

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JULY 2022



E-Newsletter Issue 7/2022
Cogenhoe Jubilee Celebrations
Sunday, 5 June 2022.

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NEWS REPORT JULY 2022

Monthly Highlights

We are still seeking sponsors to support families and individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine. One of the primary requirements is for accommodation to host those whose initial sponsorship didn't work out for a variety of reasons. There might also be people who signed up at that time and were not matched with refugees, and we'd like to hear from any who would still like to do their bit.

Highways has decided to reduce the speed limit to 50mph along the A428 from the Lakeside roundabout through to the county boundary. I have arranged a meeting with WNC Highways engineers on 8 July to better understand the impact of the solution on the A428. This is an important first step in seeking to improve the highway safety of the A428, and I look forward to continuing this conversation in the months ahead.

I visited the Mud Kitchen Café's monthly farmers' market and craft fair at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall on Sunday 12 June 2022. They had a good range of stalls plus a good range of fresh vegetables too. It is becoming a very popular event. Do try to come along to the next one on Sunday 10 July 2022 from 10am to 3pm.

I attended the Cogenhoe Open Gardens on 12 June 2022. They had 11 participating gardens this year with 4 new showings. All the proceeds went to St Peter's Church. There was a great show of hostas, floral climbers, pergola with gnomes, rose beds, shrubs, perennials and an acer collection. Cogenhoe have some beautiful gardens.

The winner of the Brafield Jubilee Quiz was Tessa Matthews, and she unveiled the Queens Platinum Jubilee Plaque on 12 June 2022 as her prize. We all met at the village sign at 3.00pm. Dawn Allingham, Deputy Chairman of the Brafield Parish Council said a few kind words of introduction and Tessa did the honours.

I was honoured, to be invited by the Churchwardens to the Service of Thanksgiving for the Refurbishment of the interior and the Dedication of the New Life Window at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton on 19 June.

I had a busy schedule of events in Hackleton and Grange Park over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. I tried to make an event in each Parish across the Ward. I used my Councillor Covid Fund to support three events, which were Jubilee related and I have shared details of the events I attended in this monthly report. Well done to all of the Platinum Jubilee Committees for working so hard and making the Jubilee Celebration such a success.

Examination of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 continues as we prepare for a six-week public consultation on proposed changes. The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 is a major planning policy document that will help guide planning decisions throughout Northampton up to 2029. Following public hearings in November 2021, the Examiner appointed by the Planning Inspectorate has called for some changes, or modifications, before the Plan can be adopted by WNC. A consultation on those changes will start next month. A Part 2 Local Plan for the Daventry Area was adopted in February 2020, while the Part 2 Local Plan for the South Northants Area was adopted in July the same year.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has a new online event on giving local (parish and town) councils more of a say on housing, taking place on 27 July 2022. According to research undertaken by the

National Housing Federation and the homelessness charity Crisis, 340,000 new homes a year need to be built in England until 2031 to address the current housing backlog and future demand.

The deadline for people to have their say on proposals for a new 50-place SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) unit at Hunsbury Park Primary School has been extended. A four-week consultation began in May, but has now been extended to 23 June, to allow more people to comment. After the consultation, responses will be analysed and presented to the WNC Cabinet for a final decision. The move is part of a larger strategy to create 500 new specialist places by 2024 and will see work take place over the summer ready for the new intake of pupils in September this year.

With a forecast of a 25 percent increase in the number of children needing specialist education by 2025, we are proposing that a new special free school should open providing up to 250 specialist places from September 2024. Under the free school 'presumption' route, the local authority (WNC in this instance) is responsible for funding the Proposed New School and providing a suitable site. WNC has identified land on St. John's Road, Tiffield, near Towcester.

Services helping domestic abuse victims find safer accommodation across Northamptonshire will receive extra funding of over £273,000 this year. Our Council, in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, have set out plans to boost the funding provided to the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) and Eve Domestic Violence & Abuse support services.

Anglian Water is offering a range of practical support for residents experiencing difficulty with their bills, and we are being encouraged to share information about the help that is available. The range of financial assistance available includes discounted tariffs, assistance schemes for those who have fallen behind on payments, as well as flexible and affordable payment plans.

WNC has been allocated £5.4million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This is the largest amount to be given to a single council across the whole of the South East Midlands, and council colleagues have already begun work to explore how best to use it in order to maximise the benefit for our communities.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is working with West Northamptonshire Council to help co-ordinate the distribution of up to 8,500 food vouchers (value of £100) to financially vulnerable residents across the locality of West Northamptonshire between July and September 2022 through local community groups and charities working with residents most in need. This is part of a second phase of the Household Support Fund; £421 million has been made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with significantly rising living costs.

The deadline for applications to the Kick Start Fund is Friday 15 July, so please help encourage fledgling businesses to come forward.

A new £3 million fund to upgrade and renovate England's village halls has been announced by the Government to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Over a three-year period, the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund will provide money for projects such as installing Wi-Fi, extending buildings and modernising facilities. A total of 125 village halls will receive money from the fund.

A derelict supermarket will be demolished in a £785,000 project, which will see 80 new parking spaces created to serve Towcester town centre. The supermarket in the Sponne Arcade, which included 70

parking spaces, has stood empty since September 2018 and fell into disrepair before being bought by South Northamptonshire Council in July 2020.

On 1 June 2022, West Northamptonshire Council announced Kier as its preferred contractor to deliver a new highways service with increased investment this autumn. The announcement was the outcome of an 18-month competitive process to award a new maintenance contract as part of the £30m-a-year service, which includes maintaining local roads, footpaths, signage and drainage, repairing potholes and winter gritting.

Highways has advised me that the 3472 Billing Causeway No 5 repairs are programmed to start on the 27th of June. These works will include the reconstruction of the damaged parapet and other associated works. These works will improve the structural stability of the bridge and improve the safety for road users. The bridge will be reinstated as per the original design and all blocks and barriers will be removed at the completion of the works.

Mark Jones, Chief Fire Officer of the South Australian Country Fire Service has been chosen as Northamptonshire's next Chief Fire Officer. His appointment is now subject to confirmation by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel, which will take place in the next few weeks. If Mark is confirmed as the next Chief Fire Officer, he will take over the reins when Darren Dovey retires from the post in October this year.

Contractor On Track has made great progress on the new Northampton Bike Park as we reach the halfway point of the build. The £725k project will deliver a range of facilities for all ranges of ability, from a skills area usable by children on balance bikes, right up to the most demanding trails for experts in the sport, all of them free to use

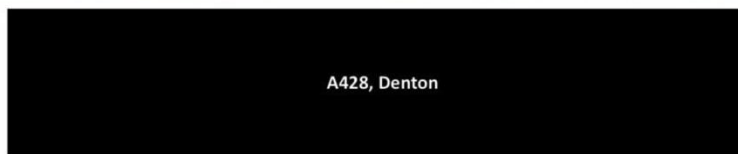
Join us on Sunday, 10 July to celebrate the arrival of the Queen's Baton Relay and give its Baton bearers an incredible welcome.

All the Best, Steve

PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Meeting with Highways to discuss reduction in A428 speed limit

The Speed Limit Review Panel has now had the opportunity to consider my request for a 40mph limit on the A428 at Denton. Following extensive discussion via the Speed Limit Review Panel and the Red Route



Group and following analysis of all the information available to us it has been decided to reduce the speed limit to 50mph along the A428 from the Lakeside roundabout through to the county boundary. There is a chance that this could extend all along the A428 into Milton Keynes, our Road Safety Manager is currently in dialogue with Milton Keynes Council. It was determined that a reduced limit of 50mph for the whole length of the route would be more suitable than a short section of 40mph surrounded by sections of derestricted limits which can lead to driver confusion. This will now be passed over to our engineers who will progress this through the legal process, which needs to be

followed prior to the limit being changed on site. I have shared the information with Denton and Brafield Parish Councils, who were pleased to hear that action was being taken. I have raised a number of queries with Highways and requested the evidence that underpins their proposal, so that I can understand the basis for the recommendation. I have arranged a meeting with WNC Highways engineers on 8 July to better understand the impact of the solution on the A428. This is an important first step in seeking to improve the highway safety of the A428, and I look forward to continuing this conversation in the months ahead.

Cogenhoe Farmers Market

I went along to the Mud Kitchen Café's monthly farmers' market and craft fair at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall on Sunday 12 June 2022 from 10am to 3pm. They had organised a good range of stalls plus a good range of fresh vegetables too. It is becoming a very popular event. Well done to Sean and Paula for bringing it to Cogenhoe. Do try to come along to the next one on Sunday 10 July 2022 from 10am to 3pm.



Cogenhoe Open Gardens 12 June 2022

I attended the Cogenhoe Open Gardens on 12 June 2022. They had 11 participating gardens this year with 4 new showings. All the proceeds are to go to St Peter's Church. As I had a previous engagement later that day, I started from St Peter's Church where I met Joy and others for a quick cup of tea and cake.



I paid my entry fee and got my green wristband before venturing out to see as many Gardens as I could before racing off to Brafield for 3.00pm. Thank you to the gardeners at 9,10 and 11 who made me most welcome and showed their hostas, floral climbers, pergola with gnomes, rose beds, shrubs, perennials and an acer collection. Cogenhoe have some beautiful gardens.

