future generations.

The Market Square survey opened Thursday 31 March and will run until the end of April, and team representatives will be in the town centre with a street survey from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 April. There

will also be a display at the Grosvenor Shopping centre from 7 April to 4 May outlining the latest plans for how Market Square will look once redevelopment completes in 2024.

<https://www.bigconversation.co.uk/northampton/>

West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet is set to consider whether to adopt a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy at its meeting on 12 April 2022. The strategy, which will be considered by members is designed to tackle poverty and deprivation and is particularly important in the context of current financial pressures facing households. It would also form part of the council's bold new approach to improve social, environmental and economic sustainability, which will help protect communities for future generations. The WNC approach is summed up in three overarching priorities, which are in turn built on some key principles aimed at helping people to live the best life possible. The strategy identified has ten underlying principles, which are set out in my report.

In February I started Community Walkabouts. The first was in Brafield and it 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. 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. Please let me know when you would like to organise a session in your area. Grange Park and Quinton have asked me for a Community Walkabout, and I am just awaiting confirmation of suitable dates.

It's been a difficult month as my wife, and I were both diagnosed Covid positive on 18 March 2022. Having escaped it for 2 years and both being 'triple jabbed', we were somewhat surprised by it all. However, it was challenging for at least a week when we experienced all the known key symptoms including a ferocious sore throat. Recovery from COVID-19 is defined as an absence of fever, with no use of fever-reducing medication, for three full days; improvement in other symptoms, such as coughing and shortness of breath; a period of seven full days since symptoms first appeared. Then, two negative swab tests on consecutive days are considered as the all-clear – meaning self-isolation can end and a patient can theoretically begin having contact with others, including returning to work. In our case this took two weeks altogether.

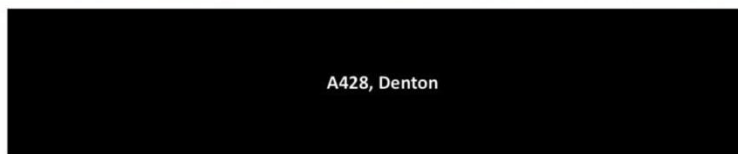
I was unable to attend the Day of Remembrance and Reflection Memorial Service on 17 March as I was unwell. It was an opportunity for all of us to come together to pay our respects to the colleagues we lost to the pandemic and to thank all social care workers in our county for their continued work. My thoughts are with those families who have suffered so much during this pandemic.

All the Best, Steve

PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Request for A428 Speed Restriction, Denton

I promised to let you have an update regarding the recent speed limit review panel meeting. They considered Denton Parish Council's request for a 40mph limit between to the two access points into the village on the A428. There was a lot of discussion surrounding the request and it was decided that it would be useful for Police colleagues to gather some up-to-date speed data on the sections of road in question. This will enable the panel to make a more informed decision. The request will be considered further at the next meeting when the speed data will be available.



In addition, I can advise that as part of the Red Route' process some route hygiene works have been identified along the A428 between Great Houghton and Yardley Hastings. This includes undertaking works to clean/repair/upgrade/replace existing signage to improve conspicuity of

hazards, including junctions, village entrances and lay-bys, to ensure a consistent approach to hazard signing between the two villages. Consideration was also given to improving the signage at the lay-bys and changing the alignment of the western lay-by to prevent right turns and provide an acceleration lane. This work was all approved and will go into the programme subject to prioritisation. If any other residents want to send information for the Panel in support of the proposal or any related matter, then you can send this to me directly: stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk
I will keep you informed.

Cogenhoe Farmers Market

I'm looking forward to the Mud Kitchen Café's monthly farmers' market and craft fair at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall on Sunday 10 April 2022 from 10am to 3pm.

They have organised a good range of stalls including, among others, Food for Thought, Brockleby's Pies, Love Edie Sweets, Michelle's Fancy Felts, Thermomix, Goodtobee, Neals Yard, Cherry Blossom Candles, The House of Iniquity, Mini Map Makers, Pretty Home Decor plus a good range of fresh vegetables too.



The Denton Village Surgery prescription collection service

I caught up with Deborah at the Cogenhoe Village Hall whilst I was at the Mud Kitchen Cafe, Cogenhoe on Thursday 10 March 2022. She asked about the Councillor Covid Support Fund Application Form, which I

have now sent to her. It was good to see the Prescription Collections Service from the Denton Surgery being so busy.



Denton Village Surgery Delivery Nomination

I _____ consent to having my medication delivered on a Thursday to one of the following:

Brafield Post Office
Hackleton Shop-post office
Little Houghton Shop-post office
Cogenhoe Village Hall
Yardley Hastings AP Food & Wine Shop (Please note Yardley Hastings shop does not take any medications that need to be kept in a fridge, if you require a fridge item please collect from the surgery or select another delivery point)

I understand that I must request a delivery each time I order my repeat prescription and to indicate where I would like it delivered.

Sign: _____
Date: _____

Please note, when requesting a delivery, the request must be submitted by 12pm on the Friday before the week it will be delivered. Any requests made after the cut off time will be sent on the following weeks delivery. Medication will be left at the chosen delivery point for two weeks, if uncollected during this time it will be returned to the surgery for collection.

The Denton Village Surgery prescription collection service enables Residents to collect their medication on a Thursday between 11am-12pm at the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall. The form to register for this is enclosed and needs to be returned to the surgery, you must tell the surgery every time you order that you want to collect from Cogenhoe.

Castle Ashby Community Larder

On 15 March 2022, a group of volunteers in Castle Ashby launched a new community larder. They have been looking at a way to get affordable sustainable food to the villages and saving waste, by building on the work that they did during lockdown for the community.



