

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT APRIL 2023



E-Newsletter Issue 4/2023
Catching up with Pauline Hawkesford
Coffee@Carey, Hackleton
Tuesday, 14 March 2023

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NEWS REPORT APRIL 2023

Monthly Highlights

Due to more visa applications being approved, further hosts are needed as new arrivals from Ukraine are looking to make West Northamptonshire their temporary home.

Displaced people from Ukraine can now apply to enter the ballot for tickets for the Eurovision Song Contest 2023. The ballot allows individuals to apply for up to two tickets, if the person applying holds a biometric residence permit. The ballot is open until 4pm on Thursday 6 April. You can find details in my monthly report.

On 2 March 2023, WNC finally informed us of proposals to introduce a 40mph speed limit Order on Bedford Road, Northampton and a 50mph speed limit on A428 Northampton Road, through Great Houghton, Little Houghton, Brafield on the Green, Denton, Castle Ashby, and Yardley Hastings. The existing 30 mph stretches through Brafield on the Green and Yardley Hastings remain unchanged. The consultation closed on 23 March, and I can confirm that no objections were raised during the statutory consultation phase of the process. Due to the Easter holidays, the changes to the speed limit on the A428 will be going out to Public Consultation on 20th April.

Anglian Water are intending to carry out mains laying works along the Causeway, Northampton. To undertake this work will only be possible under a road closure and it is expected to commence on the 8 May until the 25 May 2023.

Britannia intended to offer a partial replacement for the newly defunct 41 service operated by Stagecoach. They planned to commence services early March due to the 10-week delay between application for registration and commencement. The route was to cover Northampton, Booth Lane, Brafield on the Green, Denton, Yardley Hastings, Olney and Lavendon. On 16 March, I was advised that Britannia Bus had withdrawn their proposal for the 340 Northampton-Olney- Bedford service with immediate effect. Derek Taylor, MD, Britannia Bus Ltd had expressed his views on why they reached this decision, which may not be the full picture. Derek Taylor's views abound, and I would like to be in a better position to give a statement of fact regarding any decisions made by Milton Keynes Council regarding the future of this route. As a result, I have organised a meeting with Councillor Jennifer Wilson-Marklew, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Climate Action and Transport on Thursday 6 April 2023. I will then be in a better position to provide an appropriate statement that sets the record straight and clarifies any future opportunities and intentions to provide a service for residents on the A428.

WNC appointed specialist consultants, SCP, to carry out a review of the way that bus services are currently provided across West Northamptonshire. To further support this work, an internal project to review how best community transport can be supported by WNC is underway. This team has yet to report its findings. West Northamptonshire Council submitted their Addendum for the Rural Prosperity Fund on 30 November 2022 including a section on the rural challenges of transport. The investment plan was approved by Cabinet on 17 January 2023 and the Year One funds are expected to be received in April 2023. Councillor Daniel Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth has confirmed that WNC has allocated approximately £600K from the rural prosperity fund to help rural transport, in support of the development of the public transport strategy.

SEGRO sought a change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Development Consent Order 2019. The Application was published on 10 August 2022 and the Secretary of State initiated a consultation

on the Application on the same day. The deadline for representations was 26 September 2022. The 1,094 representations submitted in response to the consultation were published on 11 November 2022. The Secretary of State published a submission from the Applicant dated January 2023 which set out their response to the representations on the Application and invited any Interested Party to respond to any of the points raised in this submission. All responses were published on 24 February 2023. The outcome is still awaited.

I am pleased to report that work was completed on the overgrown ditch near Stoneway, Hartwell on 29 March 2023.

Kier intends to carry out carriageway resurfacing works along the A428 through Yardley Hastings. To undertake this work safely the road needs to be closed with the initial patching works due to commence on the 14 June until the 27 June at off peak times. The closure and diversion can be viewed on one network.

Recently I had to explain to a Parish Council the legal reasons for my not being able to participate in a community event which intended to reach a decision regarding the outcome of a planning application. As the Chairman of the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, I may be involved in the decision making for any subsequent planning application. The law on bias and pre-determination means that Committee Members must take planning decisions with an open mind and having considered all relevant material planning considerations. The safest course is for Committee Members to avoid making public statements (including expressing views in emails) as to their support for or opposition to any application which would indicate they had made up their minds before the formal consideration of the application at the meeting.

The Consultation for the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy has been extended to Sunday 23 April.

The Consultation to transform Chalk Lane Car Park in Marefair, Northampton into a Heritage Park runs until Friday, 7 April.

The Public Spaces Variation Order Consultation runs until 17 April 2023.

The Abington and Fish Street Consultation run until 6 April 2023.

The Home to School Transport Proposal Consultation runs until 30 May 2023.

The Boundary Commission Ward changes Proposal runs until 15 May 2023.

The Food Standards Agency have a free allergy alert service that you can sign up to and get allergy alerts sent direct to your mobile phone or inbox.

Residents are set to see further improvements to planning services as West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) embarks on a fresh action plan from a recent review. Since the creation of the new Unitary Council, the planning service has been undergoing significant change with work taking place to align and improve systems and processes across the three predecessor areas into a new planning directorate. To support this work, the Council welcomed a peer review received in December 2022 by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and the Local Government Association (LGA). As part of these planned improvements, work has been ongoing to implement a new centralised IT platform which will see one system available across West

Northants. This is being delivered in two phases, with the Daventry and South Northants areas moving onto the new system in April, and the Northampton area being available from June.

Residents across West Northamptonshire can now sign up to receive optional, chargeable garden waste collections from April 2023. The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service from April 2023 to the end of March 2024 is £55 per bin and people can subscribe via the link on our website. I have written to several residents explaining the need to increase the charge for this service.

Low-income off-gas households across West Northamptonshire will soon benefit from energy efficiency upgrades and clean heating systems funding, following the successful £82,313,888 Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 funding bid secured by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Consortium of which West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is a member. See my Monthly Report.

People across Northampton will soon be able to use electronic bikes to get around town, as well as Voi's existing shared e-scooters. Northampton will be one of four locations in which Voi will offer e-bikes for hire, with 50 bikes set to be made available later this month.

The Virtual Wellbeing Festival 2023 (VWBF23) is taking place from Monday 3 to Friday 7 July.

There is a free roadshow for mature drivers (over 60) being run by Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance on Tuesday, 2 May 2023, 09:30 – 11:30am.

In April the UK Safer Internet Centre will be coming to Northampton to deliver some free workshops to anyone that works with children and young people. Please see my report for further details.

Families can get involved in the Animal Paradise trail, Northampton, which runs from April 1-16, by downloading the LoyalFree app onto their smartphone and scanning QR codes at each host venue. See my Report.

The Coronation website which provides information about the weekend of special events from 6–8 May to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen is now live. The site includes information about the ceremony on Saturday 6 May, how individuals and organisations can get involved through street parties, Coronation Big Lunches, and the volunteering drive on Monday 8 May known as The Big Help Out. Anyone hosting an event or activity to celebrate the Coronation can share their plans and populate the official interactive map and events listing which will be promoted in the weeks and months leading up to the Coronation. <https://coronation.gov.uk/share-event/>

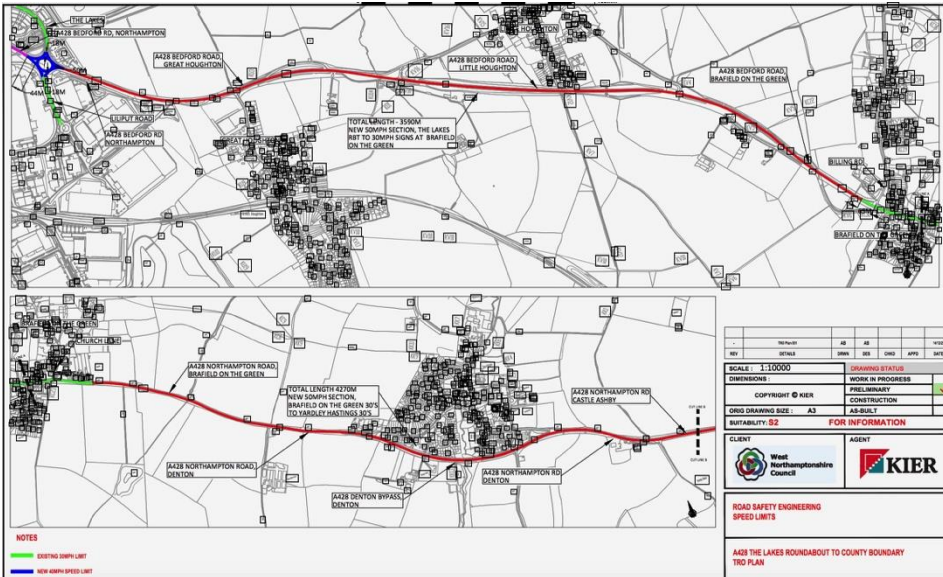
The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire is urging people to nominate local volunteers for the Coronation Champions Awards – a chance to recognise local heroes and the vital roles they play in our communities. Coronation Champions will be invited to attend one of the official Coronation celebrations, such as the Windsor Castle Coronation Concert or a Coronation Garden Party.

The Royal Collection Trust have produced an excellent set of resources for schools linked to the Coronation with PowerPoint presentations, notes and activity sheets that cover the role of The King, explain what a Coronation is and encourage participation. See my Monthly Report.