Unveiling of Queens Jubilee Plaque, Brafield



The winner of the Brafield Jubilee Quiz was Tessa Matthews and she unveiled the Queens Platinum Jubilee Plaque on 12 June 2022 as her prize. We all met at the village sign at 3.00pm.

Dawn Allingham, Deputy Chairman of the Brafield Parish Council said a few kind words of introduction and Tessa did the honours.

This was the last of the Brafield Jubilee events. Well done to the Platinum Jubilee Committee for working so hard and making the Jubilee Celebration such a success.

Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Help Desk

The parish helpdesk is a facility Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council introduced for its residents. It has been running at the Mud Kitchen Café in the Village Hall since last October and is open from 11-12pm every Thursday morning. It was introduced to help residents who do not have any Internet access and to provide a more local, personal service to access Council services.

Councillor Stephen Clarke
Member for Hackleton and Grange Park
West Northamptonshire Council
stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk

The Parish Council has been working hard on community outreach post-pandemic and this facility forms part of that outreach and finding better ways to serve residents.

The parish helpdesk from the café in the Village Hall offers prescription collections from the local surgery in Denton and the opportunity just to have a chat and cup of coffee, which really helps with resident's well-being, especially those on their own. It is run by the Parish Council's clerk Deborah Rush and is mostly used by older residents. I often use the cafe for casework and chat to residents who pop in. Deborah goes the extra mile with this service for the local residents.



Dedication of the New Life Window at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton

I was honoured, to be invited by the Churchwardens to the Service of Thanksgiving for the Refurbishment of the interior and the Dedication of the New Life Window at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton on 19 June. Archdeacon David who replaced Archdeacon Richard Ormston who unfortunately has Covid, led the Thanksgiving for the new Lighting System and the Dedication of the South West window 'The New Life Window'. In addition, he helped commemorate the Platinum Jubilee plaque, which was recently added to the church before he remembered with gratitude Peggy Stockdale in who's memory the alter at the south aisle was lovingly refurbished. A simple tree spreading its branches across the two light window and upward into the tracery forms the background design of 'The New Life Window'. The theme,

using different shades of coloured glass, reflects the several stages of life. Rachael Aldridge of Walgrave, Northamptonshire, created the window and the glass is from an old-established German maker of Glashuette Lamberts of Waldeassen in Bavaria. Rachael was at the service and she was able to see her work being recognised by those present. The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton is an amazing building, it really blends in and compliments the heart of the village.

Coffee@Carey, Hackleton

I popped in for a Coffee, Cake and a Catch up at Coffee@Carey, the village coffee shop set up in Carey Chapel in Hackleton. on Wednesday 15 June. It was a very hot day and they had a number of tables and chairs outside. They had their Food Donation from Project 16:15 on display and they were very busy. I was on my way to sort out some casework in the ward.



Platinum Jubilee Events 2-5 June 2022

Brafield Coronation Tea Party

To be greeted by her majesty on her Platinum Jubilee was such a privilege. I was delighted to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Brafield on the Green on 2 June 2022. A



special thanks to Michelle Brockwell, Shelley Gautrey, Donna Burge and everyone on the Jubilee Committee for arranging such a great Coronation Tea party with live entertainment. The Brafield Jubilee Fund was set up to raise funds for the Diamond Jubilee 10 years ago. In 2022, it was reactivated for the Platinum Jubilee. I agreed to support the Platinum Jubilee Committee by providing funding from my Councillor Covid Support Fund for this Coronation Tea Party.



It was great to see around 100 guests there. Especially as this event was arranged to encourage those who have not socialised much during the past two years to feel that they can get out and meet each other again.

What better time than the Queens Platinum Jubilee to have a tea party. There were an estimated 16,000 street parties

being thrown around the country to celebrate the monarch's 70-year milestone. Brafield on the Green has a tremendous community spirit, and it was certainly on show on the occasion.

Cogenhoe Community Awards 2022

On 2 June 2022, I attended the Cogenhoe Community Awards 2022 presentation at the Village Hall in Cogenhoe. These awards aim to recognise individuals who make a valuable contribution to community life and are designed to give Cogenhoe the opportunity to recognise and thank local people for making a difference to the lives of others in the village. The event was organised by the Jubilee Committee and 12 community volunteers were presented with an award. The Deputy Mayor of Northampton Cllr Stephen Hibbert and his consort



Liz Cos gave out the certificates to the successful nominees.

I had been invited as a special guest and I enjoyed hearing about the many and various efforts carried out on behalf of the community by all the award winners.

Bhavika & Mukesh Dave from the local shop had supported the village with shopping deliveries during COVID. Caroline Gatehouse litter picks the road from Billing to clean and tidy. for what she does



Cogenhoe frequently keeping the village Deborah Rush, Parish Clerk was thanked outside the Parish Council including the

Village Hopper, Mobile Football Nets, Community Hub with Denton prescription collections. Dorothy Stopps is poorly and was unable to be there however Irene Chubley was there to receive Dorothy's award. She has supported the village for many years with church bell ringing. Elizabeth Packer BEM welcomes new people to the village and runs various clubs including the table tennis club in the Village Hall. Jeremy Cunningham has been instrumental in the clear up of the Pocket Park and the creation of the Jubilee Trail. Jon Bailey, Chairman of the Parish Council for his litter picking, and the Parish Magazine. Lawrence Howes, for his work on Neighbourhood watch and keeping the village safe. Lisa Burry is well known as the Cogenhoe bus driver for the Hopper. She has particularly supported the elderly and those lacking in mobility get home with their heavy shopping. Maggie Irvine for the WI and keeping in touch during Covid. Sean Foster for being a Knight in Shining Armour about the village and his efforts with the Pocket Park and finally Maddie Ark supported by her husband Wayne for her infectious smile, work with the Jubilee Committee, the Community Lunch and our Ukrainian guests. Afterwards we had light refreshments provided by the Ladies of the former Cogenhoe WI and we were given an opportunity to view the Jubilee Exhibition, which had been collated by the Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society, supported by Cogenhoe Cricket Club and village residents.

Denton's Beacon Lighting



June 2022 to participate in Denton's Beacon lighting. At 9.00pm Cllr Paul Cammack, Chairman of the Parish Council, read out the Proclamation. Then at 9.10pm the Choir sang the special Jubilee Song before the bonfire was lit at 9.20pm. I was thrilled to be able to watch as Denton lit its bonfire and then as it illuminated the sky over the village as part of



We assembled at the entrance to the field near Denton Village Hall at 8.30pm on 2

their community celebrations. Afterwards, as the bonfire was dying down we all joined the Choir in singing the National Anthem at dusk in this small field in West Northamptonshire.

More than 2,000 beacons were expected to be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories on 2 June 2022. They were to include gas-fuelled beacons, braziers and bonfires. It was a privilege to experience one of these events.



Brafield's Beacon Lighting

As I came back from seeing Denton Parish Council light their bonfire, I was thrilled to be able to watch as Brafield Parish Council lit its beacon at 9.45pm on the field adjacent to the Red Lion Pub, Brafield. I had seen the beacon earlier in the day and I was



impressed at the workmanship of RVS Engineering. It has been beautifully

crafted and it will no doubt continue to light up the village sky as part of future community celebrations.

Platinum Jubilee Floral Displays at St John's Church, Blisworth

I saw an amazing number of floral displays at St John's Church in Blisworth on 3 June 2022.

They were just a small token of Blisworth's Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was taking place from 2-5 June 2022. I saw the flower-



patterned crown designed by the Baptist Church, the Queens favourite flowers 'lily of the valley', the WI 'inspiring women' herbaceous display, Stitchery Do's crocheted flowers, the Celebration Fireworks from the Blisworth Arts Society, 'Ring Out' from Blisworth Handbells, 'Queens Private Message to all' from the Blisworth Friendship Group, and many more. Afterwards, there was an opportunity to meet old and new fiends over coffee and cakes. The Queens Private Message on Display was:



"Hope this Jubilee will bring together Families and Friends, Neighbours and Communities."

Lepidopterology in Denton

On Saturday 4 June 2022, whilst waiting for the judging of the Denton Bake off and the children arriving for their Treasure Hunt, I was treated to an impromptu discussion with Peter Terry at St Margaret's Church. I had great fun looking at his moth samples and finding out about how and why he studies moths. The numbers of Butterflies and Moths are highly sensitive indicators of the health of the environment and play a crucial role in the food chain as well as plants. The UK has 59 species of butterflies – 57 resident species of butterflies and two regular migrants – the Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow. Compared to this, there are 2,500 species of moth found in the UK.



being pollinators of

I had no idea that there were so many moths. Peter told us all about how he created Moth traps and how moths differ from butterflies in a few ways. Most people think moths are nocturnal and brown and butterflies are diurnal and colourful. While this is generally true, it isn't a tried-and-true method of moth identification. There are some stunningly beautiful moth species that fly during the day!

He showed us several different moths that he had caught locally including one that resembled the cut off part of a branch of a tree.

Children's Jubilee Celebration, Denton



On 4 June 2022, I was fortunate enough to experience the Children's Jubilee Celebration involving a village Treasure Hunt around Denton village and a cake competition for all from 6 years - adult. A special thank you to Pat Terry, Sheila Underwood and many others from St



Margaret's Church, Denton who organised the event. The intention was to help rejuvenate the Denton Community Spirit post COVID. This year, the Queen will become the first British monarch ever to celebrate a platinum jubilee and Denton chose to help the children memorialise it. I had supported the Platinum Jubilee Committee by providing funding from my Councillor Covid Support Fund for this 'Treasure Hunt and Cake Competition'. The Main Street Closed at 12.00pm and the Church Bells rang at noon. Then the Treasure Hunt around the

village green took place and the judging of Jubilee Bake off in the Church commenced. I was impressed by the wonderful display of cakes. It seemed really hard to judge them, as they were all of a very high standard. Well, done to all who took part.