Led by Susan Wilson in Castle Ashby they have developed a solution, which is an offshoot of the successful community larder in Roade. I was pleased

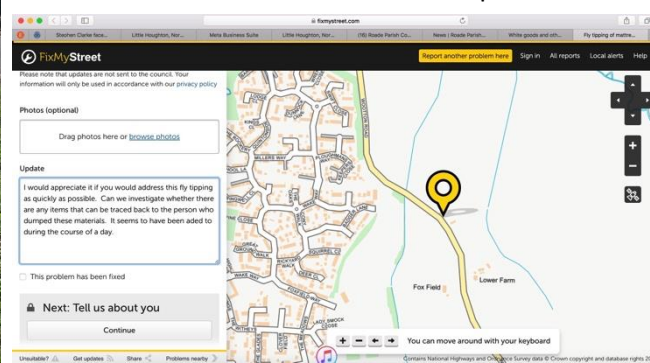
to see the new Community Larder at the Compton Club, Castle Ashby in action and I was impressed by the local interest and the work of the volunteers. TowFood Community Larder offers different categories of membership, and it is a community larder network that partners with local supermarkets, businesses and food surplus providers to reduce food waste and distribute affordable food throughout the community. They welcome everyone, with their main ethos being to reduce food waste.

I had intended to visit the Denton Community Larder at St Margaret's Church the following week, but unfortunately, I was diagnosed COVID positive, and I have been out of action for two weeks.

Fly-Tipping, Wootton Road, Grange Park



I have escalated this Fly Tipping to Fix My Street asking them to address this as quickly as possible. We also need to investigate whether there are any items that can be traced back to the person who dumped these materials.



The number of Fly Tipped items seems to have grown during a day.

I will keep you updated.

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. All that remains is for Grange Park Parish Council to apply for the funds for an eligible project.

EVENTS IN UKRAINE



Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

This allows people in the UK to offer a home to people fleeing the war. Once refugees have been matched with host families, they can begin the visa application process. The Government is carrying out the visa checks and once these are cleared, applicants will be given leave to travel to the UK.

The Government's Ukraine Family Scheme

A family visa scheme, administered by the Government, is also in place. This allows people who were living in Ukraine on or before 1 January this year to apply to join UK-based family members. More information can be found on the Government website

Our Council's role in the local response:

WNC will be provided with £10,500 per person relocated to our area, from which we will be required to cover a wide range of essential support including:

- Assessing host properties
- Carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on hosts – enhanced checks will be required for homes which will be hosting children or vulnerable adults
- Providing immediate financial assistance, potentially until access to benefits and work entitlement is arranged
- Continuing to support the household over the first 12 months and help with access to services and integration into UK systems and processes.

We are working closely with our partners, drawing on the invaluable experience we gained during the Afghan resettlement programme, to ensure we meet the needs of these arrivals. We have opened lines of communication with sponsors in our area so we can build on our understanding of the responsibilities we have towards Ukrainians arriving in West Northants, and to prioritise the accommodation and safeguarding checks we need to make. A team is being trained and mobilised to undertake the pre-arrival accommodation checks and facilitate the DBS applications, and we are also in the process of recruiting a new team of resettlement support officers to work with Ukrainians and deliver the support that they need over the next 12 months. There are many ways people and local organisation can help with the resettlement process, from providing support within the community to donating specific items.

Please encourage people to offer support through this form launched by West and North Northamptonshire Councils this week

https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Ukrainian_support_offer

An incredible £23,000 has already been donated to an appeal just launched to help people fleeing war-torn Ukraine start building a new life in Northamptonshire.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/refugeewelcomefund>

CONSULTATIONS

The Big Conversation

For those of you that gave your views and ideas on how we shape services and support communities to help West Northants thrive, here is what to expect next.



Feb-March 2022

The first big conversation was open for 4 weeks for everybody who works or lives in the west Northamptonshire area, to give people an opportunity to share what is important to them. This conversation closed on 27th March 2022.

March – April 2022

We will analyse the resident's conversation and draw out the themes that we heard from our residents. We will share these with staff in a second big conversation for council colleagues to consider along with offering an opportunity for them to shape how the council is working. This conversation for staff will be live from 4 to 22 of April.

May 2022 onwards

West Northants Council will consider everything that has been contributed in the big conversations to create neighbourhood strategies, a citizens charter between the council and residents, and set out the council's ways of working for staff.

FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

Future Transformation Plans

Our Council is one year old this week. Since replacing the previous district, borough and county councils on 1 April last year we have been making good progress on our fresh start to deliver better local public services across Daventry, Northampton and South Northants areas. Born from the biggest restructure of local government in Northamptonshire in over 40 years and having guided communities through the challenges of the Covid pandemic, we now head into our second year with a balanced budget and additional investment in services ahead.



Future transformation plans are also taking shape, including:

- Progressing work to join up health and social care services and working collaboratively to help people live their best lives,
- Working on our Anti-Poverty plans and skills agenda,
- An ambitious new approach to making West Northants a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place to live and work,
- To protect and improve the local environment, economy and society for future generations

Progress over the First Year

You can read more about our first year in the Leader's Report to the Parish Councils, together with my Annual Report, but here are just some details of the progress we have made against our priorities over the past year:

Priority: Improving Life Choices

- Continuing the improvement journey in children's services as recognised by Ofsted
- Progressing plans to join up health and social care services
- Helping the most vulnerable including free school meals, funds to help households with food and energy bills, resettling Afghan families and beginning to co-ordinate the Government's Ukraine response locally
- Developing our Anti-Poverty Strategy with partner organisations and charities
- Council Tax reduction scheme and improving financial support for care leavers
- Developing the Armed Forces Covenant and establishing new armed forces hubs
- New customer experience strategy to improve how residents access our services

