

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JANUARY 2023



**E-Newsletter Issue 1/2023**  
At  
**Cogenhoe Community Christmas Lunch**  
**Cogenhoe Village Hall, Cogenhoe**  
**Monday, 19 December 2022**

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## NEWS REPORT JANUARY 2023

### Monthly Highlights

WNC welcomed the Government's announcement of additional funding to continue support for people fleeing the war in Ukraine. On 19 December 2022 the Government announced it was increasing 'thank you' payments to £500 per month for those hosting Ukrainians beyond 12 months and has committed to fund this until the second anniversary of their arrival. It has also earmarked £150m in this financial year to help tackle homelessness and is providing £500m for purchase of housing stock to accommodate Ukrainian and Afghan nationals fleeing conflict. As a consequence, the amount provided to the council for support services is being reduced from £10,500 to £5,900 per person entering the UK from the start of 2023. Further hosts for Ukrainian families are always welcome and anyone with space in their home or additional empty property can express an interest on the website.

The planned Stagecoach 41 Bus Service multi partner meeting has yet to be rescheduled as Milton Keynes Council were unavailable. I will provide you with an update as soon as I hear any more. A Community transport provider is considering taking over part of the route between Bedford and Northampton. They propose a route which includes Lavendon, Olney (High Street, Weston Road, Aspreys), Yardley Hastings, Denton and Brayfield on the Green. At this point they are looking to divert from the A421 and operate past Billing Aquadrome, Weston Favell (off peak only, most likely), Northampton College, town Centre, possibly terminating at the railway station.

I am pleased to advise you that the CCTV team visited Blacksmiths Way, Hartwell and surrounding area on Tuesday 20th December 2022. Whilst I am happy to advise that WNC were able to unblock a number of gullies, the engineers also discovered a number of broken connections from gullies on Ashton Road to the main drain. I have been advised that WNC will be arranging repairs to these connections as a priority. WNC went from Amberley Road to Blacksmiths Way and unblocked this drainage system, which incidentally included dog excrement bags. On Ashton Road they got as far as The Oak Leaf Group where there appears to be a further blockage and it may appear that this could be the problem that is backing up the drainage system up into the village. Unfortunately, as it was full of water and WNC couldn't investigate further, WNC will do so in the New Year. WNC still has further investigatory works in the village of Hartwell early in the New Year and I will, of course, keep you up to date as things progress. In an emergency residents have been advised to call 0300 126 7000 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday call and outside of these hours to call 01604 651074.

There have been 1,094 consultation responses on the application for a non-material change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange and they were published on 17 November 2022. We are still awaiting the outcome of the consultation.

I have attended several community events this month, which has given me lots of opportunities to catch up with so many of you. Please read about them all in my Monthly Report.

At a meeting held on 20th December 2022, West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet approved for consultation its draft budget for 2023-24 and we are now seeking views on these proposals. We would like to hear the views of residents, the community and all other stakeholders on the Council draft budget. This consultation runs from Wednesday 21 December 2022 until midnight, Tuesday 31 January 2023.

West Northants Council manages over 190 parks and open spaces, the majority being situated within Northampton Town. There is a feedback survey for 22 of these parks. Parks and open spaces provide vital

opportunities for recreation, contributing to the physical and mental health of the people of West Northamptonshire as well as being important for habitats, supporting local wildlife and biodiversity. We would like to hear about the park you visit the most. The information you provide will help us to improve our parks and open spaces and to prioritise work plans. The survey should only take 5 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. The Consultation runs until 31 March 2023.

A fly-tipping charter has been launched setting out how West Northamptonshire Council will work to tackle environmental crime. It includes a detailed plan of action, demonstrating the steps that are being taken to tackle the issue, including targeted patrols, the use of CCTV, and working with residents, businesses, and town and parish councils to avoid fly-tipping and gather intelligence to prosecute. It also sets out how the Council will communicate with businesses, landlords and householders to ensure they are clear on their responsibilities towards managing their waste responsibly. The new Fly-Tipping Charter complements the existing Litter Charter, which was launched last summer to ensure the Council takes a coordinated approach to tackling litter across West Northants. Find out more on the WNC website.

WNC has a new Cost-of-Living Online Support Hub. This together with our customer services team is there to help our residents access information and advice about the rising cost of living and find the support that is available to them. Please access advice and information, including a directory of warm spaces, on our Cost-of-Living Online Support Hub. All of the various links are in my Monthly Report. For those who can't access the Internet then please call WNC's customer services team and speak to somebody directly about the support available between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please call us on 0300 126 7000.

WNC is in the process of arranging a meeting with representatives for professional dog walkers to discuss the options going forward to support these groups. Until these talks have taken place, the Council will not be taking enforcement action where more than four dogs are being walked in public open spaces, as long as dog walkers adhere to the other requirements of the Public Space Protection Orders.

We are reminding residents to use our network of warm spaces if they need to over the Winter period. WNC has worked with partners to establish a network of over 70 Warm Spaces, where people can enjoy a warm, safe, welcoming space in which to stay cosy, meet others, and perhaps enjoy a hot meal or a cup of tea and a biscuit. The centres are open to everyone and include libraries, community centres, community hubs and other places. Some venues will also offer hot drinks, activities, and other services such as free Wi-Fi. The Council can award a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant to support the creation and / or development of Warm Welcoming Spaces across West Northants to support residents struggling with fuel costs. These awards can be made to parish and town councils, community and voluntary organisations, registered charities and to other qualifying bodies. The funding round will be open to all applications seeking a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant (WWSG) from the value of £500 up to £1500. More information is available on our warm spaces webpage.

The Government's consultation document on proposed reforms to national planning policy and indicative mark-up of the NPPF arrived on 22 December 2022. Government has begun the consultation process for key elements of the planning system. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy is due to close on March 03 2023 and is now open for submissions.

It includes proposals on immediate changes to planning policy, offers proposals for how the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill should be implemented and references potential longer-term changes to national planning policy. The consultation document lists 58 questions and it's 32 pages long and it closes 3 March 2023. This new document includes the actual proposed wording of the revised NPPF itself.

A service which sees carers across Northamptonshire share their lives and homes to support others has been rated 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Shared Lives Service, which is managed by our Council, has achieved the highest rating following its first inspection this autumn which found that "people received exceptional care and support from dedicated carers who considered them to be part of their family and vice versa."

Northamptonshire Carers Virtual Dementia Patient and Carer Event takes place on 12 January 2023  
Please be reminded of this on-line meeting for people with dementia or Carers supporting people with dementia, registration details in the poster in my Monthly Report.

Parents and carers can still apply for a reception place in a primary or infant school or a year 3 place in a junior school. They can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years of age on or before 31 August 2023. The closing date for applications for places in reception and year 3 (junior school) is 15 January 2023 at midnight.

Parents, families and school workers are being invited to help shape a new strategy for improving outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Northants. WNC plans to co-produce a new three-year joint strategy to address the current shortfall of specialist school places in the area and plan resources more effectively to better meet the needs of SEND children and their families. To help shape the new strategy, children, parents, school-based staff, health and care professionals and other interested organisations will be involved in the development of a new Co-production Charter.

Check out the term dates and holiday dates for 2023 in my Monthly Report.

The bus operators who have confirmed they are participating in the £2 single fare scheme across West Northamptonshire so far are:

- Arriva the Shires
- Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council Village Hopper
- Stagecoach East
- Stagecoach Midlands
- Stagecoach West
- Uno Bus

WNC has appointed specialist consultants, SCP, to carry out a review of the way that bus services are currently provided across West Northamptonshire. As part of this process, SCP will bring forward alternative models that would serve our communities better. In doing this work SCP will be contacting a number of key stakeholder groups, including bus operators and parish councils. It is anticipated that SCP will present their findings and report to WNC in January 2023. This report will inform our West Northants Transport Strategy that will be developed over the coming period in full consultation with Members and residents. The project team will be engaging with stakeholders to discuss the current situation and potential solutions.

People across West Northamptonshire are being urged to plant trees in memory of Her Late Majesty, the Queen II, 1926 – 2022. Following the wishes of His Majesty The King, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to enable people across the country the opportunity to plant trees in memory and to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II.

A Big Thank you for all your kind wishes over the Christmas period. Across Hackleton and Grange Park many individuals made this Christmas a memorable one for me and other residents. I saw through the various community events that there are many kind and generous people around. Thank you for all the good that you do for your community now and in the future. Also, thank you for your continued friendship and support. I look forward to supporting you in 2023.

*Have a Happy and Healthy New Year 2023.*

*All the Best, Steve*

## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

### Update on Highways A428, Denton and Billing Road, Brafield



I am still chasing progress on the reduction in the speed limit on the A428. When I last spoke to Highways, I was advised that the WNC Road Safety Manager was currently on annual leave so I could not get an update on the rollout to the change to the speed limit. As, I haven't heard anything from them since, I have requested a copy of the plan so that I can better understand the details of the implementation in order to access progress with this very important project.

### Stagecoach 41 Bus Service

The planned multi partner meeting, which was due to take place following the meeting with Stagecoach has yet to be rescheduled as Milton Keynes Council were unavailable. I will provide you with an update as soon as I hear any more.