All the Best, Steve

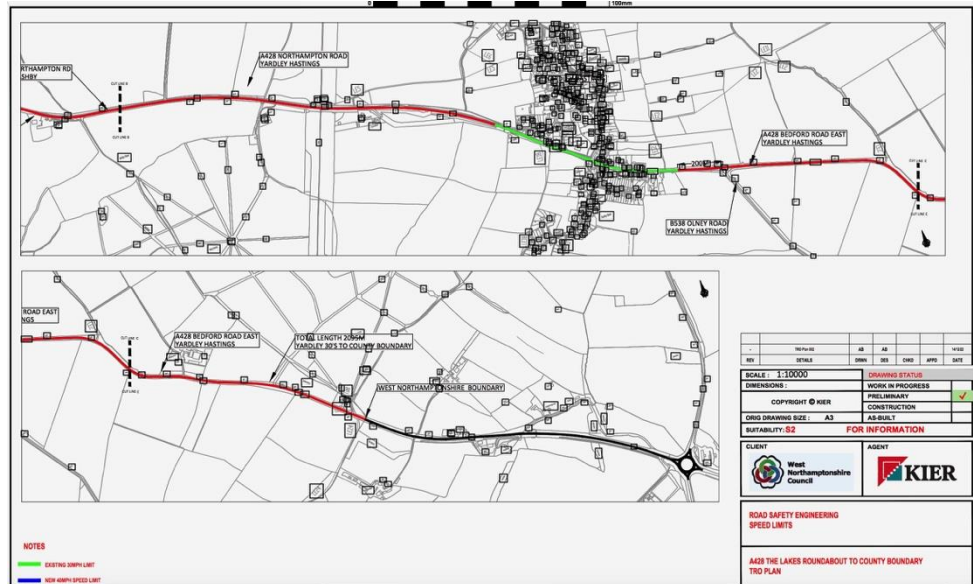
PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

Reduction of Speed Limit on the A428



Many of you have written to me expressing your concerns about the numbers of accidents, some fatal that have taken place over the years on the A428 through Northamptonshire. Over the last two years, I have worked on the need to reduce the speed limit on the A428 from Brackmills to Yardley Hastings. The first hurdle was to provide evidence and then convince members

of the Road Safety Panel of the need for a change to the speed limit on this stretch of road. Agreement was reached last year, and I was advised of the Council's intention to reduce the speed limit between The Lakes Roundabout, Northampton & the West Northamptonshire Boundary. On 2 March 2023, WNC finally wrote to several interested parties informing them of proposals to introduce a 40mph speed limit Order on Bedford Road, Northampton and a 50mph speed limit on A428 Northampton Road, through Great Houghton, Little Houghton, Brafield on the Green, Denton, Castle Ashby, and Yardley Hastings. The existing 30 mph stretches through Brafield on the Green and Yardley Hastings remain unchanged. The proposals have been put forward for maintaining safety and have been agreed through the Speed Limit Review Panel. The consultation closed on 23 March, and I can confirm that no objections were raised during the statutory consultation phase of the process. Due to the Easter holidays, the changes to the speed limit on the A428 will be going out to Public Consultation on 20th April.



Thank you to all those residents who provided evidence of the need to make these changes and supported me with this campaign from the outset.

Update on 41 Bus Service

You will be aware that Stagecoach seriously downgraded the 41-bus service recently. It impacts all the villages on the A428 between Bedford and Northampton and is causing serious problems for those who work or are in full time education in Northampton, Bedford and Olney.

However, Britannia announced the operation of a new service between Northampton and Bedford, via Olney and Lavendon on 16 January 2023 and applied to the Traffic Commissioners for approval for the route. The 340 Northampton to Olney/Milton Keynes Bus Route was referred to on their website.

Britannia intended to offer a partial replacement for the newly defunct 41 service operated by Stagecoach. They planned to commence services early March due to the 10-week delay between application for registration and commencement. The route was to cover Northampton, Booth Lane, Brafield on the Green, Denton, Yardley Hastings, Olney and Lavendon.

On 16 March, I was advised that Britannia Bus had withdrawn their proposal for the 340 Northampton-Olney- Bedford service with immediate effect. Derek Taylor, MD, Britannia Bus Ltd had expressed his views on why they reached this decision, which may not be the full picture.

Residents along the route are now asking for a further update regarding the prospects for a bus service to replace the 41 service previously provided by Stagecoach. Derek Taylor's views abound, and I would like to be in a better position to give a statement of fact regarding any decisions made by Milton Keynes Council regarding the future of this route. As a result, I have organised a meeting with Councillor Jennifer Wilson-Marklew, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Climate Action and Transport on Thursday 6 April 2023. I will then be in a better position to provide everyone with an appropriate statement that sets the record straight and clarifies any future opportunities and intentions to provide a service for my residents on the A428.

Long term outlook for community transport in rural West Northamptonshire

WNC appointed specialist consultants, SCP, to carry out a review of the way that bus services are currently provided across West Northamptonshire. To further support this work, an internal project to review how best community transport can be supported by WNC is underway. This team has yet to report its findings. West Northamptonshire Council submitted their Addendum for the Rural Prosperity Fund on 30 November 2022 including a section on the rural challenges of transport. The investment plan was approved by Cabinet on 17 January 2023 and the Year One funds are expected to be received in April 2023. Councillor Daniel Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth confirms that WNC has allocated approximately £600K from the rural prosperity fund to help rural transport, which will support the development of the public transport strategy being developed.



Hartwell Flooding and Blocked Drains

Kier have been working exceptionally hard on the Hartwell Flooding and blocked drains and the matter is almost resolved. WNC identified a blockage in the main drain on Ashton Road near to the Oak Leaf Group building. The drains were overgrown with tree roots, which they believed to be the main cause of the drainage issues in the area. They have removed the tree roots with specialist equipment. But WNC is aware that there are some further tree roots which require removal, and these are being programmed.

The residents are still concerned about the drains on the corner of Amberley Way and higher up Blacksmith's Way, and I have passed this information over to Kier for further action. I will keep the residents informed.

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.

Status of Northampton Rail Freight Order Changes

SEGRO sought a change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Development Consent Order 2019. The Application was published on 10 August 2022 and the Secretary of State initiated a consultation on the Application on the same day. The deadline for representations on the Application was 26 September 2022. The 1,094 representations submitted in response to the consultation were published on 11 November 2022. The Secretary of State then invited comments from any Interested Party on the representations received. The Secretary of State published a submission from the Applicant dated January 2023 which set out their response to the representations on the Application. The Secretary of State also invited any Interested Party to respond to any of the points raised in this submission. The new deadline was 15 February 2023. All responses were published on 24 February 2023. The outcome is still awaited.



. <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/...>

Community Help Desk, Mud Kitchen Café, Cogenhoe 9 March 2023

On 9 March 2023, after defrosting the car, I drove across to Cogenhoe. Although we had experienced some snow the previous evening, we were now experiencing rain. Nevertheless, it was a pleasant drive through rural Northamptonshire.



I attended the Mud Kitchen Café with the Community Help Desk and caught up with Deborah Rush, Clerk to Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council. We spoke about several current issues including the 'New electoral arrangements for West Northamptonshire Council, Draft Recommendations March 2023', which was issued by Local Government Boundary Commission on 7 March 2023. We briefly

discussed the arrangements for the Southeast and Central area, which covered the wards of 'Cogenhoe and the Houghtons' and 'Hackleton and Roade'.

The Mud Kitchen Café was busy from 10 o'clock with Mums taking Children to and from the Pre School. Then the Community Help Desk was busy too with individuals collecting their prescriptions, which continues to be a most popular service. After much needed refreshments, I left to get back in time to Chair the South Northamptonshire Local Area Development Control Committee in the afternoon.

YHB LARDER @ DENTON



Denton Food Larder

The Denton Food Larder, Village Hall, Denton is now open every Monday at 5.15pm. I visit it periodically to see how things are progressing. It is always exceptionally well attended.

You can purchase 10 items for £5 and then add free bread, fruit, and vegetables to your purchase. They now have a card machine too.

Community larders operate a membership programme that provides access to surplus groceries (store cupboard and refrigerated items, fruit, and vegetables) at heavily

discounted rates. The food rescued is saved from landfill and helps stop food waste. The larders are run by volunteers who are committed to getting affordable food to our communities and are open to everyone. A special thank you to all the volunteers.

Why not come along, meet the team, and find out more about how to make your money go further?

Coffee@Carey Hackleton

On 14 March 2023, I visited the Coffee@Carey, Hackleton. Coffee@Carey is the village coffee shop set up in the Carey Chapel Hackleton. I frequently visit when out and about in Hackleton. It was great to catch up with Revd Jennie, Pauline and others. Jennie tells me that they are now open from 9.00am on a Tuesday and Wednesday and gave me an update on the project to improve the toilets.

I had been unable to support the Valentine's Day music event at Coffee@Carey, which had been very well attended. Pauline told us that her husband Roy Hawkesford, a local musician had entertained everyone on his guitar. She was delighted to tell me that his finale had been to play Pauline's favourite song 'Harvest Moon'.



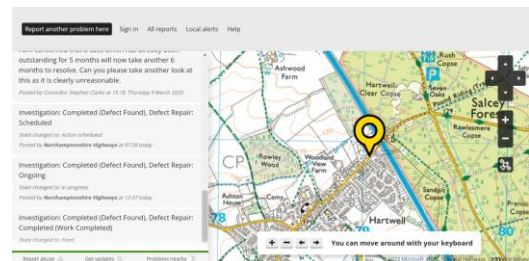
There is a fundraiser at Coffee@Carey most weeks. So why not check them out 10am - 1pm on a Monday and 9am-1pm on a Tuesday and Wednesday

Overgrown Ditch near Stoneway

I am pleased to report that work was completed on the overgrown ditch near Stoneway, Hartwell on 29 March 2023.

Endorsement by Ofsted for Cogenhoe Pre School

Cogenhoe Preschool has received a glowing report from Ofsted after being graded good in all areas by inspectors. The



preschool, based at Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall, was visited by an inspector in February and in a report published this week graded good in the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The Ofsted report said:

“Children are warmly welcomed into the pre-school by friendly and approachable staff. They form special bonds with the staff, who know the children and their families extremely well. Children develop strong attachments, which supports their well-being and confidence.” The preschool was commended for providing children with a good balance of free-choice and adult-led activities and promoting physical development by taking children on walks around the local area and nearby parks.

Children at the nursery are described as very well behaved, kind and caring as they play harmoniously with one another. They listen to one another, take turns and share their special items as they build positive relationships with each other and become deeply engrossed in imaginative play.

Inspector Charmaine Cayton found nursery staff to be “passionate” about the opportunities they provide for children. They gather information from parents about children’s interests and use it to provide engaging activities that children will enjoy. Staff were commended for supporting children’s communication and language well by engaging them in conversations, reading stories and singing popular nursery rhymes. Children are also taught about making healthy choices from food to hygiene, the report adds.

The report said: “Parents speak highly about the quality of care and education their children receive. They say that the pre-school is an integral part of the local community, and they feel like an extended family.”