Priority: Green and Clean places

- Shaping our new sustainability goals - to net zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Retaining Green Flag awards for our high-quality parks

- Improving Towcester Water meadows and encouraging community tree planting
- £6.2m community flood protection scheme
- Installing new electric charge points across West Northants
- Crackdowns and prosecutions on environmental offenders, from fly-tipping and food safety to Trading Standards
- New litter charter and community litter-picking initiatives
- Grants for landowners to tackle fly tipping

Priority: Economic Development

- Submitting a bid for city status for Northampton
- Securing £37m funding for regenerating Northampton town centre and Market Square
- Delivering Daventry's new cinema complex
- Redeveloping Brackley Library and delivering our award-winning 'For the Love of Books' reading challenge to over a thousand residents
- Consulting on shaping our Strategic Plan
- Supporting businesses and start-ups with funding, advice and support

Priority: Connected Communities

- Embarking on a major roads improvement programme^[1]_[SEP]
- Making plans and funding bids to improve bus services^[1]_[SEP]
- Extending Northampton's public e-scooter scheme^[1]_[SEP]
- Shaping and progressing our future highways maintenance service and transport infrastructure

Priority: Thriving Villages and Towns

- Providing accommodation and support for rough sleepers
- Localising planning arrangements and simplified, more effective planning enforcement
- Investing in a host of initiatives to make communities safer
- Distributing grant funding for community and voluntary groups
- Re-opening the refurbished and extended Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
- Showcasing our heritage with open days and supporting the Go Northamptonshire destination campaign
- Redevelopment of Avenue campus into 170 new homes
- Working with parishes on Neighbourhood development plans and conservation area appraisals

Priority: Robust Resource Management

- Capping Council Tax rises at £99 per year
- On target deliver our first year on budget, and setting a balanced budget for the year ahead and making robust plans to tackle financial challenges
- Working to join up local services across the whole West Northants area, to make them better and more cost-effective
-

I think much has been done but there is much still to do, and I hope that you continue to alert me to the problems you face and the issues that you would like me to help resolve. I want to see that the great results we had with South Northamptonshire Council are being reflected in the new Unitary Authority.

Household Support Fund



West Northants Council will be providing those most in need with immediate financial help in the form of vouchers that can be redeemed against shopping costs in a range of supermarkets. With the recent and ongoing rises in the cost of living, it is often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged that have the hardest choices to make, sometimes as stark as “heating” or “eating.” Using a grant provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), West

Northants Council will be providing a one-off payment in the form of vouchers. All previous recipients of the Household Support Fund fuel voucher scheme, which has operated from December 2021 will receive a payment of up to £80. All house owner/renter recipients of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR), both working and non- working and including pensioners will receive a voucher payment of £50. The vouchers can be redeemed against shopping costs at a range of supermarkets but must be redeemed by 30th April 2022. All eligible recipients will start to receive a notification together with the voucher(s) from 30th March 2022.

Anti-Poverty Strategy

West Northamptonshire Council’s Cabinet is set to consider whether to adopt a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy at its meeting next week. The strategy, which will be considered by members at their meeting on Tuesday (12 April), is designed to tackle poverty and deprivation and is particularly important in the context of current financial pressures facing households. It would also form part of the council’s bold new approach to improve social, environmental and economic sustainability, which will help protect communities for future generations. The WNC approach is summed up in three overarching priorities, which are in turn built on some key principles aimed at helping people to live the best life possible. The strategy identified ten underlying principles recognising that people need:

- The best start in life
- Access to the best available education and learning
- Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
- Employment that keeps them and their families out of poverty
- Housing that is affordable, safe and sustainable in places which are clean and green
- To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
- Connected to their families and friends
- The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
- Access to health and social care when they need it
- To be accepted and valued simply for who they are.



Anti Poverty Strategy

In order to provide these opportunities for people, it will be necessary for the council to work with a range of partners. The three governing principles behind this approach are:

- Supporting people who are struggling in poverty now
- Preventing people falling into poverty in the first place
- Influencing the Government and other national organisations to get the best deal for the people of West Northamptonshire.

The strategy has been developed with cross-party support and its aims include improving health and wellbeing, increasing average household income, reducing reliance on benefits, lowering the cost of rented and social housing, improving outcomes for young people and tackling fuel poverty. The full Cabinet report and the draft strategy are both available to view on the council's website. Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 12th April 2022, 6.00 pm - West Northamptonshire Council (moderngov.co.uk)

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>

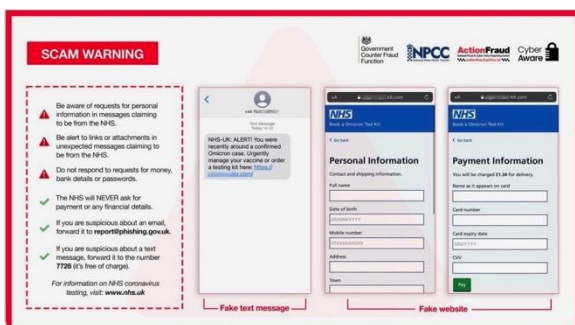


Taxi or Private Hire Licence Renewal

If you're a taxi driver, a private hire vehicle driver or operator 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/tXHB50HGhnl>

Fake NHS Text Messages

Our Trading Standards Team is warning people to be on their guard against this scam involving fake text messages: Quote Tweet Action Fraud@actionfrauduk



Watch out for fake text messages claiming to be from the NHS. Since Jan 1st, 412 victims have reported losses totalling more than £531,000.