In the meantime various other enquiries are taking place including:

- A Community transport provider is considering taking over part of the route between Bedford and Northampton. They propose a route which includes Lavendon, Olney (High Street, Weston Road, Aspreys), Yardley Hastings, Denton and Brayfield on the Green. At this point they are looking to divert from the A421 and operate past Billing Aquadrome, Weston Favell (off peak only, most likely), Northampton College, town Centre, possibly terminating at the railway station.
- The Cogenhoe Village Hopper may be looking at the possibility of adding a shoppers' service to and from Denton. I have no other information about this presently.

### Hartwell Flooding and Blocked Drains

I am pleased to advise you that the CCTV team visited Blacksmiths Way and surrounding area on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Whilst I am happy to advise that WNC were able to unblock a number of gullies, the engineers also discovered a number of broken connections from gullies on Ashton Road to the main drain. I have been advised that WNC will be arranging repairs to these connections as a priority.

WNC went from Amberley Road to Blacksmiths Way and unblocked this drainage system, which incidentally included dog excrement bags. On Ashton Road they got as far as The Oak Leaf Group where there appears to be a further blockage and it may appear that this could be the problem that is backing up the drainage system up into the village. Unfortunately, as it was full of water and WNC couldn't investigate further, WNC will do so in the New Year. WNC still has further investigatory works in the village of Hartwell early in the New Year and I will, of course, keep you up to date as things progress.

**In an emergency residents have been advised to call 0300 126 7000 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday and outside of these hours to call 01604 651074.**



### **Proposed changes to Northampton Rail Freight Order**

On 11th August 2022, SEGRO issued a letter regarding the Northampton Gateway development. The letter serves as a notification of the consultation period for the proposed changes to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Order, which may allow the developers to begin using the warehousing units ahead of the completion of the rail/freight interchange. This is a significant change to their original order.

Rt Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP has issued a copy of her response to the non-material change to Northampton Gateway, Rail freight Interchange project consultation. It can be found on her website.



On 26 September 2022, West Northamptonshire Council wrote to the Planning Inspector about the Consultation to the Development Order Ref. TR050006 regarding SEGRO (Junction 15) Ltd's proposed change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 (S.I. 2019 No. 1358).



Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment stated:

“For the reasons set out below, the Council cannot support this proposed variation to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 and would therefore request the application is not approved.”

- A. Uncertainty over when the rail freight interchange will become available
- B. Ambiguity with the warehouse floor space figure specified for prior occupation
- C. Any further variations must be a matter for the Secretary of State not the Planning Authority as it would be considered ultra-vires.

There have been 1,094 consultation responses on the application for a non-material change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange and they were published on 17 November 2022

We are still awaiting the outcome of the consultation.

### **Christmas Coffee Morning, St Mary the Virgin Church, Little Houghton**

On 10 December 2022, I attended the last Coffee Morning of the year at St Mary the Virgin Church, Little Houghton. Although very cold outside it was warm and inviting in the church. It was good to meet up with friends again. There was a Christmas flavour to the event with a Christmas Bring and Buy stall. All proceeds were for church funds.

John and I spent an interesting time chatting and looking at an old minute book from 1949. Then David and others spotted the many names, which were well known in the village and many commented on the fine copper plate handwriting which was a glimpse of times past. The next meeting of this friendly and welcoming group will be 11 February 2023.



### **Christmas Tree Festival, St Lawrence Church, Brafield on the Green**

On Saturday 10 December at 2.00pm, I went to St Lawrence Church and saw the beautiful Christmas Tree Festival. Either a person or a group from the church had decorated each of the trees and all the donations were for church funds.



Afterwards we joined many of our friends from Brafield in the Sargeant Memorial Hall for the Christmas Bazaar where I met Tessa Matthews again who I had not seen since the unveiling of the Queens Jubilee plaque on 12 June at the Brafield on the Green village sign. We played Bruce Forsyth's 'Play your Cards Right' together and won two out of three turns, before completing a tour of the hall and its other stalls.

Then we enjoyed our second cup of coffee and cake of the day (Lemon Drizzle) and met up with Jon and Tessa for a chat. It was nice and warm in

the Hall and as we came outside the temperature had clearly dropped significantly, it was very icy underfoot and some freezing fog had descended.



### **Mud Kitchen Café Farmers Market**

On Sunday 11 December 2022, I joined lots of you at the Mud Kitchen Farmers Market at the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall, NN7 1NB. It was one of the busiest markets this year. Indeed, by the time, I arrived Sean was running out of vegetables.

The event has become very popular and as this was the last market before Christmas, there were lots of Christmas gifts on offer and the café had its new blend of Christmas coffee. The market offers the best in fresh, local, homemade, and handmade produce from a variety of local traders.

Sean and Paula at The Mud Kitchen Café are committed to encouraging residents and visitors into the Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall to help support the local economy and showcase some amazing local independent businesses.

Well done to both of you for all your efforts during 2022. Your energy and enthusiasm is impressive. I trust that you will have a break over Christmas so that you can return in 2023 full of your customary 'vim and vigour'.



### **Jingle Bakes with Seasonal Music**

On a cold foggy Sunday afternoon, 11 December 2022, we went to a Christmas Event in Denton Village Hall in aid of Age UK. It was entitled 'Jingle Bakes with Seasonal Music'. Upon arrival we were offered coffee and a choice of cake before sitting down to hear some festive music. While we were waiting, we were able to complete a Christmas Quiz.

Then the first group to entertain us was Trilogy a three-part harmony a cappella trio. They entertained us beautifully with songs including Jingle Bells, In the Bleak Midwinter, Rocking around the Christmas Tree,

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Away in a Manager, Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire, Silent Night and White Christmas. When Trilogy took a break 'Just Sing, Denton Community Choir' came on and entertained us with a cross section of popular Christmas songs from around the world including Winter Wonderland, Stille Nacht, Hallelujah, 'Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say on a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day', Gaudete, gaudete and Feliz Navidad. Then Trilogy rounded off the afternoon with a few more songs and closed with Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire.



Once you have heard several renditions of Feliz Navidad it stays with you for a bit. I want to wish you a Merry Christmas!

### Cogenhoe Community Christmas Lunch

On 19 December 2022, we attended the Cogenhoe Community Christmas Lunch at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall. All 53 residents who attended this great event, had a wonderful time, the food was delicious and the conversations bright and high spirited. None of these Community events would take place without the efforts of certain community Lunch was successfully delivered with the Deborah, Cllr Jon Bailey & Tessa, John & Cllr Darby & the Bennett family. It was a pleasure to witness and take part in such a happy occasion. Thank you for all of the support you give to the Community of Cogenhoe. It's people like you who make this season so magical and bright.



champions. This Christmas help of Maddie & Wayne, Cllr Grubb, Jackie, Ann, Pam,

## HOMES FOR UKRAINE

### Additional Funding for those hosting Ukrainians and New Homelessness Funding

WNC welcomed the Government's announcement of additional funding to continue support for people fleeing the war in Ukraine.



On 19 December 2022 the Government announced it was increasing 'thank you' payments to £500 per month for those hosting Ukrainians beyond 12 months and has committed to fund this until the second anniversary of their arrival. It has also earmarked £150m in this financial year to help tackle homelessness and is providing £500m for purchase of housing stock to accommodate Ukrainian and Afghan nationals fleeing conflict. As a consequence, the amount provided to the council

for support services is being reduced from £10,500 to £5,900 per person entering the UK from the start of 2023.

WNC will be working with partners at a local and regional level to ensure the additional resources are used in the most effective way to support those now living here under the Ukrainian and Afghan resettlement schemes. Many of those from Afghanistan continue to be housed in temporary accommodation, while Homes for Ukraine placed many new arrivals with host families. Further hosts for Ukrainian families are always welcome and anyone with space in their home or additional empty property can express an interest on the website - <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/it/4e7f2bdc/>



## CONSULTATIONS

### 2023/24 Budget Consultation

Every year the Council plans for the money it will have available and how it should spend it in line with the priority objectives set out in its Corporate Plan. At a meeting held on 20 December, West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet approved for consultation its draft budget for 2023-24 and we are now seeking views on these proposals.

The Council successfully delivered a balanced budget for its first year of operation within 2021/22 and set a balanced budget for the current year (2022/23). However, like all councils up and down the country, there have been a number of unprecedented financial issues throughout this financial year which have significantly increased the cost-of-service delivery. The Consultation closes on 31 January 2023.

### West Northamptonshire Parks Visitors Feedback Survey

West Northants Council manages over 190 parks and open spaces, the majority being situated within Northampton Town. This feedback survey is about 22 of these parks. Parks and open spaces provide vital opportunities for recreation, contributing to the physical and mental health of the people of West Northamptonshire as well as being important for habitats, supporting local wildlife and biodiversity.

We would like to hear about the park you visit the most. The information you provide will help us to improve our parks and open spaces and to prioritise work plans. The survey should only take 5 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. Please complete one questionnaire for the park you visit the most but if you'd like to comment on more than one park, please answer separately for each one.