According to the report, Cogenhoe Preschool staff say they feel valued and well supported by management. To improve to outstanding, the nursery needs to introduce new words to widen children’s vocabulary and extend opportunities for children to understand and respect people, families and communities beyond their own.

I am familiar with the school and the endorsement by Ofsted is well earned by Ute Graham and her team.

Congratulations to all of you.

Community Help Desk, Mud Kitchen Café 31 March 2023

On 31 March 2023 I attended the Mud Kitchen Café with the Community Help Desk and caught up with Deborah Rush, Clerk to Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council. We spoke about several current issues including the WNC SCP Report which is outstanding and the need to reconsider funding for Community Transport.

I continue to chase the need for a Bus Improvement Plan. See elsewhere in my report.

It was good to catch up with Anne Woolley and be reminded about the Lenten Lunch tomorrow.



Lenten Lunch Cogenhoe

Hosting a simple Lent Lunch and raising essential funds to support people and churches struggling with the cost-of-living crisis is a great idea. The idea of a Lent Lunch is simple: provide a frugal lunch of soup and sandwiches and donate the money you save. A Lent Lunch is also an opportunity to share conversations with more people in your community.

I promised to join several residents at St Peter’s church, Cogenhoe earlier today for their Lenten Lunch. They had prepared soup and sandwiches which were delicious. Soups are wonderful for sharing with friends and family. They are easy to make, easy to transport and easy to stretch to serve a few more people. We had a choice of Leek and Potato or Minestrone, which were kept warm in slow cookers on site. We then had a choice of sandwiches which were



made to order: cheese and pickle, ham and tomato or salmon and cucumber followed by tea or coffee. A special thank you to the volunteer cooks and servers-Joy, Jackie and Anne.

Legal position on any predetermination discussions about Planning Applications

As the Chairman of the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, I may be involved in the decision making for any subsequent planning application. Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a decision maker is not to be taken to have had, or appeared to have had, a closed mind when making the decision just because:

- (a) the decision maker had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter; and
- (b) the matter was relevant to the decision.

This provision does not change the law on bias and pre-determination which means that Committee Members must still take planning decisions with an open mind and having considered all relevant material planning considerations. The safest course is for Committee Members to avoid making public statements (including expressing views in emails) as to their support for or opposition to any application which would indicate they had made up their minds before the formal consideration of the application at the meeting. If a Committee Member has made such a statement, they must be satisfied that they can still consider the application with an open mind and are prepared to consider any new matters or any new arguments in favour of or against the proposed development until the decision is made otherwise, they should not take part in any decision on the application in question.

On the grounds of the above, it would not be appropriate for me to attend Parish Council or Community events which seek to take a decision regarding the outcome of a planning application as I must keep an open mind on this matter so as not to preclude me from participating in any future planning decisions.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Are you interested in becoming a host for Ukraine Scheme?

WNC is currently looking for new hosts to help support Ukrainian guests whose original accommodation has not worked out, or where their original hosts, due to changes in their personal circumstances, are unable to continue to offer the use of their home.

Due to more visa applications being approved, further hosts are needed as new arrivals are looking to make West Northamptonshire their temporary home. Please complete the online questionnaire to tell us whether you are interested in becoming a host; the type of accommodation being offered, and some further information about you. WNC will use the information gathered to help us continue to support Homes for Ukraine programme in West Northamptonshire.

If you need any further information, please contact WNC on resettlement@westnorthants.gov.uk

Before you complete this questionnaire, please read the Homes for Ukraine privacy policy, which will tell you how the information you give us, will be managed. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/service-privacy-notice/homes-ukraine-scheme-privacy-notice>



Ukraine Family Ballot for Eurovision Song Contest Tickets

I'm pleased to share with you that displaced people from Ukraine can now apply to enter the ballot for tickets for the Eurovision Song Contest 2023. The ballot allows individuals on the Homes for Ukraine,



Ukraine Family, and Ukraine Extension visa schemes to apply for up to two tickets, if the person applying holds a biometric residence permit. The ballot is open until 4pm on Thursday 6 April. Entries after this date will not be accepted. The UK Government is subsidising these tickets. If successful in the ballot, individuals will only pay £20 per ticket. This is part of the UK Government's support to ensure the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 is a true collaboration with our Ukrainian friends, and that it celebrates the culture of both

countries. We'd be very grateful if you would share this information, so people who are eligible know where to apply.

To apply, individuals will need to complete this form, providing their name, email address, and selecting which show or shows they wish to enter the ballot for. They will also need to upload a photo or scan of their biometric residence permit. This is essential to ensure that only those eligible for these tickets are entered into the ballot. Those successful in the ballot will receive an email confirmation and will then be able to purchase up to two tickets, at a cost of £20 per ticket. They will need a Ticketmaster account to purchase the tickets. If they do not have a Ticketmaster account already, they will be able to set one up ahead of purchase.

For individuals unsuccessful in the ballot, the BBC will be broadcasting the shows, and the Grand Final will be shown live in selected cinemas across the UK. For those who wish to travel to Liverpool, there will be lots of free activities as part of their host city programme. Anyone travelling to Liverpool will need to arrange their own travel and accommodation.

The application form, FAQs and further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/.../eurovision-song-contest-2023...>

CONSULTATIONS

New Deadline for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy Consultation

Residents, businesses, and professional drivers have been given more time to comment on West Northamptonshire Council's draft Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy. The draft policy sets out the driver, vehicle and operator standards for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles for current licence holders and all new licence applicants.



A consultation launched last month gave people an opportunity to comment on the draft policy. The 26 March deadline for this consultation has now been extended to Sunday 23 April to allow people more time to fully review it and consider their views. The draft policy focuses on improving standards and public safety and has been shaped by pre- engagement work with local licenced drivers and operators as well as the police. If adopted, it will replace the current policies for the former local authority areas of Daventry, Northampton, and South Northants.

People can have their say by visiting our Consultation Hub by the new deadline of Sunday 23 April.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../draft-taxi...>

Once the consultation closes, all responses will be evaluated and considered. The evaluation will then be presented along with the policy to WNC's Licensing Committee for consideration before the policy is adopted and comes into force.

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: parcs.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk

Our telephone: 0300 126 7000

The consultation runs until 30 June 2023.

Heritage Park Consultation

WNC is looking for feedback on proposals to transform Chalk Lane Car Park in Marefair, Northampton into a Heritage Park. This will offer open green space for families and the local community to enjoy while celebrating the heritage of the area. There will be public engagement sessions where members of the public can drop in anytime to view the plans and discuss with the officers and architects working on the project. These will be held on:



- Saturday 4 March from 10am – 4pm at the Grosvenor Centre outside the Primark unit on the

ground floor

- Wednesday 15 March between 4:30pm – 7:30pm at Springs Family Centre, 9 Tower Street, NN1 2SN.

Please have your say at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-plans-new-heritage-park>
People are invited to review the plans and have their say on the online consultation, which runs until Friday, 7 April.

Vary the Public Spaces Protection Order

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is seeking to vary the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022.

We want to continue to promote responsible dog ownership and to prohibit smoking in certain public spaces in the West Northamptonshire area. The council is now seeking to vary the Order to cover the Northampton Area and include the requirement to keep dogs on leads in Northampton town centre and at Upton Country Park Phase 2 and exclude dogs from certain public open spaces such as play areas and schools.



We are inviting you to read further information about the measures and proposals and complete an online consultation questionnaire. We also invite you to provide further comments on any of the points raised within the consultation within the relevant section of the survey.

This consultation closes midnight Monday 17 April 2023.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com>

Abington and Fish Street Consultation

Residents, businesses, and community groups are being invited to have their say on plans to redevelop the public realm at Abington and Fish Street in Northampton Town Centre. As part of a public consultation, we are seeking views on the outlined proposals to improve the appearance and paving of Abington Street and Fish Street.



The project will positively revitalise one of the busiest commercial and pedestrian routes through the town's main shopping street. It will provide improved pedestrian access, new seating, planting, outdoor dining space and encourage community activity.

The redevelopment will complement the wider regeneration of the town centre, including the Market Square transformation, and provide enhanced connectivity with the rest of the town.

People are invited to have their say on the plans by completing the online survey by Thursday 6 April.

The enhanced features and appearance, as well as new facilities will offer a fantastic space for people to use and enjoy. I would encourage everyone to take the time to come along and speak to the team about the proposals or provide their views via the online consultation.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Abington/>

Home to School Transport Consultation

On 1 March, WNC launched its Home to School Transport Consultation inviting people across West Northamptonshire to share their views on proposed changes to the Council's Home to School Transport services. The review of the service and charges is the first to take place in a decade and seeks to ensure it is delivered in line with other local councils and at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer, by tackling challenges

including a significant increase in demand from users and rising operating costs caused by high fuel prices and inflation. It also explores opportunities for a more flexible, environmentally friendly service that increases choices for parents and better supports the independence of young people.

The council currently provides Home to School Transport beyond its statutory duties, and at a lower cost than other local authorities charge users of the service. All proposals being put forward would apply from September 2024 and only affect those applying for a bus place from this period and beyond. The



consultation does not cover Home to School Transport policies for students aged 16 and over. Whilst it had initially been intended to consult on post-16 school transport, this will now be subject to a further consultation later this year, so that it can be informed by the work currently being undertaken by the wider bus strategy review. The findings of the consultation will be published and presented to WNC's Cabinet later this year. Feedback will help to inform any decision by the Council on the proposed

changes to the Home to School Transport policy and how transport assistance is delivered.

How people can take part

The consultation launching 31 March 2023 will run for 2 months until midnight on Tuesday 30 May, and we would encourage you all to invite people across your local communities to take part, whether they are parents, carers, children and young people or local schools and colleges.

Residents can take part in the following ways:

- Complete the online survey on our website consultation hub
- Email: schooltransportpolicy@westnorthants.gov.uk
- Write to: Home to School Transport Consultation 2023, West Northamptonshire Council, The Guildhall, St Giles' Square, Northampton NN1 1DE

Attend one of the following drop-in events:

- 4 May, from 4pm to 7pm, in the Council Chamber, The Forum, Towcester
- 2 May, from 4pm to 7pm, in the Jeffrey Room, Guildhall, Northampton
- Daventry, date and location TBC

For more information on Home to School Transport please visit the school travel assistance webpage.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../home-to.../>

FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

2023/24 Balanced Budget Agreed

West Northamptonshire Council has set a balanced budget for the year ahead that will protect essential frontline services whilst addressing significant financial challenges. At their Full Council meeting in Northampton's Guildhall on Wednesday, 22 February, members approved the final budget proposals, Housing Revenue Account and setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24.