The NHS will NEVER ask for payment or any financial details. Get more information here: <http://nhs.uk #CovidFrauds>

PLANNING MATTERS

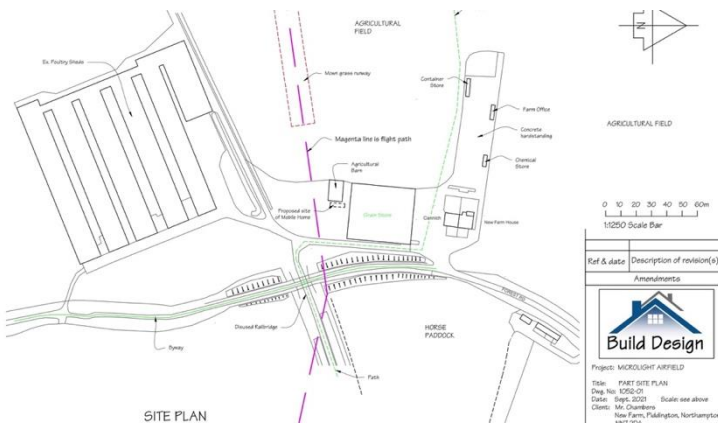
Planning Appeals

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

Planning Application Runway West of Forest Road, Piddington



Councillor Fiona Cole has called in the Planning Application WNS/2022/0154/FUL, the Runway West of Forest Road, Piddington for consideration by the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee. It relates to a change of use from Agricultural to grass runway with associated facilities for use as a micro light airfield (retrospective).

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 next Planning Policy Meeting is on 26 April 2022.

Article 4 Direction, Land off Horton Road, Hackleton

I have attached the WNC letter confirming the above Article 4 direction relating to the removal of permitted development rights for means of enclosure (gates, fences, walls etc) relating to the above land. I have also attached a copy of the Direction and



Economic Growth and Regeneration
West Northamptonshire Council
 South Northamptonshire Area Office
 The Forum Moat Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire,
 NN12 6AD
 Email: planning.SNC@westnorthants.gov.uk
 Web: www.westnorthants.gov.uk

Our Ref: E/WNS/2021/0174
 Case Officer: Peter Gittins
 Telephone: 01327322198
 Email: Peter.Gittins@westnorthants.gov.uk

Date: 29 March, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Confirmation of an Article 4 Direction.

Location – Land off Horton Road, Hackleton, Northamptonshire NN7 2AW
Article 4 Direction - The erection of any means of enclosure within Schedule 2 of the Order, Part 2, Minor operations Class A – gates, fences, walls etc

I hereby confirm that the above and attached Article 4 Direction, which was served on the 14 October 2021 and that was due to expire 14 April 2022 is now confirmed and comes into force on the 29 March 2022.

The Direction removes the permitted development rights specified in Schedule 2 of the Order, Part 2, Minor operations, Class A – gates, fences, walls etc. Such development shall not be carried out unless planning permission is first granted by the Local Planning Authority.

The Direction will continue to have effect unless the local planning authority make a subsequent direction, or cancel the Direction.

A copy of the Direction and the attached plan identifying the land affected can also be inspected during normal office hours at the Council's offices at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD.

I trust that this is satisfactory.

P. Gittins

Peter Gittins
 Development Management Team Leader
 Planning Enforcement Team

associated plan, which remains unchanged, but will

now continue to have effect unless the local planning authority make a subsequent direction, or cancel the Direction.

Manor Oak Scoping Opinion

WNC received an EIA Scoping Opinion submission on 8 February from the applicant Manor Oak Homes for 900 dwellings on land south and east of Grange Park and WNC issued its Scoping Opinion by the agreed timescale.

ENVIRONMENT

Warning over unlicensed waste carriers

A woman who paid someone £70 to take her old fridge away has been ordered to pay more than £2,000 in fines and court costs after it was fly tipped. Neighbourhood Wardens from West Northamptonshire Council traced the fridge, together with several other household items, back to Farhiya Amir after they were found dumped in shrubbery near her home in Melbury Lane, Northampton last May. Miss Amir (34)



admitted she had paid two boys £70 to take the rubbish away and was issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice. But after ignoring the notice she was brought before Wellingborough Magistrates last Tuesday, where she pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the domestic waste duty of care requirements and was fined £400 and ordered to pay court costs of £1,700 plus a £40 victim surcharge. Under the duty of care, anyone paying

someone to dispose of waste must ensure they use a reputable business with a waste carriers' licence and documentation to prove it. We're doing all we can to target fly-tippers, however residents can play a role in this too, by ensuring they only use licensed, responsible operators to take away their rubbish. Please be on your guard against unlicensed waste operators offering to take away unwanted items on the cheap. If it sounds too good to be true, it's likely they are not paying for the waste to be properly disposed of and will simply dump it instead. Do not be left paying the price. Please protect yourself by making sure that anyone you pay to take your rubbish away is properly licensed to do so. Also fined by the Court last Tuesday was Lola Declemente (21) of Broughton Place in Eastfield, Northampton, who was found guilty in her absence of littering and fined £250 and ordered to pay £1,300 in legal costs plus a £34 victim surcharge.

Great British Spring Clean

Communities across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to get involved in the Great British



Spring Clean, which runs until Sunday, 10 April. Litter picking kits, which include litter pickers, sacks and bag hoops are available to borrow from our Council, along with a step-by-step guide to help plan a safe, effective and well-supported event. Community litter picks have already got underway in Daventry, with residents and volunteers from the Town Council and the Tesco staff team cleaning up the Grange Estate and the town centre on Saturday 26 March.

In Northampton, the Town Centre BID has organised a tidy day on Monday, 4 April, when business owners will team up with volunteers and the Mayor of Northampton, to help clean up the town centre. Anyone wishing to borrow a litter picking kit can find out more information on the council's website, or email litter.champions@westnorthants.gov.uk. All sacks of litter, collected from public land will be picked up by the council.