Have your say

Please tell us your views by completing the online feedback survey using the link below.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/place/wnc-parks-visitors-survey/consultation/subpage.2022-02-25.8637773784/>

If you need assistance to complete the online questionnaire or would like a copy of it in another format (including paper, easy read or large print) you can contact us by email, post or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Our email address: [parks.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:parks.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Our postal address:

Environment, Countryside and Parks Team

West Northamptonshire Council

Lodge Road

Daventry

NN11 4FP

Our telephone: 0300 126 7000

The consultation runs until 31 March 2023.

## FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

### 2023/24 Draft Budget Features

We are asking people to have their say on how our Council has balanced its budget amid continuing financial pressures. The Council initially faced a predicted budget shortfall of almost £60 million for the next financial year due to a range of factors including high inflation, which is driving up running costs, and a significant increase in demand for services. Members of the Cabinet met on Tuesday 20 December to discuss a range of saving and efficiency proposals which will allow the Council to meet that shortfall, while protecting vital frontline services.

Those proposals are now subject to consultation, and people have until the end of January to have their say, by completing the survey on our Consultation Hub.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24/>

The survey can be accessed online for free at libraries across West Northants, or people can request a copy in another format by:

emailing [haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@westnorthants.gov.uk)  
or phoning 0300 126 7000.

The draft budget features a broad range of proposals to bridge the funding gap, including:

- Increasing fees and charges for services such as garden waste collections and car parking, aligning them with the national average to fairly reflect today's operating costs, and allowing the Council to



meet the demand in critical services protecting vulnerable adults and children.

- Reviewing services to make them more efficient while saving hundreds of thousands of pounds. The proposals include reviewing the policy, processes and systems for the Home to School Transport service to reduce running costs, and the introduction of three-weekly waste collections in South Northants and some parts of Northampton, to bring the service in line with the Daventry area.
- Raising Council Tax by 4.99%, in line with the Government's allowance, generating additional funding of around £11.5 million - with 2% of the increase going towards adult social care.
- Restructuring service areas within the organisation and introducing new, more efficient ways of working to make back office savings without impacting on how services are delivered to residents.
- Investing significant extra funding to meet the increasing demand for adult and children's services, providing more cost effective and better preventative care for vulnerable residents.

During the next financial year we plan to carry out a capital investment programme of more than £12.2million to improve local roads, and public health funding will go to a range of schemes to improve residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and support communities through this period of high inflation. We will also continue to drive economic growth in West Northants, with further progress expected on the multi-million-pound regeneration of Northampton through the Government's Towns Fund.

The challenge of bridging the £60 million funding gap left us with some very tough decisions, so we have produced a set of proposals that address the pressures we are under, while allowing us to continue to protect the most vulnerable in our society, and deliver services to residents across our communities. People's feedback is very important to us, so we are asking everyone to please take the time to tell us what they think, in order to help us all make a final decision on the budget in February.

Your feedback on these proposals within this budget consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help councillors make a final decision on the budget at the West Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 22 February 2023. This meeting is held in public.

### **Cost of Living Online Support Hub**

WNC has a new Cost-of-Living Online Support Hub: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>  
This together with our customer services team is there to help our residents access information and advice about the rising cost of living and find the support that is available to them.



Please access advice and information, including a directory of warm spaces, on our Cost-of-Living Online Support Hub

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>

For those who can't access the Internet, residents can also call WNC's customer services team and speak to somebody directly about the support available between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please call us on 0300 126 7000.

### **Northamptonshire Community Foundation Webinar Training for Organisations**

NCF have some free training webinars this year, these are open to any and all, and are free of charge to attend. Please email Ryan at [ryan@ncf.uk.com](mailto:ryan@ncf.uk.com) for the zoom link and confirm attendance on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 10:30am.



Programmes Officer Ryan will be hosting a webinar on Alternative sources of Funding. This workshop is designed to raise community groups awareness that Northamptonshire Community Foundation is just one of a large number of sources of funding and how to go about accessing other sources of funding in addition to the Foundation. Looking at what you want to deliver and why and how best this can be resourced. This workshop will provide you with a toolkit on how to go about researching alternative

sources of funding and information on additional support and resources available.

## REGULATORY SERVICES

### WNC Bird Flu Prevention Measures

From Tuesday 13 December you can now report dead wild birds by using an online service. It's quick & easy to do. See GOV.UK to access this service <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds>



Trading Standards will respond to complaints in relation to poultry keepers who may not be complying with the requirements.

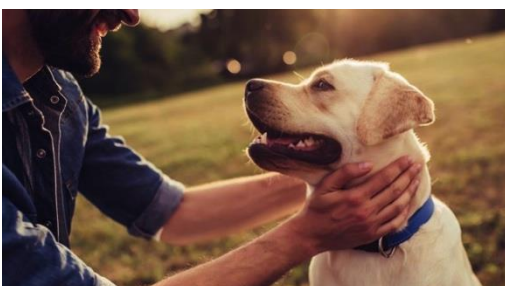
Please email [tradingstandards@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@westnorthants.gov.uk)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said the risk to public health from the virus is very low.

The Food Standards Agency said avian influenza pose a very low food safety risk for customers and advised that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

### WNC to look into PSPO in relation to the walking of more than four dogs

Key representatives for those who make a living by walking dogs are being invited to meet with Council and service leads at WNC following the implementation of new rules relating to public open spaces. As you will recall, on Tuesday, 1 November a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was formally adopted across the Daventry and South Northants areas. The PSPO aims to keep members of the community safe while enjoying public spaces, and includes a ban on people smoking in children's playgrounds, as well as a requirement that dog walkers pick up after their pets do not walk more than four dogs at the same time in public spaces. More than four dogs can be walked on private land with permission of the landowner, and dedicated dog walking areas. Promotion of the proposed new rules started in August, with further publicity around the decision-making at a Council meeting on 11 October.



However, since the Order came into force on 1 November, professional dog walkers have contacted the Council to request alternative options are considered to allow the walking of more than four dogs in public open spaces. WNC is in the process of arranging a meeting with representatives for professional dog walkers to discuss the options going forward to support these groups. Until these talks have taken place, the Council will not be taking enforcement action where more than four dogs are being walked in public open spaces, as long as dog walkers

adhere to the other requirements of the PSPOs.

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

### **RSN Rural Net Zero 25 January 2023**

As the WNC Member Representative on the RSN, I will attend the RSN Rural Net Zero on 25 January 2023 online.

## **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-Allowed.

### **West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, Spatial Options Consultation**

The council is preparing a new local plan, known as the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP), to review and replace the strategic policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (Local Plan Part 1), which was adopted in December 2014. A consultation on potential spatial options was undertaken between October and December 2021 and at the Planning Policy Committee 28 June 2022, when the Committee considered a report which provided a summary of the responses received to the consultation.

The spatial options consultation envisaged a plan period extending up to 2050 to reflect the time covered by the anticipated spatial framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. In response to representations received and in the light of increased uncertainty regarding the production of a spatial framework for the Arc, the committee agreed to reduce the plan period for the WNSP to 2041. In addition, the timetable for the preparation of the WNSP was updated and this was addressed by a revised Local Development Scheme. It envisages the approval of a draft plan for public consultation by the end of the calendar year to enable completion of further technical work and further member engagement. The Plan is expected to be adopted by March 2024.

### **Government Consultation Document issued on reforms to NPPF**

The Government's consultation document on proposed reforms to national planning policy and indicative mark-up of the NPPF arrived on 22 December 2022. Government has begun the consultation process for key elements of the planning system. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy is due to close on March 02 2023 and is now open for submissions.



It includes proposals on immediate changes to planning policy, offers proposals for how the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill should be implemented and references potential longer-term changes to national planning policy.

The consultation document lists 58 questions and it's 32 pages long and it closes 3 March 2023. This new document includes the actual proposed wording of the revised NPPF itself. The changes are easy to spot, for instance:



1. watering down of the paragraph 11 (d) tilted balance and of the requirements on local planning authorities to maintain an adequate housing supply and meet housing delivery targets
2. watering down of the local plan "soundness" test
3. references to the standard method as only an "advisory starting point"
4. express references to the needs for retirement housing, housing with care and care homes
5. References to "beauty" and a weirdly specific passage extolling the virtues of mansard roofs
6. "Green Belt boundaries are not required to be reviewed and altered if this would be the only means of meeting the objectively assessed need for housing over the plan period"
7. Changes in relation to climate change and renewable energy
8. "The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside the other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development".
9. Important transitional arrangements in paragraph 225 and 226

But what is being consulted upon does not stop at the proposed changes to the NPPF but also covers various other longer - term aspects of the reform agenda.