I also looked at the 'History of the Village Exhibition' in the church. It was absolutely fascinating. Well done to all those who worked on it.

Mud Kitchen Café 1950's style

I arrived at the Mud Kitchen Café, Cogenhoe, on the morning of 5 June 2022, just before the Carnival Parade was due to start. It gave us time to visit the 1950's restyled tearoom offering afternoon teas to either dine in or take away. But as we were there at about 11.30am we chose to sample the bacon rolls and coffee. The restored radio dated 1933 was set up to play 50's music. The Heritage Society had loaned this for the Cogenhoe Jubilee Celebrations. Summertime Blues and Blueberry Hill sprang to mind.

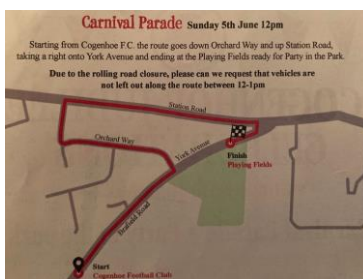


I was able to shake hands with her majesty and offer my congratulations on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. Paula Foster and her helpers were all dressed in a 1950's theme to match. Well-done Paula for helping us to walk down memory lane. Your efforts got us all in the mood for the Cogenhoe Jubilee Celebrations later that day. The inclement weather did not dampen our spirits at all.

Cogenhoe Platinum Jubilee Carnival Parade



The Platinum Jubilee Carnival Parade was due to start at 12pm on 5 June 2022 from the Football Club Car Park, York Road, Cogenhoe. Maddie Ark had arranged for the Buses from Northampton Transport Heritage to be outside the Mud Kitchen Café to pick up those travelling on the buses. I boarded the bus there and travelled down to the Football Club where the parade participants were assembling.



The Parade went down Orchard Way and up Station Road taking a right onto York Avenue and ending up at the playing fields ready for the Party in the Park. Unfortunately, it was raining at this stage and visibility from the upper deck of the bus was poor, but I did manage to get some photographs.



Cogenhoe Platinum Jubilee Celebration 'Party in the Park'

The Cogenhoe Platinum Jubilee Celebration 'Party in the Park' started at 1 pm on 5 June 2022. Many of the stalls had been moved into the Village Hall earlier to avoid the rain: The Cricket Club, Animals in need, Cogenhoe Pre-School, Various Tombolas, Neals Yard and others. Outside Tony Carr, DJ, Compere and singer was belting out various 'Rat Pack' numbers. There were a few inflatables and a Castle Climbing Wall. After visiting the various stalls, we were called



back into the Hall as the Reynolds Academy was going to perform their Irish Dancing there. They had been due to dance on the park outside but the weather conditions were such that it would be too risky for them to dance on the damp



grass. Although the rain had subsided a bit, it was still drizzling. None of this dampened our spirits. The girls put on a great show and I particularly enjoyed their dance to the Peaky Blinders Theme Song the 'Red Right Hand'.



We then went outside to watch the Fun Dog Show with eight categories including Best Child Handler, Prettiest Girl, Most Handsome Boy and others. Well done to the Platinum Jubilee Committee and in particular Maddie Ark for taking a proactive approach and making sure plans were safeguarded against the inclement weather today and helping to make sure that the event was a success for everyone.

You can't book good weather, but keeping an eye on the local forecast in the days leading up to the event can give your guests some idea of what to expect. Maddie communicated with guests on the likely changes via social

media and altered plans to suit. Thank you to all who organised and participated in today's event.

Message from Her Majesty

As the Platinum Jubilee weekend drew to a close, Her Majesty sent a thank you message to all those who have marked her 70 years as Queen.



Brafield Children's Races



When it comes to how to mark seventy years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first. But I have been humbled and deeply touched that so many people have taken to the streets to celebrate my Platinum Jubilee.

While I may not have attended every event in person, my heart has been with you all; and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family.

I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that has been so evident in recent days, and I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come.

I thank you most sincerely for your good wishes and for the part you have all played in these happy celebrations.

Councillor Gerald Couldrake, Chairman of Brafield on the Green Parish Council said that he had permission from Freddie's parents to circulate this photo, which I think sums up Britain's eccentric joy in having local Jubilee celebrations.

Freddie had won one of the Children's races in the morning. This was taken during Sunday's village street party on 5 June

2022, which was held in a big barn at the farm because of the weather. The farm cockerel demanded to join in the festivities, and muscled his way onto the top spot on the podium. Herbie the dog was not impressed in being relegated to silver... And a good time was had by all!

REFUGEES IN NORTHANTS



More Sponsors needed to offer Homes for Ukraine

We are seeking more sponsors to support families and individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine. One of the primary requirements is for accommodation to host those whose initial sponsorship didn't work out for a variety of reasons. The Government's original plea for sponsors was made several months ago, so we recognise there might well be people who were not able to offer accommodation at the

time of the original appeal, who might now be able to help. There might also be people who signed up at that time and were not matched with refugees, and we'd like to hear from any who would still like to do their bit.

West Northamptonshire is an incredibly welcoming place, with many wonderful people who are willing to support those in need. We're extremely grateful for all the help so far, yet we could do with some additional help. The £350 per month thank-you payment is still on offer for sponsors who are successfully matched to Ukrainian guests.

We need some basic information to begin the process including:

- Name, address and contact details
- Who they would be able to accommodate (a family with children/couple/single female/single male)
- What accommodation they have available (including size and number of bedrooms)
- An indication of whether you have already registered your interest in becoming a sponsor on the government website.

Anyone who has space in their home, or an empty property that might be suitable can contact us at resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk and we will provide full details of the scheme.

Visas and Arrivals for Ukraine, latest regional data

The latest East Midlands regional data shows that Visas issued, and arrivals continue to trend at around +200 per week. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower local authority.

Upper tier local authority name	Number of visa applications	Number of visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Derby	127	108	78
Derbyshire	1,000	936	604
Leicester	113	92	52
Leicestershire	721	668	438
Lincolnshire	1,046	954	598
North Northamptonshire	395	368	263
Nottingham	206	191	113
Nottinghamshire	846	764	510
Rutland	98	90	42
West Northamptonshire	612	552	396
TOTALS	5164	4723	3094

Refugee Week 20-26 June 2022



West Northants will celebrate Refugee Week from 20 June 2022 with a few events to raise awareness of issues affecting asylum seekers and the local support available to them. Throughout the week of 20 to 26 June, events will take place at the University of Northampton, Delapre Abbey and online, with a full programme of speakers and presentations also planned at the Guildhall on Thursday, 23 June. The activities will showcase all the support available to

refugees in West Northamptonshire, whose communities have welcomed hundreds of individuals and families fleeing persecution from places including the Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria. Recent resettlement schemes have included supporting the arrival and community care needs of nearly 400 Afghan nationals

and more than 290 local people coming forward as sponsors for Ukrainian families as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Diverse Communities Forum will be hosting the event in the Guildhall alongside Town of Sanctuary, from 4pm to 6pm, with stalls from organisations including Red Cross, DWP and Quakers.

There will also be a short film and a photo exhibition from L2L during the event and presentations and stories from refugees that have settled in Northants.

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998 and held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20 June.

CONSULTATIONS

Upper Nene Valley

This is a survey undertaken in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust. We are currently undertaking a project to understand how people use the Nene Valley for recreation, so we can understand the impact on the important wildlife habitats in the area.

As part of this an online survey has been developed. If you go out into the valley to walk, run, cycle, fish, birdwatch, row or indeed undertake any other activity it would help us for you to be involved in the survey. You should only complete the survey once and can do so at any time. The survey will be open until December 2022 and it should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=164399705185>



FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

Progress continues on £150 Energy Rebate

Work on distributing £150 Council Tax energy rebates across West Northamptonshire is making good progress. The rebate, which is being paid to help with the rise in the cost of living, applies to around 143,000 homes in Council Tax Bands A to D across the area and the sum will not need to be repaid.



The majority of those who pay their Council Tax by direct debit should have now received the rebate and this week West Northamptonshire Council is writing to the remaining 42,000 homes who do not pay by direct debit encouraging them to confirm their bank details so payment can be made. The letter will include a unique passcode enabling residents to apply online, plus a paper application for those residents unable to access the internet.

We are only too aware of the cost-of-living increases people are facing. And our Revenue and Benefits Service has worked tirelessly to put new processes in place to distribute payments as quickly as possible.

The Government stipulation is that councils need to make a payment rather than simply crediting Council Tax accounts, which has resulted in both significant additional work for our staff and the need for changes to our IT systems.

To ensure that all eligible residents receive the rebate, any residents that have not made an application, online or by post, by 31 July 2022 and for whom bank account details are not known will have their Council Tax account credited with the £150 payment. For further information visit our [Council Tax energy rebate](#) page. Advice and support for anyone struggling financially is available from [Citizens Advice](#).

REGULATORY SERVICES

Energy Rebate Scammers

Our Trading Standards Team is urging people to be on their guard against scam emails that claim to be from Ofgem, but are in fact fraudulent:

Scammers are sending emails appearing to be from Ofgem offering rebates and asking for bank details.