Sustainable West Northants



We are encouraging residents and businesses to make personal pledges on how they will do their bit to make West Northants a more sustainable place to live and work.

Last week saw the launch of Sustainable West Northants – an ambitious new approach towards protecting and improving the local environment, economy and society for future generations.

The initiative, which is being spearheaded by our Council and partners across the area, aims to ensure everyone is working towards the same objectives and targets for developing sustainability, which are being mapped against global goals

set by the United Nations. This will only succeed if everybody gets involved, so we are asking residents, businesses and other organisations across West Northants to share their own steps and ideas to help make a difference, by making a Sustainability Pledge and inspiring others. People can learn more and make sustainability pledges at sustainable.westnorthants.gov.uk - which will help the Council to measure efforts taking place across the area to protect and enhance West Northants. We have also unveiled WNC's three key Sustainability Pledges – our primary commitments alongside the beginnings of a bold new strategy for steering forward resources and actions. Significant work is now going into the actions that will deliver these pledges. WNC's pledges are to:

- Net Zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants

- Ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

RSN Rural Assembly

I attended the Rural Assembly Meeting on 4 April 2022.

Community Businesses

The Plunkett Foundation's 2021 Impact Report reveals that the number of community businesses has continued to rise, despite the disruption of the pandemic. The report also shows that more people than ever before are now interested in setting up a community business, with over 300 communities across the UK getting in touch with Plunkett for start-up support last year.



The community business movement is growing, with the number of community businesses increasing by 3% in 2021, resulting in 840 businesses trading across the UK. To support the 27 businesses opening in 2021, 6,300 people raised around £3.4m in community shares.

Public interest and support for community ownership is also growing, evident in the number of community businesses featured in the national press, as well the 18% increase in Plunkett's membership. The sharp increase that we saw in 2020 in enquiries about setting up a new community business was maintained in 2021, with 26% more groups looking to start a new project in 2021 compared to 2019 prior to the pandemic.

<https://plunkett.co.uk/impact-reports-shows-more-people-than-ever-before-are-interested-in-setting-up-a-community-business/>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Hospital Visitors

Hospital visitors no longer need proof of a negative lateral flow test now they are no longer freely available — but masks and hand sanitiser are still a must.

Changes to COVID Rules on Self Isolation

From 24 February in England, if you test positive for Covid, you are advised to stay at home, but no longer be required to self-isolate. Read more at <http://ow.ly/nOfi50I125Q>



Healthy Start



Fruit and vegetables are part of a healthy, balanced diet and can help your family stay healthy.

If you're pregnant, or have a child under the age of 4, you could be eligible to help towards the cost of healthy essentials.

Find out more by visiting <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Day of Remembrance and Reflection Memorial Service

There was a Social Care Day of Remembrance and Reflection Memorial Service on 17th March at Abington Park, Northampton from 10.30am for 10.45am Start - 11.15am Finish. It included one minute's silence, tributes led by school children and social care staff, In My Life, Beatles Song, sung by a West Northamptonshire Council staff member and school children, a memorial book to sign, a 'Thank You Wall' with stories and tributes from social care staff and family members and tulip planting and laying of flowers.

Attendees were asked to bring a bunch of tulips with them on the day!



Their extraordinary hard work, dedication and care will never be forgotten. The service was an opportunity for us to all come together to pay our respects to the colleagues we lost to the pandemic and to thank all social care workers in our county for their continued work.

WNC and NNC Staff worked with local primary schools in the area to create some tulip artwork that can be displayed.



NHS Dental Services in Northamptonshire

I am receiving complaints about the lack of NHS Dental Services in Northamptonshire. It is made worse by the fact that residents are unable to understand the current position as the various search engines do not have the most up to date information about which Dentists are currently taking on NHS Patients. In fact, in a recent BBC investigation dated 7 February 2022, entitled

Northamptonshire: Finding an NHS dentist 'a needle in a haystack' - BBC News they found only one dental practice in the county taking on NHS patients.

The Northamptonshire CCG NHS Dentists website suggests that there were 8 Urgent Dental Care Services in Northamptonshire, without stating their location. Indeed, when you search on 'Find a Dentist', they mostly state 'This dentist is not taking any new NHS patients now' or something similar.

I am asking how the Northamptonshire CCG intends to address the provision of NHS Dental Services in Northamptonshire. I have been advised that all primary care concerns and complaints come under the remit of NHS England/Improvement, and I have been referred to england.contactus@nhs.net.

I anticipate that rising energy costs will severely impact the cost of living and NHS Dental Services will be much needed this year.

Please contact me if you are experiencing problems with finding an NHS Dentist in Northamptonshire.

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Admissions Arrangements

The school's admission authority determines school admission arrangements annually, even if they have not changed from the previous year. We are the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the area. Other types of schools have their own admission authority:



- The **governing body** is the admission authority for foundation and voluntary aided schools
- The **academy trust** is the admission authority for academies, free school and UTCs

Admission authorities of schools wishing to make changes to their admission arrangements must publicly consult on the changes before determination. Further information can be found on <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions/school-admission-arrangements>

Allocation of Secondary School Places

A total of 4,786 secondary school places have been allocated to pupils across West Northamptonshire today. This is the first year that places have been allocated specifically within West Northants, following on from local government reorganisation last year. 79.4 per cent of applicants – 3,798 children – have been allocated a place at their first preference – a slightly lower percentage than for the county last year (80.7 per cent in 2021). 95.8 per cent of applicants have been allocated one of their preferred schools – like the number of children getting a place at a preference school (95.7 per cent in 2021). 98.7 per cent of applications were made online (the same as in 2021).