In common with local authorities across the country, the Council is facing severe financial pressures due to factors including the current economic climate, high inflation rates driving up running costs and an increase in demand for services, particularly around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults.



Despite these pressures, the Council has worked hard to balance the books and has set a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 of £383.5m (excluding grant funded schools spending of £443.7m).

The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, well below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £80.50 a year, the equivalent of £1.55 a week.

The approved budget follows a strong commitment to making services as efficient as possible and reviewing income streams to maintain and protect services, with £32.0m of savings proposals put forward. It also incorporates a range of additional measures to address people's feedback in the recent budget public consultation, which attracted over 3,000 comments from residents, businesses, partners, and other stakeholders. It has also been subject to continuous review and scrutiny, including consideration by the cross-party group of members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The additional plans include investing an extra £1m in the year ahead towards repairing local roads and changes to car parking proposals include putting in place two hours' free parking on Saturdays and Sundays in Northampton's town centre off street car parks and a set weekend all-day charge of £2.20 for off street car parks, introducing free parking up to 10.30am on Saturdays at Daventry and Brixworth country parks and reducing the proposed maximum daily charge at the two sites by a third to £8.



In addition to this, the Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead towards bus services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year, while the Council shapes a new bus strategy and considers the most viable options for supporting and delivering the services in the future.

Next year's budget will see our Council invest an additional £30m in capital funding – money earmarked to improve local infrastructure and assets such as land, buildings, and equipment – on a range of projects, some of which will help reduce costs and generate income to support services in future years. Schemes set to move forward in the year ahead will help tackle speeding in rural areas, create new cycleways and footpaths for healthier travel, and improve local roads.

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.



If you are a Council Tenant, you can access the following link for Cost-of-Living Support.

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

REGULATORY SERVICES

Changes to West Northamptonshire Council Wards

The number of West Northamptonshire councillors and voter areas are set to change at the next local elections in 2025 under The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) proposals. The proposals include reviewing the number of councillor and new boundary areas for West Northamptonshire council wards. Residents are now being encouraged to review the plans and provide their views on recommended voter wards.

On 7 March 2023, the LGBCE launched a public consultation on the proposed map and councillor numbers, following the first stage consultation which took place in autumn 2022 where residents gave their views. The consultation on the outline areas runs until 15 May 2023 and people can get involved by giving their views on the LGBCE's website where they will also find useful guidance and maps of the current wards, via email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by post, by writing to the West Northamptonshire Review Officer at: LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing West Northamptonshire to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively.

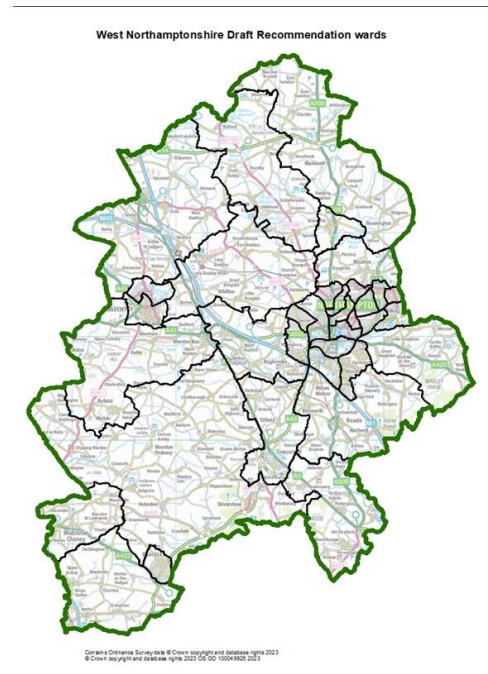
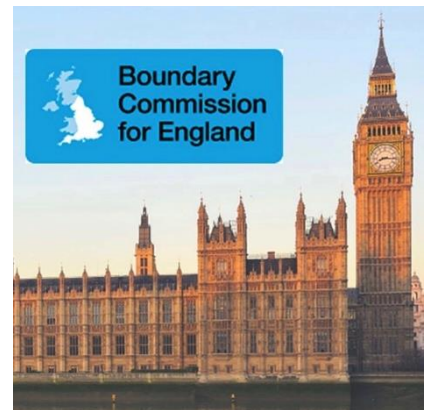
The last electoral review in Northamptonshire took place in 2013 and WNC's current electoral arrangements are based on those of the previous county council, with 93 councillors serving across 31 wards.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to West Northamptonshire. It is proposing that there should be 35 wards, an increase of four from the current arrangements. There will be seven one-councillor, 15 two-councillor and 13 three councillor wards across the council area. The boundaries of all wards should change.

Based on the evidence received, the Commission is recommending a council size of 76 and not 77 as it originally proposed.

The review is expected to end in late 2023, once the LGBCE has made its recommendations to government and an Order is laid in Parliament to change the legislation and make the new electoral arrangements.

You can access the consultation and see more information and timescales about the review on the LGBCE website. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/36573>



Cyber Security

On 27 March, I attended the Local Government Association (LGA) and The Centre for Governance and Security (CfGS) Launch Webinar for their 10 Questions on Cyber Security Guide. It is an ever-evolving topic area, and it can feel challenging to stay up to date –the guide addresses this by building knowledge and confidence.

Ellie Stewart, an Advisor in the CDT team at the LGA said It has never been more important to think about your council's cyber security, with the increase in recent years of cyber-attacks on local authorities. She stressed that the LGA operate on an 'if not, when' approach to cyber-attacks. Cyber risk sits with the entire workforce, including elected members she said.



Free Allergy Alert Service

Do you, or someone you know have an allergy, food intolerance or coeliac disease? Food products can recall due to missing or incorrect information which could pose a risk.



The Food Standards Agency have a free allergy alert service that you can sign up to and get allergy alerts sent direct to your mobile phone or inbox.

Sign up to the FSA service today: <http://ow.ly/378Q50Nr7HZ>

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

NCF to hold a series of Community Conversations

Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF) have launched a campaign to help shine a spotlight on rural community needs. A third of the county live within rural communities and a recent report from the Rural Services Network reveals how the cost-of-

living crisis is hitting people living in rural areas harder than those in towns and cities, with people living in the countryside having to pay far more on essentials such as heating, housing, and transport.

The Shining a Spotlight on Rural Community Needs campaign aims to develop a focus on rural philanthropy to ensure these communities get their fair share of funding, helping tackle urgent needs such as poverty and access to services.

Throughout 2023, NCF will be holding a series of Community Conversations to look at local need and community solutions. Members are invited to get involved and help to tackle food and fuel poverty during the current energy crisis in rural communities.

If you would like to support this work, please contact Rachel McGrath: rachel@ncf.uk.com or Dean Jones: dean@ncf.uk.com Find out more information on the Northamptonshire Community Foundation website



Farmers Mental Health

The Express reports that nine in ten farmers rank poor mental health as their biggest concern, with experts calling for more focus amid high suicide rates. To help tackle the problem, "wellbeing hubs" are being set

up by charities across rural England to help isolated agricultural staff receive companionship and mental health support.

Specialists say farmers are especially vulnerable as they battle spiralling fuel and fertiliser costs, poor



harvests and problems accessing goods and labour following Brexit. Less access to GPs and bank managers – once the go-to professionals for farmers to confide in – is compounding problems.

There are plans to upskill vets and insurance reps to fill this gap and keep an eye on mental health issues. Research by the Farm Safety Foundation charity shows 94 per cent of farmers under 40 cited mental ill health as their biggest worry – a rise of 10 per cent

since 2018. The survey of almost 1,000 farmers also showed 84 per cent of farmers over 40 said poor mental health is their biggest worry.

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:

Determined or Cancelled:

- 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.

Outstanding:

- WNS/2021/0450/MAF Barwood Homes, fifty-two new dwellings with associated open spaces, roads, and drainage infrastructure. Land South of The Wharf, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire-Hearing
- S/2021/0448/PIP Development of 4 - 6 custom/self-build dwellings, Land East of Main Road Middleton Cheney- written Representations
- WNS/2021/1858/E Solar Farm, Milton Road, Gayton Inquiry
- WNS/2022/0557/EIA Construction of a solar farm and battery stations together with all associated works, equipment, and necessary infrastructure Land at Halse Road, south of Greatworth, Northamptonshire Inquiry
- WNS/2022/0904/MAO Manor Oak Homes, Outline application for sixty-seven homes, Land at Stratford Road Deanshanger-Hearing

Building Control Services Back in House

Plans are progressing to bring Building Control services back in-house to West Northants Council from the



beginning of April 2023. Back in 2015 the Building Control function for the former Daventry District Council was transferred to a shared service with Warwick and Rugby Councils.

Following the establishment of West Northants Council, work has been ongoing with partners, officers, and stakeholders to bring this service back in house to enable a single consistent service to be provided across the whole of West Northants. These plans are well underway and are now nearing completion, as part of this work we are in the process of recruiting for new colleagues to join the new structure.

WNC will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this work and I anticipate that contact details and more information about the service will be shared during February.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../building-control...>

DLUHC Proposes an Increase in Planning Fees

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) proposed an increase in planning application fees in a new consultation, which opened on 28 February 2023. The consultation said the government has received “consistent feedback from all sectors” that due to an “absence of adequate resources and capability” the planning application service is not “consistently performing at the level it should”. According to the consultation, the “funding shortfall for the planning application service is estimated to be in the region of £225m annually”.



DLUHC is therefore proposing to raise planning application fees by 35% for major applications and 25% for all other applications. This means that for non-major developments the fee will go up from £462 to £578 and for major developments it will go up from £462 to £624. The proposed rise in fees would apply to all applicants unless they are eligible for existing exemptions.

DLUHC said that the new fees will “provide additional income for local planning authorities” whilst not “unfairly introducing disproportionately high fee increases” for households and small businesses. However, DLUHC’s consultation points out that “money is not enough” and has proposed to “provide local planning authorities with additional resources to deliver an effective planning service”.