The re-construction of the system is going to be underway for some years. An indicative timeline:

- Consultation closes: 3 March 2023
- Government response to consultation and publication of revised NPPF: Spring 2023
- Changes to take effect that are being consulted upon in the current document as to:
  - Increasing the emphasis on provision of social rented housing
  - More older people's housing
  - More small sites for small builders
  - Greater emphasis on the role that community-led development can have in supporting the provision of more locally-led affordable homes
- Consultation on proposed changes to the rest of the NPPF and on more detailed policy options and proposals for National Development Management Policies (supported by environmental assessments), once the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill is passed through all its Parliamentary stages: from Spring 2023 Three further measures to be introduced, via changes to the NPPF to encourage developers to build out "as soon as possible":
- We will publish data on developers of sites over a certain size in cases where they fail to build out according to their commitments.
- Developers will be required to explain how they propose to increase the diversity of housing tenures to maximise a development scheme's absorption rate (which is the rate at which homes are sold or occupied).
- The National Planning Policy Framework will highlight that delivery can be a material consideration in planning applications. This could mean that applications with trajectories that propose a slow delivery rate may be refused in certain circumstances."

There will be “a separate consultation on proposals to introduce a financial penalty against developers who are building out too slowly”. Changes to the soundness test will apply to local plans, which have not reached pre-submission consultation stage within 3 months of the revised NPPF: summer 2023

Further updates to the NPPF: later in 2023

Whilst flexibility as to the use of the standard method will be in place from Spring 2023 as part of the revised NPPF, there will be a review of standard method for calculating local housing need, once 2021 census is published: 2024 (NB “It remains our intention to publish the 2022 Housing Delivery Test results. However, given our proposed changes and consultation on the workings of the Housing Delivery Test, we would like to receive views on whether the test’s consequences should follow from the publication of the 2022 Test or if they should be amended, suspended until the publication of the 2023 Housing Delivery Test, or frozen to reflect the 2021 Housing Delivery Test results while work continues on our proposals to improve it. We will take a decision on the approach to the Housing Delivery Test and the implementation of any the proposed changes in due course, once we have analysed consultation responses”).

Implementation of the LURB plan-making reforms: late 2024

Transitional arrangements will mean that for the purposes of decision-making, “where emerging local plans have been submitted for examination or where they have been subject to a Regulation 18 or 19 consultation which included both a policies map and proposed allocations towards meeting housing need, those authorities will benefit from a reduced housing land supply requirement. This will be a requirement to demonstrate a 4-year supply of land for housing, instead of the usual 5: two year transitional period, so until Spring 2025

Deadline of 30 June 2025 for plan makers to “submit their local plans, neighbourhood plans, minerals and waste plans, and spatial development strategies for independent examination under the existing legal framework; this will mean that existing legal requirements and duties, for example the Duty to Cooperate, will still apply.

We are also proposing that all independent examinations of local plans, minerals and waste plans and spatial development strategies must be concluded, with plans adopted, by 31 December 2026. These plans will be examined under the current legislation.”

Latest date for any old-style local and minerals and waste plans to be adopted (or in the case of Strategic Development Strategies, published): April 2027

Latest date when LPAs must begin the new style plan-making process (if their previous plan was adopted on 31 December 2026): 31 December 2031

## **January, South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee Site Visits**

The following two Committee site visits took place on 3 January 2023.

- WNS/2022/1525/FUL

Hybrid planning application: Outline planning permission sought for up to two self-custom build dwellings, with access for consideration. Full planning permission sought for restoration works to existing brick lean-to structure.

Land North Of Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire.

- WNS/2021/2154/FUL

Proposed conversion of stone barn, new 3-bedroom dwelling to south-west with proposed new access. Briary Cottage, 8 Lumber Lane, Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, NN12 7ND

## Changes to National Planning Policy on Onshore Wind Development

The government will consult on proposed changes to national planning policy on onshore wind development to explore how local communities can show support. The government commits to launching a technical consultation to explore how local authorities demonstrate local support and respond to views of their communities when considering onshore wind development in England. Decisions on onshore wind sites will continue to be made at a local level as these are best made by local representatives who know their areas best and are democratically accountable to the local community. To deliver a more localist approach, and its commitments in the British Energy Security Strategy, the government will consult on proposed changes to national planning policy. Under the proposals, planning permission would be dependent on a project being able to demonstrate local support and satisfactorily address any impacts identified by the local community. Local authorities would also have to demonstrate their support for certain areas as being suitable for onshore wind, moving away from rigid requirements for sites to be designated in local plans. Today's announcement builds on previous Government action to make sure local communities are at the heart of decisions on onshore wind. Changes introduced in 2016 that made local councils responsible for onshore wind applications, instead of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime, will remain in place.



The Government will make sure strong environmental protections first brought in by the Government in 2015 remain, so that valued landscapes such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Green Belt are protected. The government will also seek views on developing local partnerships for supportive communities, so that those who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure can benefit from doing so, such as through lower energy bills. New digital engagement techniques during the planning process will ensure people across the local community can continue to make their views known. The government will also consider how the planning system can support communities to have a say on the necessary infrastructure to connect wind farms to the grid and encourage the upgrading of existing wind farm sites.

The government will be inviting views from local authorities, communities and businesses. The technical consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework was launched on 22 December 2022 and it will be concluded by the end of April 2023.

## HOUSING

### West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy

Councillors have approved a fresh strategy for improving housing for residents across West Northamptonshire whilst tackling issues including homelessness and the cost-of-living crisis.



At a meeting on Friday, 23 September members of the Council's Cabinet agreed to progress proposals for the new strategy which sets out plans for the next three years and supports the Council's vision.

The strategy focuses on four themes which plan to tackle a number of key issues including a need for more affordable housing, reducing homelessness, addressing cost of living increases and recognising a need for more housing to meet the needs of our growing aging population.

The themes set out in the strategy are:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities

The strategy was developed following a public consultation earlier this year involving local community members, voluntary and charitable organisations and wider stakeholders, with overall feedback presenting strong support for the themes and priorities.

West Northamptonshire is a growing area, with a population of 425,700 (2021 Census) residents, it is anticipated that the population will grow by 7% up to 2030, and the number of households is set to grow by 12% by 2030. Within that, the population aged 65 year and over is expected to grow by 9% which represents 76% of total population growth.

The full Housing Strategy can be viewed on the WNC website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy>

## ENVIRONMENT

### Cleaner Communities

Since adopting the fly-tipping charter earlier this year, which complements the previously launched litter charter, I wanted to provide you with an update on the progress to formally launch and embed this.

There were five key actions drawn together for the plan to implement this, and work has been on going over the last few months to implement these actions, alongside the continued enforcement duties undertaken by the environmental crime team.

The progress against these key actions is as follows:

- Our camera deployment policy, setting out where and when we will deploy enforcement cameras, has been finalised and adopted by our teams.
- A communications strategy is in place, in the form of our new Cleaner Communities campaign. A new web area has been launched at [www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cleanercommunities](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cleanercommunities) and we are in the process of developing new content, including a video case study showing the work carried out by our wardens to tackle fly-tipping and advising people how they can help support that work.
- The next step was to formally launch our Fly-tipping Charter to the public and the media. Please look out for our [#cleanercommunities](https://twitter.com/cleanercommunities) posts and share the content where you can.
- A comprehensive review of the use of CCTV and its effectiveness has been carried out, and we are in the process of obtaining additional CCTV cameras to assist with evidence gathering across our communities. I will keep you updated as to when the new cameras are in use, and we will also be issuing press releases at the appropriate time.
- We are working with partners to identify the best method of sharing data about fly-tipping hotspots. While a common method is not yet in place, the data is being shared effectively, allowing us to target enforcement activity.



- Assessment of the use of external contractor: Kingdom continues to provide external services to the Council for the current time. A procurement exercise will be undertaken to identify the most appropriate way of delivering this service once the contract expires.

As part of the Cleaner Communities campaign, we will keep working with businesses, landowners and residents to educate them on their responsibilities to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and reduce fly-tipping. We will also continue to develop our social media content and engagement, encouraging and supporting people to help us tackle fly-tipping in their neighbourhoods.

## Waste & Recycling Collections over New Year

The main messages for residents to remember are:

- Waste and recycling collection days in the South Northamptonshire and Northampton areas will not change over Christmas and New Year.
- Garden waste collections will be suspended from 24 December until 6 January across West Northants.

## Real tree collections

- Crews will collect real Christmas trees between 9 and 20 January.
- Residents in the Daventry and South Northants areas should put real Christmas trees out on the day that garden waste is due to be collected in their area.
- In the Northampton area real trees should be put out next to recycling bins, and those on sack collections can present trees beside their recycling boxes and green sacks on their collection day.

Please ensure any trees over 6ft tall are cut in half, so they will fit into the lorries safely. People do not need a garden waste subscription to put out their real Christmas tree for collection.

## Additional recycling

Additional recycling can be put out in clear plastic bags or boxes alongside recycling bins and boxes or can also be taken to the nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/household-waste...>

## Letsrecycle.com winner, Eloise Attwood donates £200 to Community Responders

Letsrecycle.com is pleased to announce Eloise Attwood, Waste and Cleansing manager at West Northamptonshire council, as the winner of the 2022 Christmas Picture Competition, sponsored by Permiserv. Launched on 12 December 2022,



the quiz saw letsrecycle.com readers invited to answer 10 questions based on news coverage from 2022, with the winner receiving a bottle of champagne and £200 for charity. After receiving scores of entries – unfortunately, too many to respond to individually – those who answered all 10 questions correctly were put into a Permiserv hat and the winner selected at random. The winner was Eloise Attwood and she opted to donate the



money to the South Northants Community Responders, a charity initially set up to help people in rural areas who suffer cardiac arrests.