Families who applied for their secondary school place online and within the deadline are able to check their offer on the council's website today at – www.westnorthants.gov.uk/secondary-school-offers. Any parent has the right to appeal (through the independent appeals process) against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied. The next round of secondary school place allocations (for late applicants) will take place in April.

Primary school allocations will be announced on April 19, 2022.

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 or 01327 636982. Donations to <https://local.giving.org/charity/SNVB/>

Virtual School Easter Holiday Programme

Bookings are now open for our Virtual School Easter Holiday activity programme!

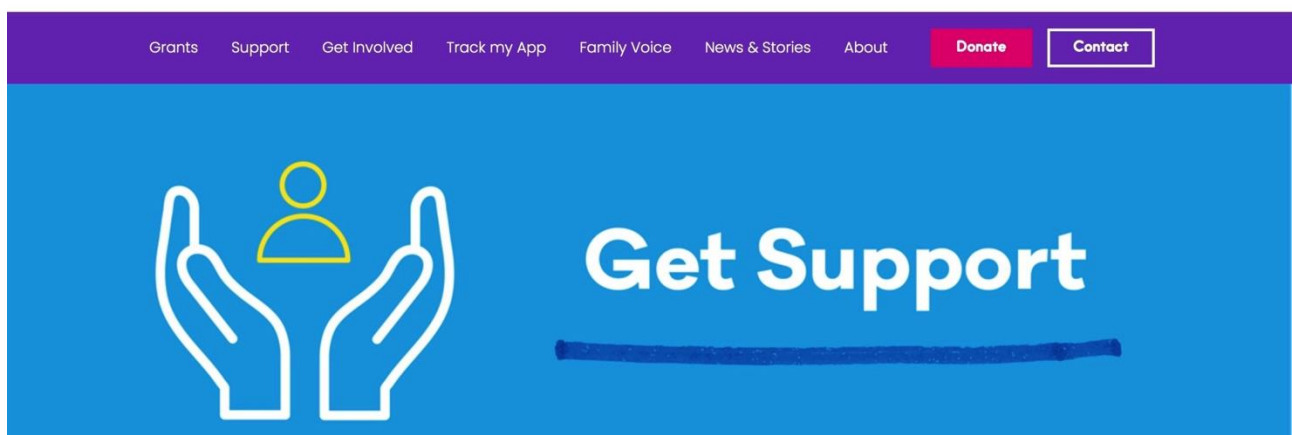
From arts & crafts and drama workshops to canoeing and exploring the great outdoors, the Virtual School Participation Programme offers a wide range of activities across Northamptonshire to help promote achievement and boost confidence in children and young people growing up in care.

To find out more or sign a young person up for a programme, click here: <http://ow.ly/5SwT50HYzVM>.



Family Fund – The Family Fund Trust for families with severely disabled children

The Family Fund helps families across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under.



You can apply to Family Fund subject to a number of criteria which include that you are the parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under and that you have evidence of entitlement to one of the following: Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based

Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Pension Credit.

See the website for more details.

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Councillor COVID Support Fund 2021-22

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 received eleven expressions of interest and seven completed applications with seven awards issued. One application didn't meet the criteria, three weren't progressed and one project was funded jointly. I have allocated my entire £2,500 available fund. Councillors Andrew Grant and Fiona Cole may still have some funding available.

I have enclosed a list of projects, which have been supported by me.

Project	Amount
Quinton Jubilee Drama	£300.00 (£206.89 SC £93.11 AG)
Mud Kitchen Café Cogenhoe Community Hub	£217.96
Children's Jubilee Celebration, Denton	£600.00
Surgery Volunteer Patient Car Scheme, Denton	£350
Pensioner's Coronation Tea Party, Brafield	£310
Pre School Outdoor Play Equipment, Cogenhoe	£415.15
Wildflower Project, Denton	£400.00
Total	£2,500 + £93.11 from AG

Northampton Market Square

We are inviting people to give their views on what events and other features Northampton Market Square should host following its redevelopment. A key part of the project is to help create a large public space, which can be used for a variety of purposes, and we would like to hear what people want to see there. It could be anything from musical or theatrical events to big screens for major sports fixtures, plus individual ideas. In addition to the existing market stalls,



we would like to hear what features would bring visitors into the town centre, such as specialist markets and wide-ranging leisure activities. It's a key civic space and one of the historic locations we've highlighted in our City Status bid, as it is the second largest market square in the country and has stood since 1235. The way people use town centres has changed drastically, they're no longer primarily about retail, people now want to experience fantastic leisure and cultural events too. Many of you responded to our previous consultation on the future of Market Square, which resulted in our outline plans. Now, we want to hear some of the fantastic ideas you have, as this is your Market Square and should host the kinds of things you want to see here.

Views can be given in an online survey, which should take no more than a few minutes to fill in, so people are encouraged to take some time to share their ideas. The survey opened Thursday 31 March and will run until the end of April, and team representatives will be in the town centre with a street survey from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 April. There will also be a display at the Grosvenor Shopping centre from 7 April to 4 May outlining the latest plans for how Market Square will look once redevelopment completes in 2024. <https://www.bigconversation.co.uk/northampton/>

Magic Little Grants – Localgiving

After successfully distributing 2,000 grants to Localgiving members in 2021, the 2022 programme has been announced, supported by the People's Postcode Lottery. They will be awarding £500 grants to 2,650 charitable organisations on Localgiving. Applications for Magic Little Grants 2022 will be open from 16 March and applications should take just ten minutes to complete. <https://localgiving.org/magic-little-grants/>



Garfield Weston Foundation



The Foundation supports UK registered charities working within the UK in the areas of Welfare, Youth, Community, Arts, Faith, Environment, Education, Health and Museums & Heritage.