The consultation highlights how DLUHC plans to work with representatives of the planning sector “to design and deliver a programme of support for building planning capacity and capability within local planning authorities” to seek how capacity and capability within the system might be increased.

DLUHC said it is “only prepared to introduce fee increases if planning performance also improves”. The consultation therefore proposes “a new approach to how the performance of local planning authorities is

measured across a broader set of quantitative and qualitative measures". The department hopes this will "provide greater transparency" for users of the planning system and "earlier and more targeted support to local planning authorities where needed". The consultation opened on 28 February and will run for eight weeks until 25 April.

Planned Improvements to Planning Services

Residents are set to see further improvements to planning services as West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) embarks on a fresh action plan from a recent review. With the creation of WNC at the height of the Covid pandemic in April 2021, planning services from the legacy councils in the former Daventry, Northampton and South Northants areas were brought together for day one of the new unitary authority. Since then, the planning service is undergoing significant change with work taking place to align and improve systems and processes across the three predecessor areas into a new planning directorate. To support this work, the Council welcomed a peer review received in December 2022 by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and the Local Government Association (LGA).



As part of these planned improvements, work has been ongoing to implement a new centralised IT platform which will see one system available across West Northants. This is being delivered in two phases, with the Daventry and South Northants areas moving onto the new system in April, and the Northampton area being available from June.

HOUSING

HMO Property Licence Holders Fined

Five individuals and three companies have been fined a combined total of £434,000 for offences under the Housing Act 2004, including the operation of 14 unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMO) and a catalogue of breaches relating to fire safety, tenant information and maintenance of the properties.



It follows an investigation by our Private Sector Housing Team, who attended the properties under a Housing Warrant in September 2020 and January 2021 after concerns were raised over safety. The five individuals used a range of false and misleading documents to acquire properties from high street letting agents, purporting to be taking on properties for themselves as single family properties before converting them to HMOs. They then set up companies to handle the rent payments between themselves, the tenants and the property owners.

During sentencing last week (Friday, 24 March) at Northampton Magistrates Court, the District Judge remarked that this was a deliberate, large-scale operation of falsity and that the defendants broke safety laws with no regard to the safety of the tenants, engineered solely for financial gain and profit. The court

has imposed a substantial fine which will hopefully deter rogue landlords and persuade them to comply with the law in future

ENVIRONMENT

Garden Waste Collections 2023/24

Residents across West Northamptonshire can now sign up to receive optional, chargeable garden waste collections from April 2023. The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service from April 2023 to the end of March 2024 is £55 per bin and people can subscribe via the link on our website:

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

Residents also now have the option to sign up for an annual Direct Debit to save having to remember to renew every year. Residents who are unable to access the internet can subscribe to the service by phoning the council on 0300 126 7000. Once households are signed up to the service, they will receive their new 2023/24 garden waste permit which should be put on their garden waste bin. Any bins that have not subscribed will not be emptied after 4 April. The communications plan to promote the service will begin in earnest next week, with a press release, articles in council newsletters, and a social media campaign set to get underway on Tuesday. Existing subscribers will be sent emails inviting them to re-subscribe and those not on emails will receive a letter.



Many people value the garden waste service, however there are others who don't need these collections. By ensuring that it is an optional service, only those who wish to receive the service must pay for it, making it as fair for residents as possible. People who do not wish to sign up to the service have the option of composting their garden waste at home, either in a traditional compost heap or by purchasing a compost bin by visiting www.getcomposting.com and typing in their postcode to see offers available. People can also recycle garden waste for free at any of our household waste recycling centres. A comprehensive list of FAQs is available on our website and more information can be found on our Garden Waste page

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Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Low-income off-gas households across West Northamptonshire will soon benefit from energy efficiency upgrades and clean heating systems funding, following the successful £82,313,888 Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 funding bid secured by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Consortium of which West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is a member.

The grant funds energy efficiency upgrades and clean heating systems in low-income households, targeting the most inefficient off-gas grid heated homes, to tackle fuel poverty and progress towards the UK's 2050 Net Zero commitment. Eligible households must either be situated in a pre-qualified postcode area (Indices of Multiple



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Home Upgrade
Grant launches to
provide energy
efficiency and clean
heating upgrades
to low-income
households

Deprivation Income Deciles 1-3) or have either a gross household income of no more than £31,000, or an equivalised income where cost of living is below £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs.

The home must also be heated by alternative fuels including electricity, oil, liquid propane gas, and solid fuels. The energy efficiency criteria will be determined by the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of the property and residents will be supported with this part of the eligibility process during application. Residents will be provided with a free EPC where they do not already have one.

Local installers in each region will guide customers through the application journey, helping them understand and establish eligibility for the scheme. If eligible, the installer will identify which improvements for the home will provide the greatest benefits and arrange any necessary surveys and installations.

The scheme allows funding per property to provide a range of energy and cost saving upgrades, depending on the specific circumstances such as the fuel source, energy efficiency and EPC rating of the home, with the most funding available for the least efficient homes heated by the most polluting fuel sources.

Lord Callanan, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance said: “This investment will help thousands of households to heat their homes for less, keep them warm for longer and could save hundreds on their annual energy bill”. “The green energy sector is growing, and this funding will support green jobs and provide the training needed to deliver these vital upgrades to homes.”

Cllr Jonathan Nunn, Leader of West Northamptonshire Council, said: “We welcome the news that we have secured funding as part of the Phase 2 of the Home Upgrade Grant to enable us to support low-income households helping them save money and reduce fuel poverty, whilst also cutting carbon and supporting the progress towards our 2030 Net Zero commitment and improve our environment for our communities”. “With fuel costs at an all-time high, the second phase of this scheme is an important chance for local residents to improve their homes, save money on their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions.”

Through Sustainable West Northants, WNC has committed to achieve Net Zero on all council operations by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045, take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants and ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to achieving these goals.

We are working with partners to finalise the application details of the scheme and further information will be available soon on our website.

Voi e-Bikes for Hire

People across Northampton will soon be able to use electronic bikes to get around town, as well as Voi’s existing shared e-scooters. Northampton will be one of four locations in which Voi will offer e-bikes for hire, with 50 bikes set to be made available later this month. The e-bikes operate in a similar way to Voi’s existing e-scooter scheme, with people first needing to download the Voi app and create an account. There is no need to do this if they are already using Voi e-scooters.



People can then find the nearest bike using the app, scan a QR code to unlock it and then again at the end of their journey, as well as sending a photo to show the bike is correctly parked. GPS technology is used to define the operating area, and the app clearly shows where bikes can and cannot be parked.

Just as for e-scooters, anyone can report inconsiderate riding or parking using the online tool: report.voi.com and Voi’s team will take action.

e-bike users should be aged 16 or over and do not need a UK driving licence. This is different to the e-scooters, where riders should be 18 years old or older and must

have a provisional or full UK driving licence. Voi advises e-bike cyclists and e-scooter riders to wear helmets for each journey. Riders can use day or monthly passes to ride both e-scooters and e-bikes.

We recognise the concerns of residents regarding scooters being ridden inappropriately and on footpaths, as well as being parked on footways, obstructing pedestrians. We will continue to work with Voi to overcome these concerns and ensure both e-scooters and e-bikes provide a safe and sustainable way for people to get from A to B

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs)

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) will play a key part in the Integrated **Health** agenda, and I represent Hackleton and Grange Park on the LAP in Daventry and South Northants (DSN4). The LAP covers the areas of Towcester, Deanshanger, Bugbrooke, Hackleton and Grange Park.

All 9 LAPs have been launched. There are 9 Directors within WNC, and each has been allocated a LAP. Their role is to provide a level of support and drive for the LAP to take forward its priorities and areas.

- DSN1 Martin Henry
- DSN2 Catherine Whitehead
- DSN3 Anna Earnshaw
- DSN4 Jane Carr
- N1 Sally Burns
- N2 Sarah Reed
- N3 Rebecca Peck
- N4 Stuart Lackenby
- N5 Stuart Timmiss



The Assistant Director PLACE development oversees programme management across the 9 LAPs and 6 project managers will be recruited to co-ordinate and support development of the LAPs.

Each LAP needs to agree and sign off their Local Area Profile and then based on the data within the Local Area Profiles identify 2-3 initial priorities for their area. These priorities will be validated with residents and an action plan produced detailing steps needed to be taken collectively to address the priority areas, which will be measured and monitored to demonstrate the difference being made.

There will be a 'Live Your Best Life' web page developed which will be owned by all the organisations who are part of the partnership to deliver PLACE development on West Northamptonshire. The web page will describe how the LAPs are working, provide details of the Local Area Profiles, and Leadership of the LAPs. Adult Social Care, Older People and Mental Health Services will eventually be aligned with LAPs. The same discussions are also taking place for housing, police and NHFT Community Services. This will enable operational teams to work against a defined geography and defined population. A further piece of work is needed to understand how GP practices, Primary Care Network (PCN) footprints and multi-disciplinary teams will fit.

The voluntary sector takes forward a variety of services, it is difficult to identify which voluntary sector organisations should sit within a LAP until the priorities have been decided. It is planned that there will be three family Hubs in West Northants: The Forum in Towcester, within Northampton town centre and Abbey Centre in Daventry. These aim to provide a single point for the community to be supported with information, advice and integrated services.

The Older Peoples Community Teams and Inclusion Teams have been placed together into 4 hubs, Weston Favell, Kingsthorpe, Daventry and Towcester; they will then be aligned with the 9 LAPs.

There is no new money attached to the new hubs or the LAPs, it is about attributing workforce to the geographical areas. 95% of the population located in the south of DSN4 area use a GP practice outside Northamptonshire. GP practice boundaries are not conterminous with ward level boundaries, we need to be clear how we will work together where an area isn't within our Integrated Care system. Primary care is seeing more cases of referrals being refused by Oxford University Hospitals from patients in Northamptonshire. Milton Keynes University Hospital are not completing investigations for patients from Northamptonshire into what additional support they need to be discharged. Cross county hospice services are also an issue.