Ofgem have reported this malicious incident to the National Cyber Security Centre @NCSC who will investigate further.

Read more on how to avoid scams

<http://ow.ly/BR3g50JizGk>



ofgem

Trading Standards 'Operation June'



Our Trading Standards team is joining forces with others across the East Midlands to promote 'Operation June' which aims to raise awareness about the additional dangers associated with illegal cigarettes.

The campaign was launched following the death ten years ago of 71-year-old Lincolnshire resident June Buffham, who lost her life in a house fire caused by an illegal unsafe cigarette. In Northamptonshire, three people have died as a result of smoking related fires in the last four years. Any cigarette could cause a house fire, but genuine cigarettes are designed to extinguish if not actively smoked. Fake or smuggled cigarettes may

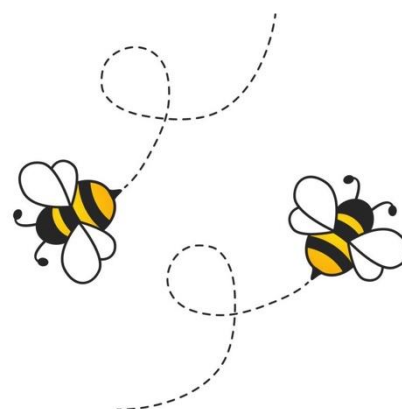
not. In a recent prosecution by our Trading Standards team, the owner of UK Monopol in Northampton was fined a total of £6,577 for selling counterfeit and smuggled cigarettes, some of which failed to comply with safety tests. During the campaign the Trading Standards team is encouraging people to report the sale of illegal cigarettes to them via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Pest Control Bees or Wasps

Our pest control officers are typically kept busy at this time of year dealing with unwanted wasps nests.

But things may not always be as they seem - what may look like wasps are often bees instead.

We do not offer treatments for bee swarms but instead urge people to contact the Northamptonshire Beekeepers'



Association, who offer a swarm retrieval service: <https://northantsbees.org.uk/swarm-retrieval>
You can also find a handy guide to spotting the difference between wasps and bees here: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/identification>

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-Dismissed
- 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

Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Modifications

Examination of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 continues as West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) prepares for a six-week public consultation on proposed modifications. The Local Plan Part 2 is a major planning policy document that will help guide planning decisions throughout Northampton up to 2029. Following public hearings in November 2021, the Government appointed Planning Inspectors have recommended some modifications, before the Plan can be adopted by WNC. A consultation on those modifications will start next month if the Planning Policy Committee on 28 June 2022 approves this next step.

Only comments on the modifications to the Local Plan Part 2 and the associated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessments can be considered. The modifications comprise:

- Main modifications – These are required to make the plan ‘sound’. They involve changes or insertions to policies and text that are essential to enable the plan to be adopted. Any comments on these will be considered by the Planning Inspectors.
- Additional Modifications – these are spelling, grammar, presentational changes and comments which will be considered by WNC. These do not affect the soundness of the plan.
- Changes to the maps – alterations including boundary changes and deallocations which will also be considered by WNC. These do not affect the soundness of the plan

The Local Plan Part 2 is a major piece of work which started in May 2016 and is now nearing its final stages. For more information on the examination process, visit - <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning-for-the-future/2553/northampton-local-plan-part-2-submission>.

A Part 2 Local Plan for the Daventry Area was adopted in February 2020, while the Part 2 Local Plan for the South Northants Area was adopted in July the same year.

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 Planning Policy Meeting on 24 May 2022 was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 June 2022.

HOUSING

Giving Parish & Town Councils more of a say on Housing

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has a new online event on giving local (parish and town) councils more of a say on housing, taking place on 27 July 2022.



According to research undertaken by the National Housing Federation and the homelessness charity Crisis, 340,000 new homes a year need to be built in England until 2031 to address the current housing backlog and future demand.

So, what are the options for building more homes? How much of a say can local people have regarding the type and design of new homes? And what role can local (parish and town) councils play in facilitating different types of new housing locally? You will hear about how local councils can get involved in different models of community house building and influence the design of new homes. The expert panel features Nic Bliss, Head of Policy at the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, Tom Chance, Chief Executive at the Community Land Trust Network and Charlie Fisher, Research Lead at Transition by Design.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../giving-local-councils...>

ENVIRONMENT

Report a Litter or a Street Cleansing Issue

It's an offence to drop litter in the street or in a public open space. Leaving litter on a public bench or wall and walking away is also an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

To report littering please contact us by phone or email:

- 01327 322093
- environmentalservices.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk

Fines for dropping litter

Enforcement Officers will issue a £75 fixed penalty notice to anyone caught disposing of their litter irresponsibly. Failure to pay the £75 penalty can lead to a court imposed fine of up to £2,500.

If you have accepted responsibility and been issued with a fixed penalty notice, you'll have 14 days to pay it. The penalty notice will be reduced to £50 if paid within seven days.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

RSN events

I shall be attending:

1. Rural Assembly meeting - 1pm, Wednesday, 22 June 2022 online via Zoom
2. Rural Affordable Housing - 11am, Wednesday, 29 June 2022 online via Zoom

I shall be attending the Rural Conference from 19-23 September 2022 online via Zoom.

- Rural Transport - 10am, 19/9/2022
- Rural Regeneration - 10am, 20/9/2022
- Rural Health, Care and Wellbeing - 10am, 21/9/2022
- RSN Event - 2pm, 21/9/2022
- Rural Housing - 10am, 22/9/2022
- Rural Net Zero - 10am, 23/9/2022

What are the top three Priorities for Rural Areas

A large proportion of the West Northamptonshire area is comprised of rural settlements, which account for approximately one third of the area's population. This is particularly the case in the districts of South Northamptonshire and Daventry where the percentage of people living in rural communities is as high as 75%.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy prepared by the WNJPU had the following top three priorities for the rural areas:

1. To meet communities' needs locally,
2. To protect and enhance the environmental heritage; and
3. To protect and enhance the built environment.

Are these still our top three priorities?

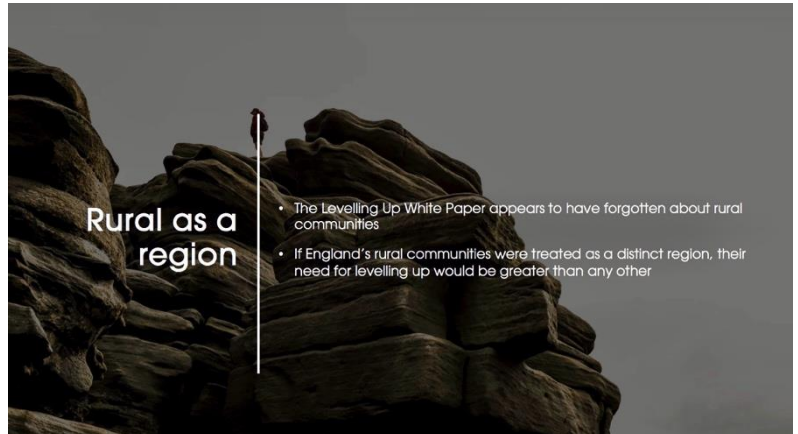
New Research says 12 million people are side-lined

If England's rural communities were a distinct region, their need for Levelling Up would be greater than that of any other part of the country, according to new research published 20 June 2022 that finds the Government's metrics do not properly account for the pressures facing our smaller towns and villages and as a result effectively side-line 12 million people. The report, *Rural as a region: the hidden challenge for Levelling Up*, finds that the Government's Levelling Up white paper metrics - used to identify the region's most in need of levelling up - are too urban-focused, and do not account for disadvantage in rural economies within regions, often linked to limited local employment prospects, poor transport networks and weak connectivity. It calls for the Government to rethink its choice of metrics and include more rural-relevant indicators such as work placed based incomes, fuel poverty levels, access to further education and house prices relative to local earnings. The research, authored by economists from Pragmatix Advisory, sets out that despite being home to a fifth of the population and with a larger total population than London or the South East, when evaluating all the headline metrics in the white paper against the other nine geographies, England's 'hidden region' has a greater need to be levelled up than any other part of the country.



The White Paper, published earlier this year, identified four high-level objectives and 12 missions to level up communities by 2030, setting out metrics to evaluate need and monitor progress. However, the report by Pragmatix Advisory for the Rural Services Network, which represents rural councils, warns that the metrics and measures are too focused on discrete regions, with limited reference to more spread-out rural communities. Metrics also do not account for key discrepancies such as frequency of public transport services to access key services, house price to local earnings ratio or percentage of premises with super-fast broadband. Pragmatix Advisory has set out a range of additional metrics that could be used to supplement those already in the white paper, which would better identify those areas most in need of levelling up at a local level and help Government achieve its levelling up objectives. These include:

- Proportion of households in fuel poverty
- Work place-based incomes
- House price relative to local earnings
- Ratio, and rates of seasonal employment
- Frequency of public transport services to access key services
- Distance to Further Education provider and the range of courses available
- Referral for treatment waiting times, rates of delayed discharge and levels of self-harm amongst younger people
- Percentage of premises with super-fast broadband



Rebecca Munro, consultant, Pragmatix Advisory, states:

“The Levelling Up agenda cannot include every metric, and the ones that have been outlined in the white paper are important to meeting government’s objectives, but without considering additional metrics, there is a risk that the needs of 12 million rural residents could be ignored.”