Elly is well known to those of us from South Northamptonshire Council and for the great work she has done with waste and recycling over a number of years. She was delighted to have won the letsrecycle.com

Christmas Competition 2022 and to donate the money to South Northants Community Responders, who are volunteers trained to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives.

### A New Fly Tipping Charter

A fly-tipping charter has been launched setting out how West Northamptonshire Council will work to tackle environmental crime. It outlines the Council's commitment to working with local communities to reduce fly-tipping, backed by a robust enforcement policy to discourage and prosecute offenders.



The Charter includes a detailed plan of action, demonstrating the steps that are being taken to tackle the issue, including targeted patrols, the use of CCTV, and working with residents, businesses, and town and parish councils to avoid fly-tipping and gather intelligence to prosecute. It also sets out how the Council will communicate with businesses, landlords and householders to ensure they are clear on their responsibilities towards managing their waste responsibly.

The new Fly-Tipping Charter complements the existing Litter Charter, which was launched last summer to ensure the Council takes a coordinated approach to tackling litter across West Northants. Find out more on the WNC website - Fly-tipping and duty of care charter <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../fly-tipping-and-duty...>

### Crackdown on Fly-Tippers

Our crackdown on fly-tippers continues, with four more people prosecuted recently for dumping their waste on the street. Heber Luwawu (20) of Bailiff Street, Charlotte Smith (20) of Hampton Street and Michelle Harris (37) of Naseby Street had all ignored with £150 fixed penalty notices issued to them by our Neighbourhood Wardens for leaving sacks of rubbish on the street near their homes days before their collections were due. And when the matters came before Wellingborough Magistrates earlier this month,



each of them was fined £300, and ordered to pay £1,000 costs plus a £120 victim surcharge. A fourth person, Daniela Muresan (31), also of Naseby Street, had contested the FPN they received for a similar offence, but in court admitted putting their waste out four days before the collection was due and was fined £200 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

People placing bags out early can be a terrible nuisance, especially if they are ripped open by animals. These prosecutions follow the launch of our Fly-tipping Charter










setting out how the council will work to tackle environmental crime. The Charter outlines the Council's commitment to working with local communities to reduce fly-tipping, backed by a robust enforcement policy to discourage and prosecute offenders. The new Fly-Tipping Charter complements the existing Litter Charter, which was launched last summer to ensure the Council takes a coordinated approach to tackling litter across West Northants.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### Daventry and South Northants LAP (DSN4)

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) will play a key part in the Integrated **Health** agenda, and I have been appointed to represent Hackleton and Grange Park on the pioneer LAP in Daventry and South Northants (DSN4). The Pioneer LAP covers the areas of Towcester, Deanshanger, Bugbrooke, Hackleton and Grange Park. WNC are testing its emerging LAP model with two Pioneer sites, DSN4 and another site in Northampton. We will be exploring how we might work in a collaborative way to improve outcomes for our patients and constituents within our local area.

We have a meeting with the Private Housing Sector Team on Tuesday 7 February 2 – 3 pm at the Forum.

Finding your way around this Local Insight profile <sup>1</sup>			
<small>• Introduction: Page 10 for an introduction to this report.</small>			
 <b>Population</b> <sup>11</sup>	There are 54,818 people living in DSN4 <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 18-19 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion.</small>	 <b>Education &amp; skills</b>	18% of people have no qualifications in DSN4 compared with 22% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 46-48 for more information on qualifications, post attainment and early years education programs.</small>
 <b>Vulnerable groups</b> <sup>11</sup>	9% of children aged 0-19 are in relative low-income families in DSN4 compared with 19% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 16-22 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in households, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups.</small>	 <b>Economy</b>	44% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in DSN4 compared with 39% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 49-51 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and their businesses.</small>
 <b>Housing</b>	2% of households lack central heating in DSN4 compared with 3% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 54-55 for more information on dwelling types, heating fuels, affordability, accessibility, age of housing and structural characteristics.</small>	 <b>Access &amp; transport</b>	9% of households have no car in DSN4 compared with 26% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 56-58 for more information on transport, e-access services and digital services.</small>
 <b>Crime &amp; safety</b>	The overall crime rate is lower than the average across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 59-61 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates.</small>	 <b>Communities &amp; environments</b>	The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (89.4%) is higher than the average across England (78.3%) <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 62-65 for more information on neighbourhood satisfaction, the types of neighbourhoods, local participation and the environment, or pollution.</small>
 <b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b>	14% of people have a limiting long-term illness in DSN4 compared with 16% across England <sup>11</sup> <small>See pages 66-68 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and healthy general health and health inequalities.</small>	<b>Appendix A11</b>	Page 67 for information on the geographic used in this report, publication dates for new releases and acknowledgements. <sup>11</sup>

### Grow, Cook, Eat

WNC is working with two Northampton charities on a new scheme to champion the benefits of growing and cooking food. The Grow! Cook! Eat! is a partnership between our public health team, Northampton Hope Centre, and Community Health-Works UK CIC. It offers support and training to community organisations across West Northamptonshire to enable them to become local experts in how to grow and cook food and to share knowledge in their communities – improving people's health across our communities.

The Grow! Cook! Eat! Team can:

- Offer training in growing and cooking new, tasty, low-cost recipes
- Give groups the skills that allow them to train others
- Help develop local projects and spread the word in communities
- Provide access to funding for local organisations to help them get projects started and keep them going.



The key target areas in West Northamptonshire are:

Castle Ward, St David's, Kingsley, Spencer, Billing, Westone, Brookside, St James', Headlands and Talavera. For more information contact the scheme coordinator: [Kathleen@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk](mailto:Kathleen@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk) or call 01604 214300.

### Warm Spaces in West Northamptonshire

We are reminding residents to use our network of warm spaces if they need to over the Winter period.



WNC has worked with partners to establish a network of over 70 Warm Spaces, where people can enjoy a warm, safe, welcoming space in which to stay cosy, meet others, and perhaps enjoy a hot meal or a cup of tea and a biscuit. The centres are open to everyone and include libraries, community centres, community hubs and other places. Some venues will also offer hot drinks, activities, and other services such as free Wi-Fi.

The Council can award a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant to support the creation and / or development of Warm Welcoming Spaces across West

Northants to support residents struggling with fuel costs. These awards can be made to parish and town councils, community and voluntary organisations, registered charities and to other qualifying bodies. The funding round will be open to all applications seeking a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant (WWSG) from the value of £500 up to £1,500. More information is available on our warm spaces webpage.

If you have a spare room or space that you would like to open up as a warm space, then please contact West Northamptonshire Council to be added to the growing list. If you are looking for a warm space to visit with no fear of judgement, you can find the nearest location on the council's online map.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost.../looking-warm-spaces>

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en...>

### **New Contracts for CQC Commissioned Home Care Services**

At the meeting on Tuesday 6 December, West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Cabinet approved plans to recommission and procure new contracts for Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered homecare services for older people, people with a health condition and those with a disability.\*



This comes at a time when existing contracts are due to expire and provides an opportunity for a new framework, which better meets the Council's aim to ensure customer's receive quality care with timely availability. The new framework will have an additional focus on delivering outcomes that directly impact communities, including support for people to enable them to remain independent for longer in their own homes, as well as increasing service capacity and support.

The service has carried out extensive engagement and design work over the past four months, seeking the

views and input of key stakeholders, including those who receive care, as well as care providers. This engagement work has helped to shape the model and future contract requirements.

The tender for homecare providers is set to open in early 2023. To find out more information, please visit:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../home-care...>

\*This excludes those with a Learning Disability and Autism as this is covered within a separate framework.

### **Shared Lives Caring**

A service which sees carers across Northamptonshire share their lives and homes to support others has been rated 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The Shared Lives Service, which is managed by our Council, has achieved the highest rating following its first inspection this autumn which found that "people received exceptional care and support from dedicated carers who considered them to be part of their family and vice versa."

In their recently published report:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-10490558733>

CQC inspectors also said that "with the right support, people flourished in all aspects of their lives, growing in self-confidence, developing skills and being able to grasp opportunities which would not otherwise have been available to them."

The service currently provides personalised support to





around 78 people countywide, with most living in carers' own homes 24/7 in long-term placements, and others receiving respite care for shorter periods to help give families a break. Carers provide comfortable family homes for younger adults, adults with a learning disability and older people. The idea is to give them as much independence as possible, while having a safe and secure home environment within the community.

A careful matching process makes sure individuals are paired with suitable carers who will treat them as members of their family, meet their needs and provide the right support. The report, which can be read on the CQC's website, rated the service as outstanding overall and for care and safety, with good ratings for its effectiveness, responsiveness and for being well-led.

It summarised that people were 'supported to achieve their aspirations and goals', were 'enabled to access specialist health and social care support when needed' and were 'supported to play an active role in maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing'.

Carers are paid according to the type of support they are required to provide. Most are covered by special tax arrangements with HMRC, and many do not have to pay income tax on their earnings.