There is a national challenge around providing services in more rural areas, it becomes more complex when a resident is admitted to a hospital from outside their county of residence. WNC track all admissions into Milton Keynes University Hospital, Kettering General Hospital, Horton General Hospital and when they see a patient is medically fit for discharge WNC assess a patient needs to achieve supported discharge. This is not as seamless as in Northampton General Hospital.

There needs to be better mechanisms for elected members and GPs to lobby MPs for fairer access for funding on a national basis. The Cabinet member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing wrote to the Chief Executive of the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board about West Northamptonshire not having an Urgent Care Centre. In community settings there needs to be advertised points of contact where residents can easily access information on how to access services they need. The construct of these needs to be informed by the Local Area Profiles.

Currently the LAPs will not have a budget allocation or delegated authority in relation to budgets. If this changes, there will need to be a level of governance that ensures there are no conflict of interests for decision making. Moving forward it is an aspiration that grants, and funding maybe pooled together to start a targeted investment fund for LAPs to be able to access to support their priorities.

Identify DSN4 LAP Priorities

There is a high level of rurality showing in the Local Area Profiles within the Daventry and South Northants area. The national average for rurality is 10.5%, for DSN1 and DSN4 it is over 50%. The Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum agreed rurality, social isolation, older people, mental health should feature as priorities for the lap within their area.

The hub in Towcester is good for those living in the surrounding area, but for the villages with limited access to public transport isolation is a problem. Once asset mapping is completed, we can start to identify what are the implications for people who live in villages, and what are the numbers of people who encounter these implications. We need to work collectively to find a commonality of agreement for the things we need to focus on.

We need to consider the level of engagement required to complete with the public around what are the barriers preventing people from attending community hubs such as warm spaces. The cost-of-living crisis has implications for everyone and there is no shame in accessing additional community support, it is only when people reach crisis, they start to think about how to access support.

The Northamptonshire Community Foundation are launching a community conversation which is a series of 4 conversations about the rural nature of Northamptonshire.

Brackley football club host a well-attended lunchtime club for frail and elderly, with sponsorship from the Football Association Trust. Cogenhoe host fortnightly community lunches, and Bugbrooke has a community café, which could be used as a rural hub.

There are also issues in Towcester with young people and drugs. It would be beneficial to overlay the police data on to the local area profiles within DSN4 LAP. The Office for Police Fire Crime Commissioner have funding for gang hotspots and there are knife crime and gang issues starting to surface in Towcester which is not being focused on. Secondary school children have the least support available in communities.

The first West Northants Youth Board was held in January. The National Youth Service regulatory body has met with Stuart Lackenby and Tony Challinor about the re- introduction of local councils statutory duty around youth provision. Stuart would like to complete a local self-assessment on youth provision across West Northamptonshire to ascertain what provision is already available. The Combatting Drugs Partnership will start to tackle the drugs supply line, cuckooing, county lines and organised crime.

Decision:

At the next LAP Meeting is on 18 April and we have invited a broader group of people to look at local area profiles and to start to have the opportunity to get 2 - 3 priorities agreed and addressed.

Health Inequalities Additional Allowance

The Health Inequalities Additional Allowance (HIAA) is paid into Integrated Care Boards, to specifically target reduction in health inequalities. For Northamptonshire there is an annual allocation of £2.6 million each year. The health inequalities data and Local Area Profile data will be used to identify possible suggestions about how this can be taken forward in future years.

In 2022/2023 £800k of the HIAA is being used to provide proof of concept on how this money can be invested in a specific health inequality at scale to demonstrate tangible benefits. This will be focused on the area with the highest number of CORE20plus5 populations and linked to ICB clinical priorities. The funding will focus on people with COPD within the N4 LAP area as there is twice the national average number of emergency hospital admissions in this area from people who have COPD.



For 2023/2024 there are bids for the countrywide £2.6 million and these bids are now going through a prioritisation exercise.

Northants Support After Suicide (NSAS) Webinars

There are a series of bitesize webinars on Eventbrite to provide an overview of the current Northants Support After Suicide (NSAS) Project. (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/nsasbitesize>)
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../n-sas-bitesize-webinars...>

If you know anyone who has been bereaved by suicide, perhaps you may be supporting someone, (regardless of when their bereavement was), then you may not be fully aware of all the support and

expert services available. There are bitesize sessions of 30minutes that will provide information on who the service is for (anyone), how they can access the support (<https://n-sas.org.uk/self-refer/>), NSAS current capacity (no waiting times for immediate support including counselling), plus loads more and no doubt she will also squeeze in time for any Q & A's.

Please share amongst your network, we have listened to everyone who has accessed support with We Mind & Kelly matters and hear too often, if only we had known you were here sooner, so please don't leave anyone in need of support.

High Tech Virtual Wards

Tens of thousands of elderly and vulnerable people will receive tailored support at home as part of a new NHS plan to improve waiting times for emergency care.

It comes as the government and the NHS publish a new urgent and emergency care plan, following increasing demand on NHS services. Under the plans, community services including falls and frailty teams will be scaled up, with up to 50,000 people a month supported by clinicians at home in high-tech 'virtual wards'. Urgent community response teams will also be scaled up to provide more patients with support at home within 2 hours, in recognition of the pressures facing A&E.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-to-expand-services-to-keep-vulnerable-out-of-hospital>



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

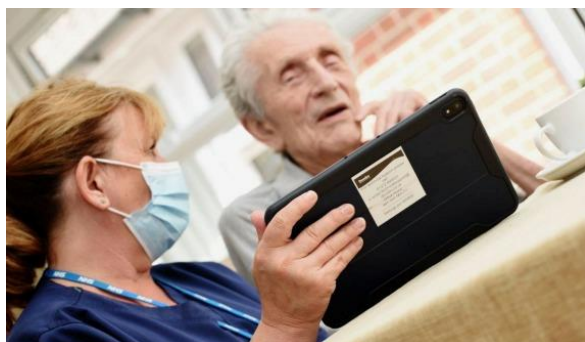
Details: No booking necessary – simply turn up – all welcome – seats allocated (80-100) on a first come basis. Free lunch provided.

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>

International Technology Enabled Care Awards 2023

Integrated Care Northamptonshire made the finals of the International Technology Enabled Care Awards 2023 thanks to a project which provides remote monitoring of patients. It was shortlisted in the Innovation Category, which celebrates organisations that have developed innovative products or services. ICN has partnered with healthcare technology experts Docobo on the project, which brings together health and



social care to remotely monitor the health and wellbeing of people in their own place of residence. It sees patients monitored by a Virtual Clinical Hub Team using remote monitoring solutions such as Docobo's DOC@HOME platform.

Carers or patients can enter vital signs and answer questions about their health onto a device, which is then automatically and securely sent to the clinical hub. Patients are monitored daily or three times a day

depending on their clinical needs and whenever an anomaly is detected. The clinical team will contact the patient either by phone or video call. The project has been rolled out across 11 care homes with a further 9 to be onboarded later this year. It is also used by people with long term health conditions who are living in their own homes. Initial results for the care homes have shown that remote monitoring has significantly reduced ambulance callouts and same-day GP appointment requests. In one care home, the average number of GP same-day appointment requests has reduced from 15 per week to an average of 6 per week. Within the same care home, the number of ambulances being called out has also dropped from 60 per month to 8 per month. You can find out more about the system on the ICN website.

Virtual Wellbeing Festival 2023

If you're starting to think about your summer plans, make sure the Northamptonshire Virtual Wellbeing Festival 2023 is the first date in your diary! Now in its fourth year, this annual extravaganza is a week-long wellbeing celebration hosted online and completely free of charge – exclusively for health and social care colleagues in Northamptonshire.

The Virtual Wellbeing Festival 2023 (VWBF23) is taking place from Monday 3 to Friday 7 July and will feature an exciting line-up of headline speakers plus an array of entertaining, inspiring and informative activity sessions, stories and resources from across our county's health and care community.

This is YOUR Festival so make sure you don't miss out! Full details of this year's Festival programme are set



to be unveiled very soon. In the meantime, visit the VWBF23 website at www.wellbeingfestival.live to download our 'Save the Date' calendar appointment.

Consultation of Children and Young People (CYP) Health and Wellbeing Services

The West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Public Health Team is assessing the health and wellbeing services which support Children and Young People (CYP) aged 0-19 and their families, to gain understanding of the current health and wellbeing needs, demands and any improvements in those services across Northamptonshire. This includes young people up to age 25 where there is a statutory responsibility (as defined under SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)).

We want to make sure that we hear your voice as parents and carers so that we can see what is working well and what could be improved. We are also seeking views from health, social care and education professionals, schools, governors, and other stakeholders.

The information you give us will be collated with other responses and used to inform future strategy and commissioning of 0-19s health and wellbeing services in Northamptonshire.

The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes. Your feedback will be part of a report with many other responses. We keep all this information secure, and the data will be shared with the people who run and make decisions on services for young people.

<https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../subpage.2023.../>

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

New SEND Information and Support Services (IASS)

West and North Northamptonshire Councils are ready to launch two new separate SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (IASS). The new services will start on 1 April and will continue to deliver the IASS remit of providing free, impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND and their families.

As part of the Children and Families Act 2014, it is a legal requirement that all local authorities ensure



children and young people aged 0 to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parents have access to impartial information, advice and support. These services operate at arm's length from local authorities and clinical commissioning groups and are independently trained. They provide practical, factual and impartial information advice and support to enable children and young

people and their parents to participate fully in decisions about education, health and social care. West Northants SEND IASS covers the entire West Northamptonshire Council area and has new branding, as shown above.

From 1 April, they can be reached by:

- Phone: 0300 12 61039
- Email: SENDIASS@westnorthants.gov.uk
- Website: www.iasnorthants.co.uk

Members are encouraged to share this information with children, young people and their parents and carers to help ensure a seamless transition and continuation of service delivery.

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

New Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy

The Government has announced plans to transform children's social care, putting families at the heart of reform.