Graham Biggs, Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network, comments:

“Rural areas would be better represented as a part of the levelling up agenda by the inclusion of additional metrics which demonstrate some of the underlying causes of disadvantage. Without taking these into account, levelling up support may end up widening the gap between rural communities and their urban counterparts. The Government’s levelling up objectives will not be met if it further increases the gap between areas within the region.”

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/images/publications/rural-as-a-region-the-hidden-challenge-for-levelling-up.pdf>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

A Level 2 Heat Alert 16-18 June

A Level 2 Heat-Health alert came into force from midnight Thursday 16 June lasting until midnight on Saturday 18 June, even overnight temperatures were predicted to be unseasonably warm. High temperatures unfortunately come with health



consequences for some people so we're asking you please keep an eye on those most vulnerable, particularly those who are older or have lung or heart conditions. Look out for signs of Heat exhaustion and heatstroke - NHS (www.nhs.uk) and follow some common sense behaviours to make the most of what should be a glorious time for most.

Here are our top tips for staying safe in the heat:

3. Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated
4. Stay hydrated, take water with you if you are travelling or out and about
5. Stay out of the sun between 11am and 3pm as this is when UV rays are the strongest - avoid physical exertion at this time
6. If you have to go out in the heat stay in the shade, apply sunscreen and wear a wide brimmed hat
7. Close curtains in rooms that the sun faces - this will help rooms remain cooler - remember it could be cooler outdoors than indoors
8. Never leave anyone in a parked closed vehicle – especially not animals, children or babies
9. Avoid travelling at peak times on motorways, particularly if transporting children or the elderly

Sadly accidents, often fatal, happen in water at this time of year particularly involving youngsters. That's why we're asking parents to supervise their children in and around water. Although it can be fun to cool off in water structures such as bridges, locks and flood channels, and reservoirs should be avoided. Make sure you know the RNLI's Float to Live: <https://rnli.org/pages/water-safety/float...>

Unexpectedly cold water or strong currents can catch even experienced swimmers off guard. Better to swim safely at one of the county's organised events where support is provided Open water swimming - Northamptonshire Sport:

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan Discussion Paper

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan Discussion Paper was published (14th April) by the Department of Health and Social Care.

<https://www.gov.uk/.../quick-read-version-of-the-mental...>

The discussion paper seeks to consult the public on a range of topics to inform the development of a new mental health and wellbeing plan. In particular, it invites the views on how to:

- improve people's mental well-being (chapter 1)
- prevent people experiencing mental ill-health (chapter 2)
- help people get support at the earliest stage (chapter 3)
- improve treatment for mental ill-health (chapter 4)
- make sure people with a mental health condition live well (chapter 5)
- best support people in mental health crisis (chapter 6)



The paper is substantial in length and covers the government's progress to date, the research and evidence behind each of the six chapters, and a section on various groups that face disparities in mental health outcomes.

You can respond to any or all discussion topics via this online survey (the deadline for responses is 11:45pm on 5 July 2022).

Supporting Independence Programme

The Supporting Independence Programme is a free countywide service provided by Public Health Northamptonshire. The programme is tailored to prevent, support and manage the health and wellbeing needs of anyone eligible over the age of 18, who may be showing signs of reduced independence.

With up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support, a team of dedicated Wellbeing Advisors are committed to providing people with the knowledge and resources needed to make their wellbeing a priority. Examples of support include:

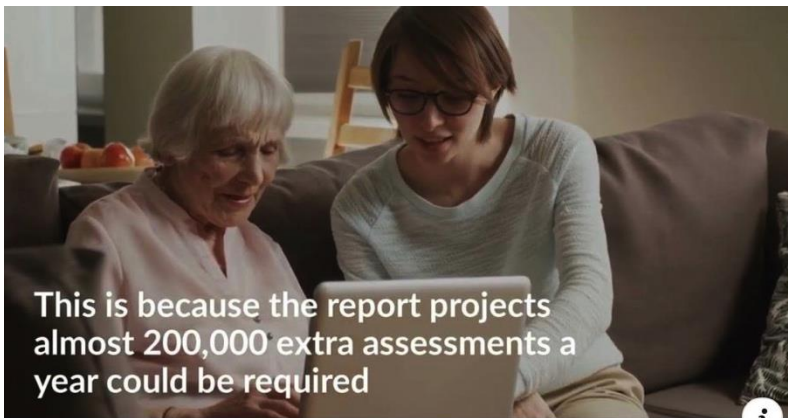


- Opportunities to meet with an Advisor to 'Walk and Talk' with the aim of becoming more active and increasing socialisation
- Support to access social opportunities within local communities, to reduce isolation
- Advice, information and support on managing the long-term effects of COVID-19
- Support with daily life, including housing support and money advice
- Support for low-level mental health and emotional difficulties, as well as lifestyle issues such as nutrition, smoking and alcohol use

More information, together with a referral form and short eligibility assessment, can be found via <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/.../supporting...>

Independent Analysis of Social Care Charging Reforms

The report, released today by the County Councils Network (CCN) and Newton, provides the first independent analysis of the government's flagship social care charging reforms. Key findings from the report include:



YOUTUBE.COM
New report: Preparing for adult social care reform

The cost of the care reforms for over 65s in England could cost a minimum of £25.5bn over the next decade from when they are introduced in October 2023. This compares to the government's estimate of £15.6bn. Newton's analysis suggests that more people will benefit from the means-test and cap on care, meaning the costs of these two elements of reform alone are £2.5bn higher than the government's estimate. There is significant regional variation in the costs of implementing

the reforms, with councils in county and rural areas disproportionately affected. CCN's member councils account for 57% (£14.4bn) of the total costs of the reforms - at a minimum estimate. Unless government changes the way it distributes adult social care funding between councils, county areas face a shortfall of £7.6bn when funding for these reforms is distributed.

An additional 4,300 extra social workers could be required to carry out extra care assessments, which determine the level of support individuals are eligible to receive. In addition, around 700 extra financial assessors will also be required to carry out financial assessments after the care assessment stage - if no changes to existing ways of working are made. Around 3,000 of these staff could be required in areas covered by CCN's member councils - 60% of all extra recruitment.

Commitment to Helping Domestic Abuse Victims

Services helping domestic abuse victims find safer accommodation across Northamptonshire will receive



extra funding of over £273,000 this year. Our Council, in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council, have set out plans to boost the funding provided to the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) and Eve Domestic Violence & Abuse support services. It means the two organisations will share in total just over £700,000 in 2022/23 to help them meet an increasing demand for services. It also ensures that grant funding to NDAS for their Specialist Drug and Alcohol Refuge continues.

The funding is distributed by the two councils, from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The move reaffirms our councils' commitment to supporting victims of domestic abuse and moving forward the actions of the countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2022-25. Find out more about the Strategy on our website.

Keep Safe Scheme

Have you heard about the Keep Safe Card scheme? The Keep Safe Card is for anyone in Northamptonshire with a learning disability, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or any other disability that could make them vulnerable when out and about.

The card is designed to make people more aware of their personal safety, to encourage the reporting of crimes (especially hate crime), and to encourage people to seek help if they need it. Find out more here: <http://ow.ly/3FLL50JyT5t>.



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

50 New Specialist Places at Hunsbury Park Primary School

The deadline for people to have their say on proposals for a new 50-place SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) unit at Hunsbury Park Primary School has been extended.

The school already successfully operates a smaller SEND unit, and its senior leadership contains significant experience of working within specialist settings. The greatest amount of current and future demand for SEND places in West Northants arises from Northampton, so the school is ideally placed, as well as being more easily accessible for residents in the South Northants area. If approved, it could see work take place

over the summer ready for the new intake of pupils in September.

A four-week consultation began in May, but has now been extended to 23 June, to allow more people to comment. After the



consultation, responses will be analysed and presented to the WNC Cabinet for a final decision in July.

WNC Publishes Specification for new SEND School



Proposals for a 250-place special needs school took a step forward this week after West Northants Council (WNC) published more details for academies who might bid to run it. The new school will be an ‘all-through SEND’ school, meaning it will cater for children of all ages with

special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Specifically, it will cater for pupils with autistic spectrum condition (ASC), speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and severe learning difficulties (SLD). The old St John’s site in Tiffield has emerged as a possible location for the school and it is hoped it will see its first intake in September 2024.



The plan for a new special school is just one of two phases within WNC’s SEND sufficiency strategy which will also see the establishment of 259 places within SEND units attached to mainstream schools and extensions to existing special schools located within West Northants. The publication of the Proposed New Designated Free Special School Specification follows the start of the ‘free school presumption’ process in May 2022 during which the council gained broad support for the new school from the special education sector in the region.

Young People Leaving Care

A new protocol for supporting young people leaving care is in place thanks to a partnership effort. It has been developed by our Housing and Communities team, together with North Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT), and is a great example of how our Council is bringing agencies together in order to improve services for our communities.



Under the new protocol, a new Care Leavers Transitions Accommodation Panel chaired by the service or strategic manager for the NCT Leaving Care service, meets monthly to consider cases. Its membership is varied, to ensure that all services and partners are

working together as the ‘corporate parent’ of young people leaving care.