To find out more about becoming a Shared Lives Carer, visit:  
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/.../Pages/default.aspx>

### **Northamptonshire Carers Virtual Dementia Patient and Carer Event**

Please be reminded of this on-line meeting for people with dementia or Carers supporting people with dementia, registration details in the poster.



**Northamptonshire Carers**

**Do you live with dementia?  
Support someone who does?  
Have you accessed Northampton General Hospital in the last 6 months?**

**If so, we would like to invite you to our virtual patient and carer listening event**

Thursday 12th January 2023 | 10:00-11:30 & 17:30-19:00

This will be held online on Zoom

**If you are interested in attending, we would like to hear your story**

Please register your interest with;

[ngh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:ngh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net)  
01604 544054 / 01604 544135

Please note, there will be limited spaces

Your feedback at this event will be anonymous and will not affect any future treatment or care

### **Suspending Hospital Visiting**

From Thursday 29 December, Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals are suspending visiting for adult inpatient wards and are asking patients and any visitors to the hospital to wear a mask, due to a significant increase in COVID and flu infections.

These measures aim to reduce infection risk to vulnerable patients, prevent the spread of infections and help to prevent staff absences.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3i4dqNo>

Integrated Care Northamptonshire



**Visiting suspension and change to mask wearing**

Wednesday 28 December 2022

**NHS**  
University Hospitals of Northamptonshire  
NHS Group

### **Action for Asperger's AGM & Annual Conference 2023**

Action for Asperger's AGM & Annual Conference 2023 will be held on Saturday, 22nd April 2023.

Venue: Priors Hall Park Community Centre 1st Floor, Corby, NN17 5EB

Time: 11:00am - 14:30pm

Details: No booking necessary – simply turn up – all welcome – seats allocated (80-100) on a first come basis. Free lunch provided.

### Survey for those Carers of People with a Learning Disability

In Northamptonshire, we are bringing together local NHS, West Northamptonshire Council, North



Northamptonshire Council and voluntary sector organisations to support carers of people with a learning disability and/or autism in a more joined-up way. To do this, we are asking for feedback from carers to understand the service provision needed to better meet the needs of those with a learning disability and/or Autism, to help shape future plans for services going forwards.

By 'carers' we mean family members or friends providing unpaid care as opposed to paid care workers, although they may receive benefits such as Carers Allowance.

The survey asks unpaid carers in Northamptonshire with lived experience of caring for a loved-one with a learning disability and/or autism to share their views on what support they feel they need or what would help carers planning in the future.

It is really important that we hear your views to ensure we better understand needs and highlight opportunities for more integrated ways of working between services and organisations. The survey will take just over 10 minutes to complete and will close on 31 January 2023. All responses are anonymous.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx...>

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Please contact [hayley.mckagan@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.mckagan@westnorthants.gov.uk) with any queries or alternatively, if you would like to find out what support is available to you as a carer please contact Northamptonshire carers: [gwynr@northamptonshire-carers.org](mailto:gwynr@northamptonshire-carers.org).

Please see the Northamptonshire Carers website for a self-referral for a 'Carers Assessment'.

### Winter Wellbeing

As we enter 2023, it is a time to reflect on the year we have had with many of us, making goals or setting achievements for the New Year – whether it be to stop smoking, achieving your healthy weight, moving



more, or improving your mental wellbeing. These are all important factors for you to live a healthier you in 2023. If you are motivated to achieve one of the above or more, but are not sure where to start, then West Northamptonshire Council Public Health Team have several services that are on hand to help you.

### Stop smoking service

With support, you are three times more likely to quit smoking for good and the West Northamptonshire Stop Smoking Service is here to help you achieve just that. The service offers a 12-week programme of telephone support, as well as e-cigarettes, 12-week supply of e-liquid and nicotine replacement therapy sent straight to your door at no cost to you. The health benefits to quitting smoking are well known, however an often-overlooked benefit, is the positive impact it can have financially. The average cost of a pack of premium cigarettes now totals £12.71 and smokers in Northamptonshire spend on average £1,945 per year on the habit. The increase in the cost-of-living has made many of us reflect on what we spend our money on, and try to determine what we can, or cannot, live without. For smokers, starting the New Year with a goal to stop smoking could ease some of the financial pressure too.

So start your New Year smoke free with the help of our stop smoking service and get in touch today to find the right tools and support for you.

If you live in West Northamptonshire, call us on 0300 126 5700 or visit us at:

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/stopsmoking](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/stopsmoking)

### Weight management service

The West Northamptonshire Council Public Health Weight Management Service offers a free 12-week course to help you meet your goal with in-person and online options for you to choose from, such as; Slimming World, Northampton Town Football Club, Trilogy Active, Northampton Saints (Shred7) or ShapeUp4Life Digital programmes available. To be eligible for the service you must be 18 years old or over, live in Northamptonshire, have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 28 or above, not be pregnant and not have been a paying member of a weight management service in the last 3 months. For more information about the weight management service or to find out if you are eligible, please visit:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/keepin.../weight-management>



There is support and advice on hand to help you if you are feeling low in mood, struggling with your mental health or need some friendly advice.

West Northamptonshire Council has created a 'Winter Wellbeing Webpage' which brings together local advice, top tips and guidance so you have all the information you need, in one place, to stay safe and healthy over this winter period:

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/winter-wellbeing](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/winter-wellbeing)

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### School Admissions

Parents and carers can still apply for a reception place in a primary or infant school or a year 3 place in a junior school.

They can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years of age on or before 31 August 2023. The closing date for applications for places in reception and year 3 (junior school) is 15 January 2023 at midnight.

We hope the new midnight deadlines mean that it will be easier for families to submit their application before the deadline, giving them the best chance of getting a place at their preferred school and avoiding any disappointment. All applications, whether postal or online, must be received by the closing date to be considered as on time. Late applications will not be processed until after the National Offer Day and will be processed in monthly rounds. All on time applicants will receive an offer of a school place on the National Offer Days – 1 March 2023 for secondary places and 17 April 2023 for reception places.

West Northamptonshire Council

**APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE**

Is your child's 4th birthday on or before 31 August 2023?

**It's time to apply for a Reception place**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
midnight on Sunday  
15 January 2023

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions)

Applicants will then be provided with information on the next stage of the process. There is a separate application process for children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan, details of which can be found on the SEND admissions page.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/.../Pages/default.aspx>

An independent admission appeals process is available for families who wish to appeal against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied. More information can be found on the school admissions page.

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

### **Three Year Strategy to meet the needs of SEND children and their families**

Parents, families and school workers will be among those encouraged to help shape a new strategy for improving outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Northants. At the meeting on Tuesday 8 November, Cabinet will discuss plans to co-produce a new three-year joint strategy to address the current shortfall of specialist school places in the area and plan resources more effectively to better meet the needs of SEND children and their families. To help shape the new strategy, children, parents, school-based staff, health and care professionals and other interested organisations will be involved in the development of a new Co-production Charter.

This will be developed during a series of events set to take place between Nov and Feb 2023, supported by the Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group, which represents parents' voices in West Northants. All young people deserve access to the best available education and learning that meets their individual needs. We recognise and hear the impact that the current shortfall of special school places is having on children and their families and we are committed to addressing this challenge.



<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../Item%2007%20...>

### **Are you thinking about Holiday Dates in 2023?**

According to West Northamptonshire Council, these are the term dates and holiday dates for 2023:

#### **Spring term 2023**

Tuesday 3 January to Friday 31 March

Bank holiday: Monday 2 January

- Half term holiday: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February

Easter holiday: Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April

#### **Summer term 2023**

Monday 17 April to Friday 21 July

- Bank holiday: Monday 1 May

- Half term holiday: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June

- Summer holiday: Monday 24 July to Thursday 31 August



#### **Autumn term 2023**

Monday 4 September to Wednesday 20 December

- Half term holiday: Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October

- Christmas holiday: Thursday 21 December to Wednesday 3 January, 2024

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

### 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 Beynon 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". Details on how the funding will be administered will be announced later.



### Vulcan Works is Gearing Up to Open its Doors

The new £14 million hub for creative businesses at the Vulcan Works is gearing up to open its doors. Vulcan Works has been created by transforming a Grade II listed ironworks factory in the heart of Northampton's Cultural Quarter into a space that will support start-up businesses in the creative industries through the provision of lettable office space, workshops, meeting rooms and co-working spaces. WNC and South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), who facilitated a Local Growth Fund contribution of £6.3 million, together with £3.06 million from the European Regional Development Fund, have funded the construction and refurbishment works.



Vulcan Works has already attracted lots of interest from prospective tenants and viewings have been planned for the New Year. Key stakeholders joined representatives from WNC for a first look in August once construction was completed. This was followed in September by the announcement that Oxford Innovation Space would take over as the management company for the new hub.

Since Oxford Innovation Space started managing Vulcan Works in September, work has progressed and support staff and local suppliers are currently being appointed with a view to Vulcan Works officially opening in February 2023.