Backed by £200 million over the next two years, a new, ambitious, and wide-ranging Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy will transform the current care system to focus on more early support for families, reducing the need for crisis response at a later stage. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/long-term-strategy-launched-to-fix-childrens-social-care>



UK Safer Internet Centre

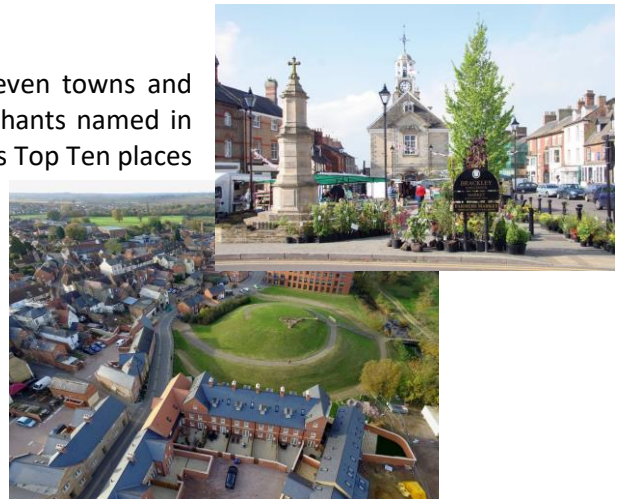
In April the UK Safer Internet Centre will be coming to Northampton to deliver some workshops free to anyone that works with children and young people. Please see poster for further details.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Top Ten Places to Live in the County

Congratulations to the seven towns and villages across West Northants named in Muddy Stiletos Northants Top Ten places to live in the County.



<https://northants.muddystiletos.co.uk/.../northamptonshire/>
[#Towcester](#) [#LongBuckby](#) [#Daventry](#) [#Weedon](#) [#Brackley](#) [#Brixworth](#) [#MiddletonCheney](#)

Northampton's Historic Market Square

The ground was broken at Northampton's historic market square at the start of February. Over the last month, work has been underway to prepare for construction works to transform this area for our community. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is working with leading construction firm Stepnell Ltd to carry out a multi-million-pound redevelopment of the area, to turn this into an area for communities, businesses, and traders to enjoy and be proud of.

Prior to construction works starting, investigations have had to take place to identify any potential risks and define clear strategies to address them. WNC and Stepnell have completed ground investigations using Danaher & Walsh and a leading geotechnical firm. This involved digging 15 trial holes and 12 boreholes in locations identified by the project team over a four-week period. The area must be carefully excavated, taking, and investigating samples that will inform how the market square is transformed. This is in addition to the ground investigations completed during the design development stage. While this work has been ongoing an archaeologist has been ensuring the redevelopment does not cause harm to potential archaeology in the ground



Following extensive research, the only viable location for the market to be temporarily relocated to while the extensive construction takes place was Commercial St Car Park, as other areas in the town, including Abington St which is due to begin works on the new public realm later this year, are due to be transformed in the coming months as part of the wider town regeneration.

Stepnell Ltd has been carrying out removal of structures, clearing vegetation, installing new security fencing, preparing for the installation of utilities and levelling the site for pedestrian and vehicular access; with the hoardings being erected this week.

Keep up to date with the redevelopment of Northampton Town Centre and across West Northamptonshire.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/regeneration>

The Animal Paradise Trail

Endangered animals will be on show in Northampton this Easter as the town centre hosts an amazing trail of sculptures made entirely from toy bricks. The Animal Paradise trail, presented and built by BRICKLIVE, has been commissioned by Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) and will feature 15 models of creatures including snow leopards, tigers, penguins, and orangutans.



Families can get involved in the trail, which runs from April 1-16, by downloading the LoyalFree app onto their smartphone and scanning QR codes at each host venue to find out more about the model creature on display in the window. All those who complete the trail via the app will be entered into a prize draw to win one of two £100 vouchers. Model builders are busy preparing the displays, with the animals ranging in length from 50cm to a 252cm tall Bengal tiger made from 118,160 bricks.

WNC is also encouraging visitors and residents to download the Explore West Northants App to find out about events and discounts throughout the year (see below).

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>

The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF)

The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF) is inviting applications for grants of up to £25,000 from community projects across the UK, with up to £250,000 available. The PCF is interested in projects that will make a difference in rural communities across the UK and clearly demonstrate the need within the community. Applications are encouraged from all part of the UK.

Keith Halstead, Executive Director of The Prince's Countryside Fund said:

"The PCF's grant programme enables rural communities to become more self-sufficient by funding community-led solutions. With thanks to Waitrose and players of People's Postcode Lottery, the PCF aims to invest at least £500,000 each year through our rural grant programmes to make projects happen, particularly in hamlets, villages, and small towns."

Zero Carbon Llanidloes have been awarded funding for their Llanidloes Library of Things - a project which will create a community resource by providing a store of useful tools and equipment to borrow - like a carpet cleaner or stair gate. This will save residents from having stuff that is rarely used cluttering up their homes and means those who cannot afford to buy can still access the things they need.

Madeleine Taylor, Head of Operations said:



"We're looking for organisations that can demonstrate how they are operating at the heart of their local community. We want to know why their project is the solution to a communal issue or challenge. Because of this, we ask applicants to provide evidence of demand direct from their target community and to show us how the project will make a tangible difference to the lives of those in their rural village or town."

If you are interested in applying please ensure that you have ready the guidance, FAQ and Grant application tips, which can be read on our website at: www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants.

If you are unsure whether you meet the eligibility criteria or would like to discuss you project, please complete the online Expression of Interest form on the website and a member of the team will be in touch. Examples of the types of projects we like to support can be found in The Village Survival Guide.

<https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/.../the.../>

Applications for grants close on 11th April 2023 at midday.



West Northamptonshire Social Enterprise Town Investment Fund

West Northamptonshire Social Enterprise Town (WNSET) this week launched a new investment fund aimed at supporting the growth and development of social enterprises in Northampton. WNSET Social Enterprise Development Fund offers a community driven initiative that will provide funding and support for local social entrepreneurs to maximise the impact of the Town's diverse social enterprise sector.



The event took place at the University of Northampton with presentations by local social entrepreneurs about their experiences and success stories. The Northampton Social Enterprise Development Fund forms an integral part of West Northamptonshire's ambitious £33 million Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund regeneration programme to transform Northampton Town Centre.

This project enables us to directly support the growth of our thriving social enterprise community who provide diverse and invaluable services for Northampton and beyond. We are delighted to see the launch of this fund and we look forward to seeing the positive contribution it makes to our community. Find out more information about the WNSET Social Enterprise Development Fund

Small Grant Programme (older people) – Charles Hayward Foundation

Grants are available up to £7,000 for charities with an annual income of less than £350,000.

This programme wishes to fund preventative and early intervention programmes being delivered at the community level, which allow older people to stay in their own homes and remain independent. They are particularly interested in seeking out programmes, which show some creativity in improving the quality of life of older people.



- Programmes aiming to alleviate isolation and depression in older people, including informal day care or social, physical, and recreational activities.
- Programmes, which give practical help, assistance and support for older people living in their own homes.
- Programmes addressing the emotional and practical needs of older carers.
- Programmes designed to meet the specific needs of people with dementia.

Applications will be considered every three months (March, June, September, and December).

<http://www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk/older-people/>

Specialist Grant Programme – Lloyds Bank Foundation

The focus of this programme is to support small, local, specialist charities with an income of £25,000–£500,000 where the Foundation's three-year unrestricted £75,000 grant and support to develop, can make the greatest impact. They'll support charities that understand the complexity of the issues people face and are best placed to make a genuine difference to people's lives.



Grants are available up to £75,000 and three years. The deadline for applications is 3 March 2023.

A New Energy Discount Scheme for Businesses, Charities, and the Public Sector

A new energy scheme for businesses, charities, and the public sector has been confirmed, ahead of the current scheme ending in March. The new scheme will mean all eligible UK businesses and other non-

domestic energy users will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024. This will help businesses locked into contracts signed before recent substantial falls in the wholesale price manage their costs and provide others with reassurance against the risk of prices rising again.



The new scheme therefore strikes a balance between supporting businesses over the next 12 months and limiting taxpayer's exposure to

volatile energy markets, with a cap set at £5.5 billion. This provides long term certainty for businesses and reflects how the scale of the challenge has changed since September last year.

Coronation Events Product Placement

In conjunction with Northampton Town Council, WNC has put together a range of packages to help businesses promote their product or service with potential customers, or secure high-quality product placement opportunities at the Coronation events.

If you would like more information, or to discuss a tailored sponsorship package, please email coronation@westnorthants.gov.uk



TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Review of West Northamptonshire Bus Services

WNC appointed specialist consultants, SCP, to carry out a review of the way that bus services are currently provided across West Northamptonshire. To further support this work, an internal project



to review how best community transport can be supported by WNC is underway. This team has yet to report its findings.

West Northamptonshire Council submitted their Addendum for

the Rural Prosperity Fund on 30 November 2022 including a section on the rural challenges of transport. The investment plan was approved by Cabinet on 17 January 2023 and the Year One funds are expected to be received in April 2023. Councillor Daniel Lister, Cabinet Member

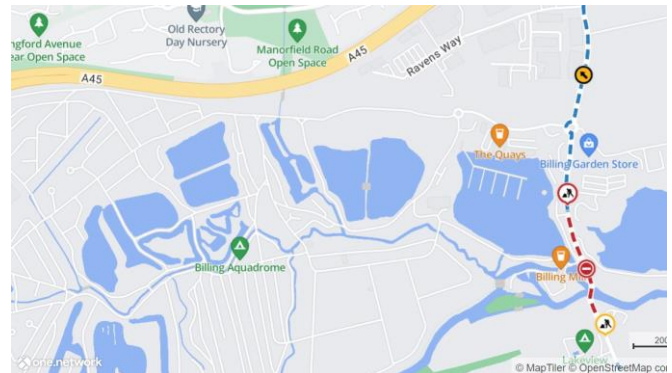


for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth has confirmed that WNC has allocated approximately £600K from the rural prosperity fund to help rural transport, in support of the development of the public transport strategy.

Road Closure-The Causeway Northampton

TTRO(22/23) W772 - The Causeway, Northampton
Anglian Water are intending on carrying out mains laying works along the above road. To undertake this work will only be possible under a road closure and is expected to commence on the 8th of May until the 25th of May 2023.