The Foundation awards grants for Capital, Project and Revenue costs. Where they already have a funding history with you, the Trustees may consider a multi-year request for up to three years, provided you can demonstrate that a longer-term commitment will add value to your organisation's objectives. There are no deadlines for applications under £100,000.

Grants above this level are reviewed at one of 8 board meetings a year.

<https://garfieldweston.org/apply-to-us/grant-guidelines/>

Citizens Advice Hub Returns



The Citizens Advice HUB returns to our offices at The Forum in Towcester on 15 March.

Drop in sessions will be held every Tuesday from 10am-midday, offering you the chance to gain free, confidential advice on a range of subjects.

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

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>



New on-street vehicle charging bays

Parking restrictions and enforcement are being introduced at the new on-street electric vehicle charging bays in West Northants to ensure they are available for people to use them.

In January 2022, on-street electric vehicle charging points were installed at seven locations across Northampton as part of the council's partnership with the Virgin Park and Charge (VPACH2) project.

Each location has four parking bays. To minimise the impact on parking availability in the short term, two bays are for electric vehicles only while two bays can accommodate either electric or non-electric vehicles. The enforcement will be for the electric only bays – marked 'Electric Vehicles Only' - and will start on April 8 at:

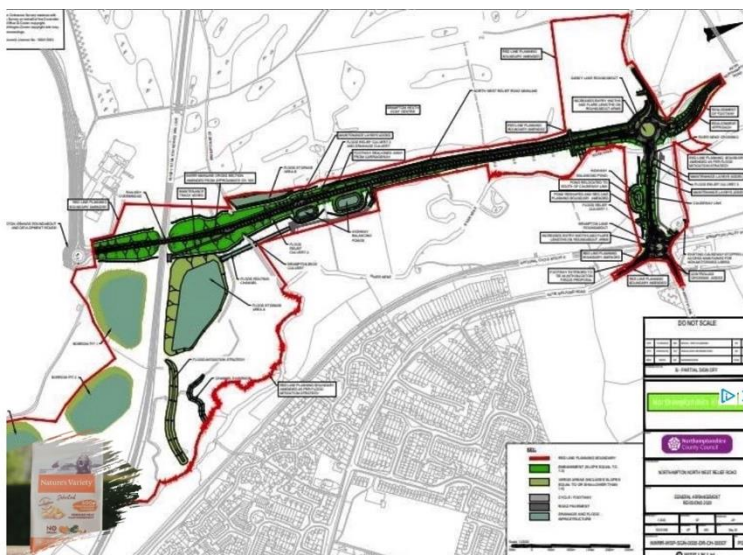
- St James' Park Road NN5 5EL
- Upper Thrift Street NN1 5HR
- Ardington Road NN1 5NE
- Barry Road NN1 5HU
- Oakwood Rd NN1 4SX
- Semilong Road NN2 6BU
- Vicarage Road NN5 7AX

To give residents time to adjust to the new parking arrangements, drivers who flout the parking restrictions during the first two weeks following enforcement will be issued with warning notices, rather than a fine.



Northampton North West Relief Road

This week marks the beginning of work to create the Northampton North-West Relief Road (NNWRR). Once complete, the project will link the A428 Harlestone Road to the A5199 Welford Road. The scheme is supported by SEMLEP, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and benefits from £7.93 million of Local Growth funding. The first section of the relief road has already been constructed as part of the Harlestone Manor development, while the developers of the Dallington Grange housing estate will construct the second section to Grange Farm, just south of the railway line. West Northamptonshire Council is responsible for building the final section across the railway line to the Welford Road.



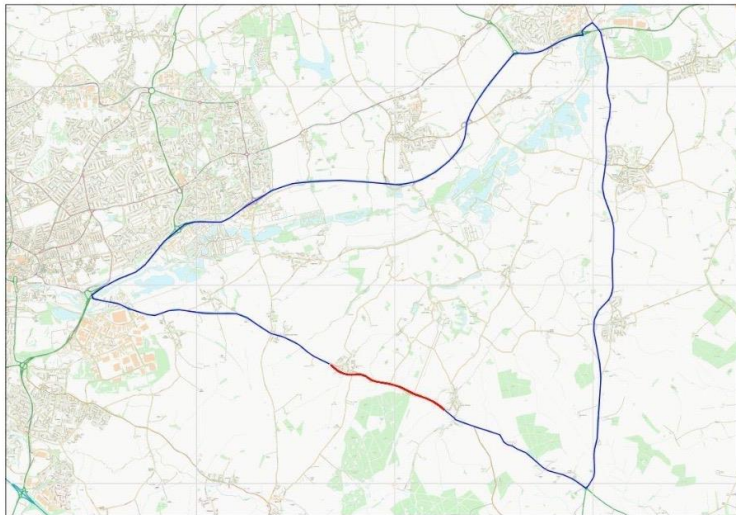
A layout of the North-West Relief Road.

Early works starting will include a site compound being set up off Sandy Lane at the Northern end of the scheme, utility works, preparation of access routes, archaeological excavations and environmental surveys. The construction of the NNWRR will follow. The majority of this initial work will take place off-highway and impacts on road users are expected to be minimal. This road is only part of the infrastructure required to facilitate development to the north of Northampton, with the Northern Orbital Road, a priority of West Northamptonshire Council, being the most important. Motorists passing the site will see some activity starting to take place as initial work begins but it will not significantly affect their journey. The

The North-West Relief Road, a Northamptonshire County Council Design and Build contractor Balfour Beatty has been appointed, with works expected to complete in spring 2024. More information about the NNWR can be found on the Northamptonshire Highways website and updates will also be posted on the @nnhighways account on Twitter. Roadwork information can be viewed at one.network.