The panel brings together representatives from a range of teams within our council - including housing, adult services and education – together with partners including the Youth Offending Service, health, and the police. Its objectives are to:

- Bring housing, health, social care, and all partners together to jointly plan early transitions with young people in care and preparing to leave care
- Support each other and the young person in making plans
- Improve the timeliness and breadth of accommodation, support & care planning

- Ensure Pathway Plans include support and accommodation services available from partners to meet all the assessed needs of the young person
- Create shared risk management plans for young people believed to be at risk of harm or exploitation.

Panels are held on the first Thursday of each month, with the first held in May.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Post Office Branch Temporary Closure, Little Houghton

Little Houghton Post Office, 52 Bedford Road, Little Houghton, Northampton, NN7 1AB

This is just to inform you that, following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing temporarily on Saturday 25 June 2022 at 13:00.

For further information please visit the Consultation Hub via the link below:

<https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/.../little-houghton.../>

WNC allocated £5.4m from UK Prosperity Fund

WNC has been allocated £5.4million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This is the largest amount to be given to a single council across the whole of the South East Midlands, and council colleagues have already begun work to explore how best to use it in order to maximise the benefit for our communities. The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda, and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It will provide £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025.

With very strict criteria for applications, the aim of the Fund is to empower local leaders and communities to increase people's pride in the places they love, creating a stronger social fabric and better life chances. An Investment Plan detailing how we intend to use the funding to target these priorities must be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by 1 August. Whilst this Fund has only just been announced, Council officers are proactively preparing our Investment Plan, and will be working with all the necessary stakeholders in order to understand the needs of the area and develop an effective plan.



Household Support Fund Proposal

At West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Cabinet Meeting on 14 June, councillors agreed how to best use the Household Support fund within the scope set out by government ministers. Previous funding has supported households with food, energy and water costs, and this extension will ensure that this support continues through to the end of September.



The £2,599,628 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be distributed by WNC and is earmarked to target the most vulnerable households and individuals in the area.

A third of the funding is ring-fenced to support families with children, while another third is firmly dedicated to pensioners.

This ensures the people who need it most will continue to receive vital support to meet essential household costs. WNC will work with more than 30 local voluntary and community groups and organisations to ensure the remaining third of the funding goes to those households in severe financial hardship and most need of help towards significantly rising living costs.

The money will be distributed, via various packages, to families and individuals in specific financial hardship over the course of the summer period.

Families who are eligible for free school meals are set to receive £20 per week food vouchers during the summer holiday and eligible households suffering severe financial hardship will get a £100 food voucher in a bid to offset the recent increases in food and fuel costs. Over 6,500 pensioners receiving Pension Credit will also receive £100, with an additional Pension Credit Top Up of £50 for pensioners with severe disabilities.

The second allocation of the government's Household Support Fund will be shared as follows: £20 per week food vouchers to go to 10,530 children, the intention being to cover the holiday period for children on school meals. School meal payments are expected to be made direct to parents via the schools a couple of weeks before the start of the holidays. £100 payment voucher for 6,500 residents who receive Pension Credit. Residents do not need to apply for this and will be advised by post during July using the Pension Credit system.

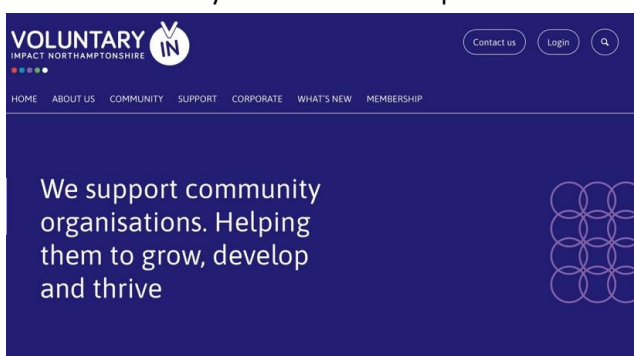
Pension Credit Top Up for pensioners with severe disabilities - £50 payment for each registered recipient of this benefit. There is also no need to apply for this and those eligible will be advised by post in July using the Pension Credit system.

The Council will partner up with over 30 local voluntary and community organisations to distribute approximately £865,000 of hardship payments to the most vulnerable households across West Northamptonshire this summer, as part of a wider approach to support communities with the cost of living crisis.

Work is currently taking place to shape arrangements with the community and voluntary sector, and residents are encouraged to look out for further information in the coming weeks.

Local Charities to apply to distribute Food Vouchers

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is working with West Northamptonshire Council to help coordinate the distribution of up to 8,500 food vouchers (value of £100) to financially vulnerable residents across the locality of West Northamptonshire between July and September 2022 through local community



groups and charities working with residents most in need. This is part of a second phase of the Household Support Fund; £421 million has been made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with significantly rising living costs. You can read more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/.../household-support-fund-guidance...>

Whilst there are short timescales of delivery for this aspect of work, this is a real opportunity to boost the support being provided to residents in real financial hardship.

In the first instance local community groups and charities need to complete an expression of interest form by 5pm on Friday 24 June. NCF will then be able to build a network of distribution partners who will be announced by Thursday 30 June. They expect to identify in the region of 30 partners.

If you are interested in taking part to support this crisis response aspect of HSF pertaining to the immediate distribution of food vouchers, please complete the form and return to rachel@ncf.uk.com by Friday 24 June at 5pm. <https://voluntaryimpact.org.uk>

Anglian Water Extra Care Support

Anglian Water offers a range of practical support for residents experiencing difficulty with their bills, and we are being encouraged to share information about the help that is available.

The range of financial assistance available includes discounted tariffs, assistance schemes for those who have fallen behind on payments, as well as flexible and affordable payment plans.

They also offer a Priority Services Register, providing additional support to a wide range of people, from those with slight, hearing, or mobility difficulties, to parents with the babies under 12 months old

More information about the help available can be found on Anglian Water's Extra Care support page.

We're here if you need help love every drop anglianwater

We have lots of ways to help you and your loved ones.

If you're finding it difficult to pay, we offer:

- Discounted tariffs
- Assistance schemes
- Affordable payment plans

Our **Priority Services Register** can help lots of different people with free practical support, such as:

- Letting you know about upcoming work in your area and help if your water goes off
- Helping protect you against bogus callers, which includes setting a password for your account
- Sending bills in different formats and communicating with you in your preferred language

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- anglianwater.co.uk/watercare
- 0800 011 3774
- BSL anglianwater.co.uk/bsl

Scan here

Deadline looms for Kick Start Programme

Time is running out for entrepreneurs in Northamptonshire

Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire

KICK START YOUR BUSINESS

LIBRARY PLUS

to apply for grants and free expert advice as part of the Kick Start Small Business Grants initiative After a Dragon's Den style grant panel session in September for shortlisted applicants, winners will receive: a £2,000 grant for business expenses, a year's free membership with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), and ongoing support from the BIPC Northamptonshire team.

The deadline for applications is Friday 15

July, so please help encourage fledgling businesses to come forward.

The Kick Start initiative is supported by BIPC Northamptonshire, which is part of the British Library's National Network of Business & IP Centres which supports small businesses by hosting free events, such as networking, workshops, seminars and webinars. The Network recently expanded to over 100 regional and local libraries across England, thanks to £13million in central government funding.

The Library Plus service also provides information and access to database subscription resources for market research, as well as business mentoring and one-to-one advice sessions on self-employment, starting up a business, business planning, and intellectual property.

Further details on how to apply, including eligibility criteria, are available on the BIPC Northamptonshire website at: www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/kickstart.

Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund

A new £3 million fund to upgrade and renovate England's village halls has been announced by the Government to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Over a three-year period, the Platinum Jubilee Village



Hall Improvement Grant Fund will provide money for projects such as installing Wi-Fi, extending buildings and modernising facilities. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) said village halls are at the heart of rural life, hosting fitness classes, community groups and post office services, and the grant will allow them to attract more people by creating more contemporary spaces. A total of 125 village halls will receive money from the fund, which Defra said will be a "lasting legacy" from the Jubilee for rural communities. Rural affairs minister Lord Benyon said: "Village halls are the centrepiece of rural life and funding their renovation to mark the Jubilee is a fitting tribute to The Queen's Service.

"In a changing world, they are important facilities for community groups, social clubs and local services. "This funding will ensure they are central to the fabric of our villages for many more years to come." Defra said the grant will build on the success of schemes to commemorate both Queen Victoria and King George and "demonstrate that almost 200 years on, we continue to build on the legacy of the monarchy, both past and present".

Margaret Clark, chairwoman of the Rural Coalition, said: "Village halls support important services and facilities and offer places to meet which would not otherwise be available to many rural communities. "In doing so, they have a crucial role to play in helping levelling up in rural areas."

David Emerson, chairman of Action with Communities in Rural England said village halls have been at the heart of rural communities for over a century, adding: "These unique volunteer run halls do so much to support the well-being of local residents, as well as helping to sustain the many livelihoods which depend on use of these important buildings." He said the announcement "is especially appropriate in the week that thousands of halls across the country are hosting local celebrations of the Royal Jubilee".