Among the newest recruits are Commercial Manager Kelly Boosey, Centre Manager Garrick Hurter and Assistant Centre Manager Gail Haddon. It is estimated that Vulcan Works will support around 150 start-up businesses in its first 10 years, creating around 500 jobs in the area. The centre has also pledged to work with local contractors and agencies, ploughing more money back into the local economy.

We are thrilled with how Vulcan Works has turned out. The space has been finished to an exceptionally high standard, whilst retaining a number of period features which provide a nod to our local history here in Northampton. The project is really gaining momentum now and is close to opening its doors.

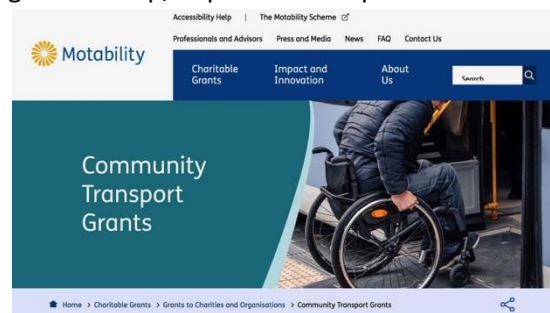
As part of the Vulcan Works' unique offer, Oxford Innovation Space will also provide access to a programme of workshops, seminars, 1:1 coaching and networking.

To find out more about Vulcan Works, request a show around or be added to the invitation list for an Open Day, email [info@vulcanworks.co.uk](mailto:info@vulcanworks.co.uk)

### Community Transport Grants – Motability

Through this new grant programme Motability aim to help charities and organisations to make an immediate impact for disabled people, by awarding funding to develop, expand and improve community transport options. The programme is focussed on:

- Funding support for staff or volunteer training and costs.
- Funding to increase the number of vehicles available in the community to help organisations support disabled people.
- Funding local, regional, or national initiatives to increase awareness of community transport and influence its inclusion in transport strategy and policy.
- Funding to schemes, programmes and initiatives that already exist, and who provide best practice solutions, but need further support to remain operational or scale up the service they can provide to help more disabled people.



Charities and organisations working in the community transport sector can apply for grants from £100,000 to £4 million at any point over the next three years until March 2025.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

A £5.4million allocation from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will help significantly boost the area's economy. WNC has submitted its investment plan for the allocated funds, and these include aspirations to reduce the cost of living, provide funding to support businesses, address local skill needs and boost employment. The investment plan was developed following comprehensive consultation with local organisations from the public, private and third sectors, including MPs and councillors.

The funding has been split across three priority areas: Communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills.

Expected outcomes from the programme include:

- New and improved cycleways to boost active travel
- Increased engagement in volunteering
- Greater take-up of energy efficiency measures



- New start-up businesses, creating new jobs
- Improved skills

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/.../UK%20Shared...>

### **New ExploreWN App**

Have you downloaded the ExploreWN App? You can shop online, view exclusive deals from 120+ local businesses and find out about amazing events that are happening in your area. Get it on App Store and Google Play

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism/explore-west-northants-app>

### **Major New Cultural Centre at 24 Guildhall Road**

NN Contemporary Art, in partnership with our Council, has revealed plans for a major new cultural centre at 24 Guildhall Road, in the heart of Northampton's cultural quarter. The £4.7 million project, which is about to enter its second stage of works, will see the five-storey redundant heritage building transformed into a vibrant creative community, with a contemporary art gallery, affordable creative studios and public spaces.

With a phased opening planned from late 2023 / early 2024, the 2000 sq metre Georgian building will become the new home of lead tenant and founding partner, NN Contemporary Art (NNCA), who will take over the lower three floors, opening a free public gallery space that will showcase the very best of international contemporary art. With a focus on nurturing the town's creative ecosystem, the floors will also encompass 20 affordable creative workspaces and studios, enabling hundreds of artists and creators to grow and develop their practice in the town. Designed to become a major creative hub for Northampton and the wider East Midlands region, the fully-accessible building will also incorporate multi-functional community and event spaces, including a civic reading room and arts library, a retail space and multimedia lab. Further creative and cultural tenants will be invited to lease the upper two floors. Taking inspiration from its original 1920s design, the plans honour the heritage of the building, seeing many of its original features restored, including the stunning terrazzo floor.



Artist Giles Round has been commissioned to design the Civic Reading Room Space. Identified as a key element of Northampton's regeneration, and highlighted as one of the public's preferred priorities through a consultation carried out by Northampton Forward, the £4.7 million project is supported by the government's Towns Fund and part of the Northampton Town Centre Masterplan. Alongside Towns Fund investment, phase one of the project has delivered £1.15 million through South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership's Getting Building Fund.

### **Northamptonshire Community Foundation Webinar Training**

Northamptonshire Community Foundation Webinar Training for Organisations (Free of Charge) are coming up in the New Year, these are open to any and all, and are free of charge to attend. Please email Ryan at [ryan@ncf.uk.com](mailto:ryan@ncf.uk.com) for



Find a grant  
Find out which grant is best for your project by using our Grant Finder

the zoom link and confirm attendance on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 10:30am

### **Alternative sources of Funding**

Programmes Officer Ryan will be hosting a webinar on Alternative sources of Funding. This workshop is designed to raise community groups awareness that Northamptonshire Community Foundation is just one of a large number of sources of funding and how to go about accessing other sources of funding in addition to the Foundation. Looking at what you want to deliver and why and how best this can be resourced. This workshop will provide you with a toolkit on how to go about researching alternative sources of funding and information on additional support and resources available.

### **Bid to provide Maths Skills for Adults**

Education providers are now invited to bid for contracts to help West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) deliver numeracy courses to meet a wide range of needs. In September, the Government confirmed the area will receive £575k for the current financial year to help improve maths skills for adults.



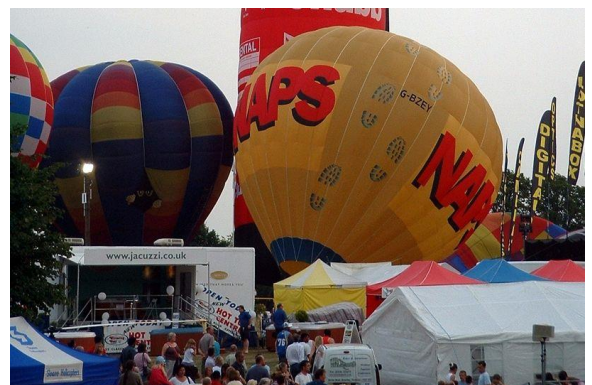
This is the first tranche of a £1.9m bid submitted by the council to introduce support over three years, benefiting more than 3,000 people. A wide range of schemes are proposed including:

- Helping those who have low skills and are unemployed
- Improving career chances by helping people boost their numeracy in the workplace
- Bite-sized maths workshops for families
- Working with the self-employed to ensure they have skills to run their businesses
- Short courses to help people with household budgeting
- Bridging the gap to GCSE for those who don't have the qualification
- Online learning platforms
- Helping parents who wish to support their children with numeracy
- Taking the programme to audiences, particularly in rural areas
- Supporting ex-offenders through the Probation Service
- Development of numeracy champions
- Supporting care experienced young people to access education, employment and training

Primary aims of the scheme will include improved life chances, access to better career options and greater personal wellbeing.

### **Northampton Balloon Festival 18,19, 20 August 2023**

The Northampton Balloon Festival is returning to the Racecourse after being away for 15 years. Taking place at the Racecourse in Northampton, it will be staged on 18, 19 and 20 August 2023. The Balloon Festival originally took





place from 1989-2008 at the site and became one of the largest in the country. After several meetings with new balloon directors, Vista Balloon Flights, Northampton Town Council and West Northamptonshire Council, David Bailey of Show Time Events Group (Northern) Ltd gained permission to organise and deliver the event. The ambition of the company is to reintroduce the Northampton Balloon Festival as a major contender on the ballooning and events calendar once again, for both the participants and spectators. As well as an array of balloons on display and flights throughout the weekend delivered by Vista Balloon Flights, further activities will be available for attendees. It will culminate with a firework finale on Sunday evening. To establish this event and build on its return, local groups, societies, charities, companies and local businesses are encouraged to support or sponsor the event. If you are interested, you can contact info@showtimeeventsgroup.co.uk to do so.

## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

### Review of West Northamptonshire Bus Services

WNC has appointed specialist consultants, SCP, to carry out a review of the way that bus services are currently provided across West Northamptonshire. As part of this process, SCP will bring forward alternative models that would serve our communities better. In doing this work



SCP will be contacting a number of key stakeholder groups, including bus operators and parish councils. It is anticipated that SCP will

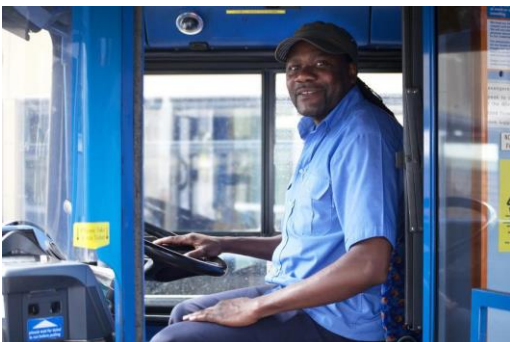


present their findings and report to WNC in January 2023. A report will then be presented to Cabinet. This report will inform our West Northants Transport Strategy that will be developed over the coming period in full consultation with Members and residents. To further support this work, an internal project has begun by officers to review how best community transport can be supported by WNC in the future with the current financial pressures. The project team will be engaging with stakeholders to discuss the

current situation and potential solutions.