Pre Surface Dressing Patching - Bedford Rd, Denton (A428)

Please look out for advanced warning signs and details of vehicle towaway. Start Date of works – Wednesday 30 March Completion – Thursday 31 March (Weather permitting) Traffic management - Road closure and diversion Hours of work – 09.30-15.30 To ensure the health and safety of the workforce and



the public the works will be carried out under a road closure.

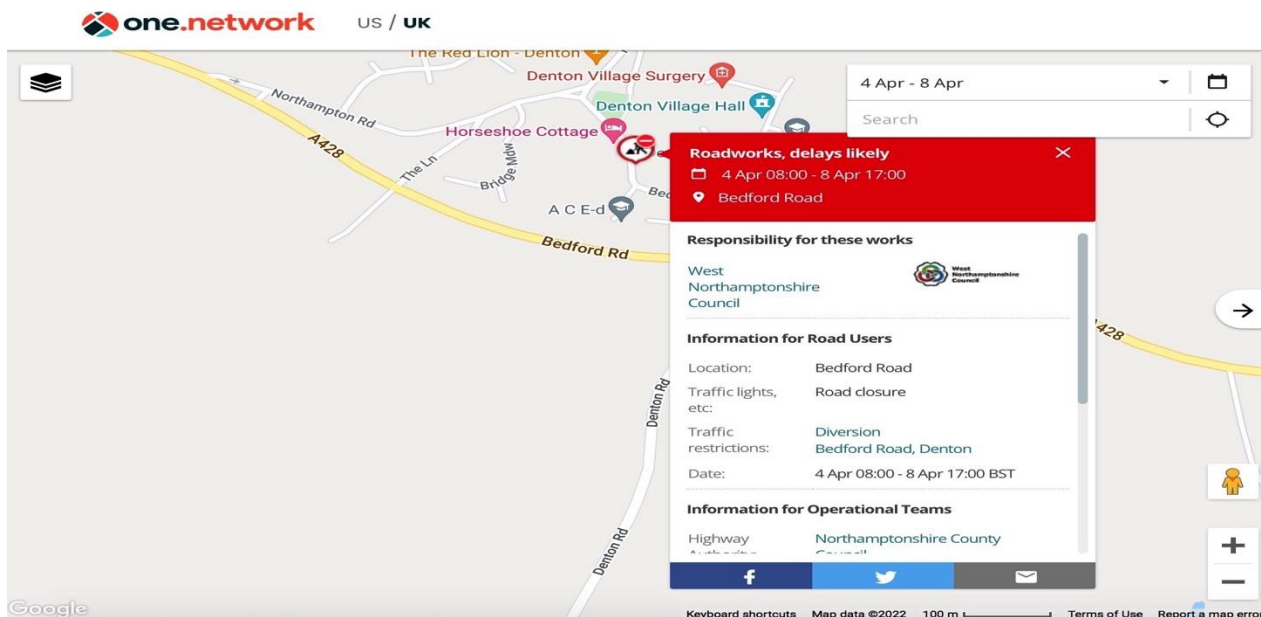
A diversion will be in place at all times as shown on the map below. The red line shows the road closure and the blue line shows the diversion.

What we are doing/the benefits – Surface Dressing is a cost effective road surface treatment used to prolong the life of roads that are starting to show the first signs of minor deterioration. It extends the life of the road surface, increases skid resistance and seals the surface to stop water ingress, protecting it from damage caused by severe winter weather, such as

potholes. Prior to surface dressing, carriageway patching will be undertaken to address any minor issues to prepare the road for the dressing which will take place in the summer.

Surfacing Work Bedford Road, Denton

Northamptonshire Highways are starting to undertake their surface-dressing programme of works. As part of these works, there will be surfacing works taking place on the Bedford Road in Denton. To undertake the works safely will require that the road is closed for a period of up to 5 days from the 20th April 2022 at off peak times. The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=128027002>



If you require more information about the works please contact Rob Dunmore (Design) or Harry Fox (Construction) on 01604 883400.

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>

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Street Parties and Road Closures

Are you planning a street party with your neighbours for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this June? The deadline to apply for a road closure is 11:59pm on 18 April. Please visit <http://westnorthants.gov.uk/queensjubilee>



POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Northamptonshire Police-Update on Quinton Incident

A successful demolition of 62 items of WW2 ordnance took place at roughly 12.30pm 30 March 2022 in School Lane, Quinton. The Bomb Disposal team, from the Royal Logistic Corps, carried out the demolition detonation. Multiple agencies were at the scene including Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Northamptonshire Police and East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Fire entered into operations to damp down the scene and carry out further assessments in the final few hours of the incident.

A briefing was held at 4pm at Quinton Village Hall for any village residents to allay any concerns or fears, and to keep them up to date as to when they would be able to return to their homes.

We thank all residents for their patience during this operation.

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. Please see this link for more information: [About Us \(vcn.org.uk\)](https://vcn.org.uk) or [Veteran Community Network \(VCN\) Beds, MK, Northants | Facebook](#) – Please follow ‘n’ share. The meetings are organised at Daventry Volunteer Centre - New Street, Daventry NN11 4BT on Thursday 24th March 14.00 – 16.00hrs, Thursday 28th April 14.00 – 16.00hrs, Thursday 26th May 14.00 – 16.00hrs

Football Foundation grants



The Football Foundation provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing rooms, 3G pitches, fencing, portable floodlights, pitch improvements and clubhouse refurbishment. Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

- 1) Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- 2) Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- 3) Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/looking-for-funding>