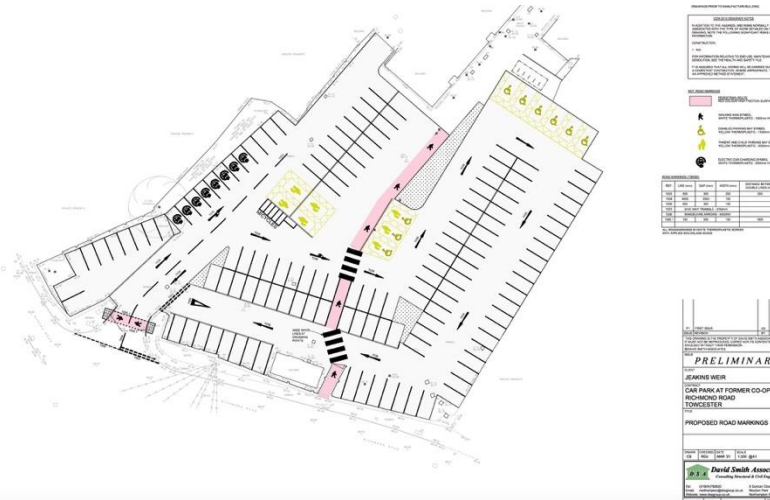
Details on how the funding will be administered will be announced later.

A further 80 Car parking spaces in Towcester



A derelict supermarket will be demolished in a £785,000 project which will see 80 new parking spaces created to serve Towcester town centre. The supermarket in the Sponne Arcade, which included 70 parking spaces, has stood empty since September 2018 and fell into disrepair before being bought by South Northamptonshire Council in July 2020.

On Tuesday our Cabinet gave the go ahead for the demolition of the supermarket and the creation of a further 80 short stay parking spaces. The new car park will increase accessibility to shops and services and will help future-proof the town centre for the growing population. In addition to the demolition, and expansion of the car park, the project will see the reconfiguration of the existing parking spaces to conform with modern standards.



The number of disabled and family parking spaces will be increased as part of the project, which also includes the provision to expand upon the existing electric charging points installed in 2021. Additional lighting, CCTV, landscaping, and work to walkways will also make the car park safer and more accessible. The work is expected to last for six-months during which time the car park will be closed for public use. We will continue to work with nearby businesses and residents to keep them fully informed of the project. Once

complete the short stay parking spaces will align with short stay restrictions elsewhere in the town: three hours free parking between 8am and 6pm, no return within three hours.

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

What to expect from new highways service from September



Cleaning road signs, removing vegetation, replacing worn road markings and providing better updates and information are among the improvement plans for the first few months of our new highways service when it launches this autumn. Under the new contract with Kier, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will deliver a brand new service with priorities and requirements specifically tailored to West Northamptonshire and a fresh flexibility to meet the changing priorities of the council and needs of its community.

Read more at <http://ow.ly/L1ia50JvS6H>

Highways Maintenance Contract

On 1 June 2022, West Northamptonshire Council announced Kier as its preferred contractor to deliver a new highways service with increased investment this autumn. The announcement was the outcome of an 18-month competitive process to award a new maintenance contract as part of the £30m-a-year service, which includes maintaining local roads, footpaths, signage and drainage, repairing potholes and winter gritting.



The current highways maintenance contract, currently delivered Northamptonshire-wide by Kier and WSP under arrangements inherited from the previous county council, was procured over a decade ago and since the formation of WNC has lacked the flexibility required to meet the changing priorities of the council and its community. WNC's new contract will deliver a brand new highways service with fresh priorities and requirements specifically tailored towards the needs of West Northamptonshire residents. Under the new contract with Kier the Council is increasing investment to the service by more than £1million per year, and

will also have greater control, increasing its own resource to manage and monitor performance, which will include clear, strong goals for improving customer focus and providing value for money.

The new contractor has also set its commitment to working with the Council on its sustainability goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, as well as increasing social value to the service to benefit the wider West Northants community and economy, such as supporting local disadvantaged groups and working with local sub-contractors.

As the outcome of the process also saw North Northamptonshire Council appoint Kier as their preferred supplier, having the same contractor working on two separate neighbouring highways services will lead to some cost advantages for the two authorities, such as the ability to share some administrative functions and contract management roles. The new contract will run for seven years, with the potential to extend to a maximum of 14 years based on performance and quality of the service.

Billing Causeway Bridge Repairs

Highways have just advised me that the 3472 Billing Causeway No 5 repairs are programmed to start on the 27th June.

Northamptonshire Highways Highway works on Billing Causeway Please look out for advance warning signs and diversion route

- Start date: Monday 27 June
- Completion: Wednesday 3 August (Weather dependent)
- Scheme type: Rebuilding damaged area of bridge parapet
- Traffic management – Full road closure
- Hours of work – 24hr

What we are doing/the benefits - Northamptonshire Highways will soon undertake crucial repair works on Billing Causeway Bridge. These works will include the reconstruction of the damaged parapet and other associated works. These works will improve the structural stability of the bridge and improve the safety for road users. The bridge will be reinstated as per the original design and all blocks and barriers will be removed at the completion of the works.

Traffic Management

When programming works, we consider the impact on all network users and plan our works to minimise disruption as much as possible. Highlighted in RED on the plan above indicates the closure and in BLUE the diversion route. During the road closure please use the fully signed diversion route. Please also refer to one.network and the news section on the website – kierwsp.co.uk.



Information for residents

Access: We are maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists ONLY. Vehicles will be asked to use the official diversion, as there will be no through route. We advise you to allow more time for your journeys.

Businesses/Residents: We advise you to use the signposted diversion route to plan your journey accordingly to your business or home. All businesses in the area will remain open and be accessible from the A45 (Cross Lane junction).

Pedestrians: Access will be maintained for pedestrians, however delays are likely.
Delivering high quality, sustainable transport and highway services in Northamptonshire



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

Northamptonshire Highways will soon undertake crucial repair works on Billing Causeway Bridge. These works will include the reconstruction of the damaged parapet and other associated works. These works will improve the structural stability of the bridge and improve the safety for

road users. The bridge will be reinstated as per the original design and all blocks and barriers will be removed at the completion of the works. Attached is our fact sheet.

Please feel free to share this information and we will be promoting on Twitter @nnhighways and at kierwsp.co.uk/news.

POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Preferred candidate announced as Chief Fire Officer

Mark Jones is currently Chief Fire Officer of the South Australian Country Fire Service. His appointment is now subject to confirmation by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel, which will take place in the next few weeks. The announcement of Mark Jones as preferred candidate follows a



challenging selection process. The candidates took part in two days of activities, where they presented to, and took questions from, senior members of partner organisations, before participating in a 'question time' event with firefighters and staff. The candidates then faced a formal interview panel, from which Stephen Mold has identified his preferred candidate.

Stephen said: "I am delighted to announce that following this testing process, Mark Jones was unanimously the preferred candidate to take over the role of Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. Mark is an experienced and accomplished Chief Fire Officer and is an ideal choice to take our service forward.

"Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has made great progress since 2019, improving its performance and the way it keeps the people of Northamptonshire safe beyond all recognition. I have no doubt that Mark Jones is the right person to take NFRS forward into the next stage of its development, creating a positive, welcoming culture, embracing change, and taking the undoubted skills of the firefighters and staff to build on the already significant work they do in the broader community safety arena."

"The Police and Crime Panel will now consider whether or not to approve my preferred candidate and I look forward to taking my recommendation to them."

Mark Jones said: "Like all UK emergency services, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is in a period of evolutionary change and it is an exciting prospect to be part of a team that will continue to deliver top-quality safety services to the people of Northamptonshire.

"The Fire Service has achieved much with tight resources over many years and that is testament to the professionalism of the men and women who dedicate themselves to their roles. My current service is fantastic and I know that the people I have met from NFRS show the same commitment, passion and dedication to public safety and public service.

"I would like to thank the Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold and the members of the selection process for giving me the opportunity to lead Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and I would be honoured to serve the people of Northamptonshire," Mark added.

If Mark Jones is confirmed as the next Chief Fire Officer, he will take over the reins when Darren Dovey retires from the post in October this year.

About Mark Jones

Mark joined Grampian Fire Brigade in 1985 and after working in various roles was appointed as Deputy Chief Fire Officer in Essex in 2005, and then became Chief Fire Officer of Buckinghamshire in 2010.

After leaving Buckinghamshire in 2015, Mark moved to Australia and served as the ACT Emergency Services Agency's "Director of Strategic Reform" for two years. He served as the London Ambulance Service's Head of Resilience and Specialist Assets in 2019 before returning to Australia, taking on the role of Chief Officer of the South Australian Country Fire Service. Among his achievements he commanded the largest ever series of bushfires in South Australia's history. Mark has worked in a wide range of senior operational and strategic leadership roles. He has managed large scale emergencies, events and terror related incidents, and his career has spanned roles in emergency planning and disaster management, operational Fire Command, Fire Safety and Training. Mark has shown a particular professional interest in the fields of fairness, equality, and diversity, and these were his key responsibilities as he served as an Inspector in Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate for Scotland in the early 2000s. He also worked on the 'Women in Emergency Services' project in Canberra, which saw a significant increase in the recruitment of women into the ACT's Fire and Rescue Service.

First Human Trafficking charges secured by Northamptonshire Police

Four people, all from the same family, have been sentenced following an investigation into the trafficking of women from Europe into the UK, for the purposes of prostitution. Operation Eton, which was led by the Force's Serious & Organised Crime Team, saw the first modern slavery and human trafficking charges

secured by Northamptonshire Police and involved an organised crime gang making more than £20,000 per month from women they had trafficked into the country.