### Department of Transport £2 Single Fare Promotion

Many bus fares across West Northamptonshire will be reduced for the first three months of 2023 as part of the Government's scheme to provide more affordable public transport at a time when many are impacted by the cost of the living crisis. Operators including Stagecoach and Uno are capping single fares at £2 from the start of next year until the end of the March. This will mean a reduction of more than 60 per cent in the cost of the fare on the longest routes. The scheme seeks to get more people to travel by buses and helps to reduce emissions by taking an estimated 2 million cars off the roads during this period.



The bus operators who have confirmed they are participating in the scheme across West Northamptonshire so far are:

- Arriva the Shires
- Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council Village Hopper
- Stagecoach East
- Stagecoach Midlands
- Stagecoach West
- Uno Bus

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Northamptonshire Crime rates fell in year to June 2022

Northamptonshire is the only police force in England and Wales where overall crime fell in the year to June 2022. Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed crime nationally rose by an average of 12.9 % but dropped by 0.6 % here. Chief Constable Nick Adderley also revealed that there were 9,500 fewer reports of anti-social behaviour, down 8.2 % and a 16 % reduction in knife crime. Arrest rates for domestic abuse have risen steadily year on year to 35.2 %, a significant improvement on the previous 12 months while a proactive strategy to tackle serious organised crime led to more firearms being seized, large



numbers of drug factories closed down and 16 County Lines drugs gangs broken up.

All these crime types were identified as the Chief's Matters of Priority in 2021-22. Mr Adderley said: "I'm really pleased to say that Northamptonshire Police is fast being recognised as one of the most progressive forces in the country. These figures come against a backdrop that we are of one of five forces rated as good in terms of our crime data recording, so people can be confident this ONS data is wholly accurate." "I made it clear when I took over in 2018 that I wanted Northamptonshire Police to be a proactive

force that goes out and deals with these issues when they happen and that's exactly what we are now doing."

Significantly, Northamptonshire has climbed from 34th to eighth in a table of forces in terms of its ability to detect crime; a step change from 2018 when inspectors judged the force was unable to investigate crime. Mr Adderley, who is set to continue in his role beyond 2023 when his contract ends, also reported an 11.6 % fall in residential break-ins and a 14.1 % drop in commercial burglaries. The official data shows that residents in Northamptonshire are now less likely to be a victim of crime than most parts of the country despite a 6.3 % population growth, which is significantly higher than the national average. Overall, violent crime accounts for 45 % of all offences, one third of which relates to domestic abuse.

However, the number of violent offences recorded last year fell by 2 % in 2021-22, placing Northamptonshire second in the table of 43 forces. Theft, which continues to fall, makes up around one in every four county crimes. Earlier this year, the Chief Constable announced his 'Matters of Priority' for the next three years tackling violence against women and girls, serious violence, serious and organised crime and drug harm.

He revealed:

- 90 % victim satisfaction levels in domestic abuse cases
- 1,294 knives taken off the streets in the last three months and a high conviction rate for offenders
- Significant numbers of firearms seized and more than 130 people safeguarded from modern slavery
- 1,486 drug seizures linked to criminality during a three-month crackdown.

Mr Adderley added: "I'm more than aware there is still work to be done, but thanks to the hard work of police officers and staff we are absolutely going in the right direction."

### **NPFCC 2023 Precept Survey**

The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner wishes you to participate in the NPFCC Precept Survey.



Survey.

The NPFCC wants to know your views and have launched this budget survey to ask you whether you would pay more for the services provided by policing and the fire service.

This short survey will take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be taken into account by the PFCC in deciding the level of council tax precept to ask you to pay

towards police and fire services in Northamptonshire next year.

<https://www.research.net/.../OPFCC2023counciltaxconsultat...>

### **Operation Revive**

An operation which has been successful in the north of the county for two years is coming to Northampton and officers are asking for help and community intelligence to help it on its way. Operation Revive was launched in Wellingborough at the beginning of 2021 in response to an increase in violence across the town, tackling the problem not only by arresting offenders, but by working with partners to divert young people away from crime and safeguard the vulnerable from being exploited. As a result of this activity, the north of the county has seen a decline in the number of crimes associated with drugs, gangs and serious violence, community intelligence has increased significantly and safeguarding activity is up by 180%. Now, the same operation is being launched in Northampton led by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and activity will focus on:

- Identifying the offenders responsible for the majority of serious violence and drug dealing in key areas of Northampton and working to bring them to justice
- Taking enforcement action against these people through warrants and civil injunctions
- Diverting people on the periphery of crime to partners including CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) and the ACE (Advisory Centre for Education) team to prevent them from falling further into criminality
- Identifying vulnerable people at risk of exploitation, modern slavery and cuckooing, and protecting them
- Identifying the areas which have high numbers of anti-social behaviour and motorcycle nuisance and tackling them
- Giving the community the confidence in being able to pass information and intelligence onto us



without fear.

This is a great opportunity for partner agencies to work together with the community to tackle crime, protect vulnerable people and help improve the local area for our residents. The Council has recently invested in projects around the Town Centre, such as making our Night Time Economy safer, that will not only improve the area but also crack down on crime hotspots. We look forward to working closely with all partners throughout this operation.

To contact the officers working on Op Revive with your community intelligence, please call 101 or email [OpReviveNorthampton@northants.police.uk](mailto:OpReviveNorthampton@northants.police.uk)

## CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

### Plant trees in memory of Queen Elizabeth II



Now that the leaves are falling and the colder weather is drawing in, planting season is upon us. People across West Northamptonshire are being urged to plant trees in memory of Her Late Majesty, the Queen II, 1926 – 2022. Following the wishes of His Majesty The King, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to enable people across the country the opportunity to plant trees in memory and to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II. West Northamptonshire Council is

proud to continue to support this initiative and are inviting communities to join this programme.

Planting season takes place from now until March 2023. Schools, community groups and clubs are eligible to apply for free saplings from The Woodland Trust, available on a first come first served basis. Find out more and apply by visiting The Woodland Trust.

Two trees that were included in the Queen's Green Canopy 'Tree of Trees' have been gifted to Brackley Wolf Cub Pack (5th Brackley Scout Group) and Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust. The trees, two of 350 that formed a sculpture outside Buckingham Palace during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, were gifted as a 'thank you' for all the valuable and tireless work that volunteers and individuals undertake for the benefit of their communities.

Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Morcea Walker MBE represented the Lord-Lieutenant at the gifting ceremony to Brackley Wolf Club Pack on Sunday, 27 November. Scout Leader, Anna Mezciems, planted the trees in attendance of Paul Parson, Chairman of QGC for Northamptonshire, Cllr Paul Wiltshire, Brackley Town Mayor and Cllrs Bernie Tiller and Sue Sharp, both councillors from Brackley, Bim Prentice (Group Scout Leader), Clive Morse (Chair) and the Cub Scouts themselves. The tree is added to those already planted by 5th Brackley Wolves Cub pack who planted trees in early 2020 as part of their Community Impact Badge. The cubs have enjoyed planting and want to be able to show their children in the future. It also ties in with 5th Brackley Scouts' Platinum Jubilee in September 2023.

Have you already planted a tree? Make sure that you register this on the Queen's Green Canopy website to ensure that this is displayed on the interactive map for West Northamptonshire. You can do this by visiting Queen's Green Canopy. For more information and how to get involved visit Queen's Green Canopy.

See the planting advice video from former Northamptonshire High Sheriff, Paul Parsons.

### International Women's Day 2023 to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II

To celebrate International Women's Day 2023 we will be creating an exhibition to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II. We are looking for local stories, photographs and videos from people describing how the Queen was an inspirational woman and what she meant to you. You will have a chance to view the display at the Guildhall on Saturday, 4 March 2023. Please send submissions to [forums.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:forums.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk) by 1 February 2023.



### Boxing Academy Fights On Thanks to WNC Grant

A boxing academy, which gives focus to challenging young people is fighting on thanks to a helping hand from West Northamptonshire Council. The Weedon Boxing Academy based in the village's historic Royal Ordnance Depot has a 20-year-long track record of providing young men and women a safe place to train and learn the discipline around boxing. At the height of the Covid lock-down they received a £1,000 grant from a Covid Recovery Grant, which paid for much needed equipment. Parent Damien said his son Freddie has ADHD and was finding it tough at school. Damien said: "He had quite low self-esteem.



He's always been quite small for his age, but we brought him here and he really hit it off. "He started coming three, four times a week, it's been two years this month and he's a different child. Weedon Boxing Academy takes place in Unit 7, Royal Ordnance Depot, Weedon, NN7 4Ps every weekday evening (except Thursday) from 6:45pm till 8:30pm. All walks of life are welcome from 10 years and above and in 2023 they will start a Parent Toddler session for parents to train with their toddlers from 5-10 years.