Jamie Dunn, 42, previously of Irons Road, Lower Harlestone, his father, Martin Dunn, 74, of Compton Street, Northampton, Jamie's partner - Catalina Cojocaru, 37, of Irons Road, Lower Harlestone, and her brother Andrei Cojocaru, 26, of Wellingborough Road, Northampton, were all sentenced this week (June 14) at Northampton Crown Court for their roles in the organised operation, after pleading guilty at an earlier court hearing.

Between November 2015 and January 2017, the group arranged for women to travel from Europe, mostly Romania, to engage in off-street prostitution, firstly in Northampton and then as the business grew, in Nottingham, Birmingham, and other Midlands' locations.

In December 2015, Jamie Dunn placed online adverts on a sex worker website relating to up to 13 women working for the group in order to attract clients. He was also responsible for sourcing the properties that would go on to be used as brothels. Catalina Cojocaru's role was pivotal in the sourcing of women from Europe to travel to the UK as sex workers, and she was the one who would do the day-to-day running of the operations. Police recovered lists and text messages that showed that Catalina acted as the sex workers' 'boss', having daily contact with them and keeping records of the daily takings. Evidence showed that this amount was up to £1,640 per day of which the gang would take 50 per cent from each woman. As the investigation progressed, Andrei Cojocaru was found in possession of 12 mobile phones, seven of which had the names of the sex workers written on the back so that he knew which booking was for which woman. He would engage with clients who thought they were communicating with the advertised women and would then direct the clients to the property.

His role also included topping up mobile phones and collecting the trafficked women from airports. Martin Dunn was the source of the initial finance outlay, having recently come into a large sum of money following a house sale. He also paid for airline tickets for a number of women coming into the UK and would help to collect them from airports. He also financed hotels and serviced apartments used by the sex workers. Following the investigation, Jamie Dunn was charged with two counts of conspiring to arrange or facilitate the travel of another person to the UK with a view to them being exploited, conspiring to control prostitution for gain, and for acquiring criminal property. He was sentenced to a total of four years and nine months in prison. Catalina Cojocaru was charged with two counts of conspiring to arrange or facilitate the travel of another person to the UK with a view to them being exploited and conspiring to control prostitution for gain and she was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. Andrei Cojocaru was handed one year in prison, suspended for 14 months plus 150 hours of unpaid work, for the offence of conspiring to control prostitution for gain, and Martin Dunn was given a 12-month community order and 100 hours unpaid work for the offence of acquiring criminal property.

Senior Investigating Officer – Detective Inspector Carrie Powers, said: "This was a very complex and lengthy investigation but I am really pleased that through it, we managed to secure the Force's first charges under modern day slavery legislation and to get guilty results for all four offenders. "This organised crime gang exploited vulnerable women with the false promise of a better life in the UK. Instead, they forced them to have sex with a large number of men with no regard for their rights or welfare. "These women worked long hours, only to have a large proportion of their earnings taken by the gang which would then be used to fund luxury lifestyles. "Investigating these sort of cases may be complex but Northamptonshire Police is absolutely committed to tackling modern slavery and bringing the people who exploit vulnerable members of our community to justice."

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation. Victims of modern slavery can be any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. They are tricked or threatened into work and may feel unable to leave or report the crime through fear or intimidation. They may not recognise themselves as a victim. To report a suspicion of modern slavery or to seek advice, you can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline confidentially on 08000 121 700. This is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

You can report modern slavery online or call us on 101 at any time to report an incident. Should you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

For more information, please visit: Modern slavery | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)

(Photos of Jamie Dunn and Catalina Cojocar)

Police Appeal-Matters of Priority

Officers are appealing for witnesses after reports of an incident of indecent exposure in The Spinney, Grange Park in Northampton. The incident took place between midday and 2pm on Wednesday, June 8, when a man, who appeared to be intoxicated, approached two women in their 80s as they sheltered from the rain. The man was verbally offensive to the women before he walked off, only to return and indecently expose himself to the women. The suspect is described as white, about 5ft 9in, with a spotty complexion and red/ginger coloured hair. He was wearing a black hooded top with a Puma logo, black jogging bottoms and black coloured trainers. Anyone with information is asked to call Northamptonshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Incident number: 22000329454



CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Northants Libraries- Library Plus

Are you making the most of your library membership? Library Plus subscribes to lots of services so you don't have to. Reading one magazine a week on Press Reader, instead of buying it, could save you at least £115.96 per year.

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 \(vcn.org.uk\)](http://About Us (vcn.org.uk)) or [Veteran Community Network \(VCN\) Beds, MK, Northants](http://Veteran Community Network (VCN) Beds, MK, Northants) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/vcn.org.uk)

- Corby- West Glebe Pavilion, Cottingham Road, Corby NN17 1SZ Tuesday 21 June 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday 19 July 1pm to 3pm
- Kettering- Kettering Room, Corn Market Hall, 42 London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA Thursday 7 July 1pm to 3pm
- Northampton- Tomkins Centre/ Café, St Andrews Hospital, Northampton NN1 5DG, Monday 4 July 1pm to 3pm

An infographic titled 'HOW MUCH MONEY DOES USING LibraryPlus SAVE ME?'. It features a central image of a woman and children reading. Below this are four colored boxes with icons and text: 'RHYMETIME SESSIONS' (purple), 'CHILDREN'S BOOKS' (green), 'MAGAZINES' (orange), and 'PLAY SESSIONS' (blue). At the bottom, a large black box contains the text '£1493.96 per year'.

Heritage Open Days

Venues across West Northamptonshire will open their doors for free during the Heritage Open Days event this September.

Several sites have come forward so far, including Brackley Town Hall, the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne, Canons Ashby House, Daventry Museum, Towcester Mill Brewery, Sikh Gurdwara in Northampton and the Charles Rennie Mackintosh House at 78 Dergate. Venues have until 17 June to register, so that they can feature in our website and social media



promotions in the lead up to the event. We would like to encourage venues right across West Northamptonshire to get involved, so please urge sites in your Town and Parish areas to come forward.

Find out more information about Heritage Open Days:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cultu.../heritage-open-days>

Progress on the new Northampton Bike Park

Contractor On Track has made great progress on the new Northampton Bike Park as we reach the halfway point of the build. The £725k project will deliver a range of facilities for all ranges of ability, from a skills area usable by children on balance bikes, right up to the most demanding trails for experts in the sport, all of them free to use. Mountain bike enthusiast and amateur competitor, Tony Skirrow, has been part of the project from the outset and he's very excited by the plans.



"I was really pleased when it was announced that we had the funding for a bike park and while I had an idea of what was needed, this is beyond my wildest dreams," he said.

"This will allow people of all ages and abilities to take part in the sport and as well as being a fantastic facility for the people who live here, it will be a major draw for the area.

"Mountain bikers currently have to travel around an hour and a half to reach the closest facility but soon they'll have one of the best of its type in the country right on their doorstep." Completion is expected during August and, once complete, the new facility will comprise:

- A multi-user green trail – an easy, dual-direction cycle route across the site, connecting Houghton Hill to the underpass for the A45
- Blue (moderate), red (difficult) and black (severe) off-road mountain bike trails for different abilities - dual tracks will allow head-to-head riding
- Five gathering spots where riders can meet to discuss the next section of track, and coaching can be provided
- A mountain bike skills area

The total budget is made up of £250,000 from Sport England, on behalf of the Places to Ride programme – a partnership between British Cycling, Sport England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) – with the rest from the council.

2022 Queen's Baton Relay in Northampton on Sunday 10 July

Join us on Sunday, 10 July to celebrate the arrival of the Queen's Baton Relay and give its Baton bearers an



incredible welcome. People wanting to cheer the Baton bearers as the Relay makes its way across the town during its final journey through England this summer now have the first glimpse of the route it will take. The Relay will begin at Marefair outside Sol Central at 8am, before travelling up Gold Street and on to George Row, then into St Giles Square before a photo shoot outside the Guildhall.

The Baton will then travel down Guildhall Road, St Johns Street, Swan Street, across Victoria Promenade and on to Becketts Park, across the new pedestrian bridge and into the University of Northampton campus, ending at University Drive at approximately 8:30am. The West

Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Active Lives Team are working alongside local partners to coordinate a celebration event following the baton relay to embrace the arrival of the Baton and experience the buzz of Birmingham 2022 in the community. The event will be a collaboration of local partners and community groups, which in turn will raise awareness of local services and activities for communities to access.

Members of the public, schools and families are invited to get involved and join the celebration event which will take place at University Drive from 8am - midday. Some of the partners in attendance on the day include Public Health, Northampton Saints, Trilogy Leisure, Northampton Rowing Club, Peak Empower, Northamptonshire County Cricket Club and others. There will also be a range of activities planned for the day. The Queen's Baton Relay is set to travel the length and breadth of England for a total of 29 days, before culminating at the Opening Ceremony for Birmingham 2022 on July 28. The relay in England was kicked off on Thursday, 2 June when the Baton spent four days in London, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. The Baton then resumed its international journey across the Commonwealth, which began in Cyprus in October of last year, and returns to England on Monday, July 4 to start a 25-day tour of the regions. Thousands of Baton bearers, each with inspiring backgrounds and stories, will have the honour of carrying the Baton during the journey through England. Baton bearers were nominated in recognition of their contributions to their local community and being an inspiration to others.

CarKraft event 23 July 2022

There are still spots for Qualified Drivers at the next CarKraft event on Sat 23 July. Participants will learn invaluable, potentially life saving new skills and it's FREE to attend.

Visit carkraft.info/events to book a place.