The closure and diversion can be viewed here
<https://one.network/?tm=133452221>



A428 Carriageway Resurfacing

Kier is intending on carrying out carriageway resurfacing works along the A428 through Yardley Hastings. To undertake this work safely the road needs to be closed with the initial patching works due to commence on the 14th of June until the 27th of June at off peak times. The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=133635733>



Active Travel Grant Funding Northampton

Residents, businesses, and community groups have been given more time to comment on our Council's proposals to improve walking and cycling routes in the Abington Park area and encourage more active ways of travelling. Following on from the initial comments from residents and additional requests for information, the consultation period has been further extended. The consultation will be republished on 3 April, allowing people to provide further feedback on our consultation until midnight on Sunday 14 May.



The Abington Park Area Active Travel scheme proposes the introduction of segregated cycleways and footways connecting Abington Park Crescent with Wellingborough Road, Bridgewater Drive, and Park Avenue South, as well as improvements to the junction of Billing Road and Rushmere Road. These proposals support safe active access to Abington Park and nearby Bridgewater Primary School.

The proposed changes seek to encourage improved active travel and provide better alternatives to driving which will reduce traffic and increase safety for walkers and cyclists. We are also hosting two further drop-in events, when members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the scheme and speak to people about the proposals and consultation.

- 20 April at Bridgewater Primary School, 3.30-6.30pm
- 27 April at Abington Park Museum, 3-7pm

People can view the proposals online from 3 April and provide feedback via an interactive online engagement room. Visit our Abington Area Active Travel scheme page for more information.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/trans.../active-travel-fund>

Northampton North-West Relief Road (NNWRR)

Work is well underway to work to create the Northampton North-West Relief Road (NNWRR). Since the project moved into the delivery phase in March 2022, preparations and construction have taken place to deliver the new road which will link the A428 Harlestone Road to the A5199 Welford Road. The £54 million scheme is supported by SEMLEP, the Southeast Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and benefits from £7.93 million of Local Growth funding. Over the last twelve months, WNC has worked with partners to acquire the land for the development, working with experts to scope and begin the relevant archaeological field work – while protecting our environment and manage the careful construction of the rail and river bridges. In addition to this, critical utility diversions will



take place alongside the scheme groundworks. In January, the scheme was awarded 43 out of 45 by Considerate Constructors Award, assessing the positive impacts on community, the environment and valuing the workforce. The Design and Build contractor Balfour Beatty, and Kier Highways are working with WNC, and works are expected to complete by summer 2024. Part of this includes providing social value for local communities, which includes providing work experience, apprenticeship, and school engagement opportunities. More information about the NNWR can be found on our website and updates will also be posted on the @wnhighways account on Twitter. Roadwork information can be viewed at one. network.

POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

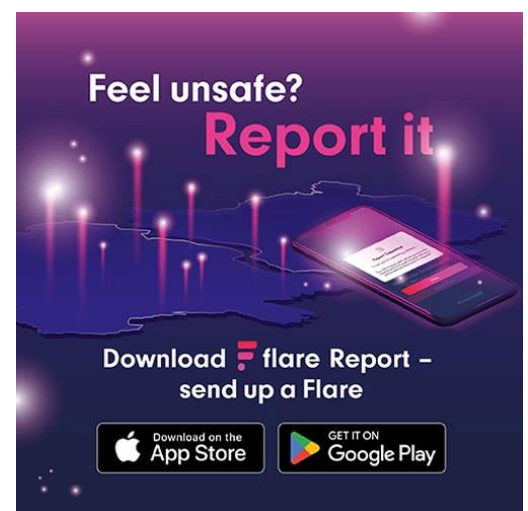
Flare Report

A new, free smartphone app – Flare Report – has been launched to help women and girls feel and be safer on the streets of Northamptonshire. Women and girls can use it to report incidents and behaviour that are inappropriate and make them feel unsafe, such as catcalling, comments or touching, street harassment or other threatening behaviour.

Flare is not for reporting crimes in progress that need an immediate response, but Police will check reports every day to make sure that nothing that needs an urgent response has been submitted. Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold has brought the app to the county and hopes that reports made on Flare will help to build a clearer picture of where incidents are happening and give women the confidence to report things that might otherwise go unreported.

The app can be installed onto your phone clicking the link below or by searching for 'Flare Report' on Google Play or Apple Store.

<https://onelink.to/arwvpq>



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

Mature Drivers Roadshow



Are you a mature driver (aged 60+)? living in Northamptonshire? Do you rely on being able to drive? This FREE roadshow is for you.

By Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance

On Tuesday, 2

May 2023,

09:30 – 11:30

BST

At Police HQ,

Wootton Hall Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 0JQ

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../mature-drivers-roadshow...>

Northamptonshire Police Recruitment Event

Northamptonshire Police Positive Action team will be holding a recruitment event in [#Wellingborough](#) on Wednesday 26 April, between 6.30pm and 8pm. If you're interested in a career with Northamptonshire Police, do pop along and see them.



Northamptonshire Emergency Cadets

Do you know a teenager who would make a great cadet? Now's their chance to work with the county's police, fire and ambulance services.

The search is on for the next intake of Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadets.

Learn more here: <http://ow.ly/Pggj50NuGza>

Apply here: <http://ow.ly/cMwt50NuGz7>



CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

West Northamptonshire Coronation Events

Businesses across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to play a key role in supporting local celebrations to mark the Coronation weekend from 6 to 8 May. Preparations for a packed weekend of festivities are underway in West Northamptonshire, including a Community Festival Street party with big screens in Northampton town centre on the Saturday from 10am - 4pm, and a Coronation Big Lunch and Afterparty at Delapré Abbey on Sunday from 12pm –10.30pm.

The free events will feature live music, activities and arts performances as well as the chance to watch the national Coronation celebrations live on big screens. WNC has worked with Northampton Town Council to put together a range of packages to help businesses wishing to promote their product or brand, network with potential customers, or secure high-quality product placement opportunities at the events. We are also inviting local producers, schools, bands, creative makers, artists and traders to showcase their unique offer at the events, through food and drink stalls, arts and crafts, live music and performances. We're delighted to put together a great schedule of



activities for communities to enjoy. It's a great opportunity for us to support local groups, and we're also pleased to invite our local businesses to work in partnership with us.

Following the success of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations last year, where the 5,000 tickets sold out in the first couple of days, we are confident that our fantastic community will come together once again to celebrate another historic occasion. Find out more about sponsorship as well as opportunities to perform or hold a stall. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/events/coronation-2023>



Coronation weekend website now live

The Coronation website which provides information about the weekend of special events from 6–8 May to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen is now live.

<https://coronation.gov.uk>



The site includes information about the ceremony on Saturday 6 May, how individuals and organisations can get involved through street parties, Coronation Big Lunches, and the volunteering drive on Monday 8 May known as The Big Help Out.

Anyone hosting an event or activity to celebrate the Coronation can share their plans and populate the official interactive map and events listing which will be promoted in the weeks and months leading up to the

Coronation. <https://coronation.gov.uk/share-event/>

Coronation Event Funding

From cultural festivals that connect communities, to improving access to nature - find out how you can commemorate His Majesty the King's Coronation. Read our blog to find out how you can get involved. <http://ow.ly/fa0K50MIPa8n>

To give yourself the best chance of securing grant funding, your application should show us how your plans will have a lasting community impact beyond the Coronation weekend.



Coronation Champion Awards

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire is urging people to nominate local volunteers for the Coronation Champions Awards – a chance to recognise local heroes and the vital roles they play in our communities. Coronation Champions will be invited to attend one of the official Coronation celebrations, such as the Windsor Castle Coronation Concert or a Coronation Garden Party.



Please Nominate a Coronation Champion here: <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/.../coronation.../>
To keep track of the number of nominations submitted from Northamptonshire, those who submit a nomination are asked to also email ocw@wicksteedcharity.org with the approximate age and category of the person you are nominating.

Coronation Resources for Schools

The Royal Collection Trust have produced an excellent set of resources for schools linked to the Coronation with PowerPoint presentations, notes and activity sheets that cover the role of The King, explain what a Coronation is and encourage participation.

<https://www.rct.uk/discover/school-resources/school-resources-for-the-coronation-2023?fbclid=IwAR0tCkwDXNgMAeL7K2bryVkAAizLUGGXyV3N85V9yEsDMlo-hgogFau3sc4>



Women's Tour Postponed

Following the announcement on 9 March 2023 that the prestigious cycling event will be taking a one-year hiatus due to a combination of increased running costs and a reduced level of commercial support, our Council is keen to secure future opportunities and bring national sporting events to the area. The event would have seen the second stage of the Tour launch in Northampton before travelling through Daventry, Towcester and Brackley, and formed part of a wider programme of sport and wellbeing events and activities in West Northants this summer. While it is extremely disappointing that we will not be hosting the Women's Tour this summer for reasons beyond our control, it was an honour to be one of just nine locations chosen to take part.



Our Council is committed to doing everything possible to encourage and promote increased participation in sport, particularly by women and girls, and we will continue to strive to bring world-class events to our area as we build a legacy for future generations and establish West Northants as a destination for sporting excellence. We will also be looking at repurposing funding for other cycling and sporting initiatives which play an important role in bringing communities together and inspiring people to take up sport and live a more active and healthier lifestyle.

Decarbonisation of Four Leisure Centres

Four leisure centres across West Northamptonshire will soon benefit from new facilities to improve their carbon footprint, after our Council successfully securing £7 million as part of the Government's Decarbonisation scheme. Daventry Leisure Centre, Moulton Leisure Centre, Brackley Leisure Centre, and Towcester Centre for Leisure will benefit from heat decarbonisation and improved energy efficiency following the successful application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme phase 3b.



The fund, initiated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, is delivered by Salix Finance, which supports decarbonisation and energy efficiency across Great Britain. The objective is to bring facilities up to date and contribute towards decarbonisation. The funding will be used to decommission the end-of-life gas boilers at the identified leisure centres and replace them with air source heat pumps or similar low carbon heating solutions. In addition to our wider work to increase solar energy, the Council will increase

solar electric generation capacity of the four leisure centres.

Work is already underway to begin outlining the approach for the project to ensure this is delivered by spring 2024 and achieve a low carbon heating solution for each leisure centre. WNC is also looking at other opportunities for generating low-carbon electricity. This work will contribute towards our wider strategy to reduce carbon emissions, and achieve Net Zero across West Northamptonshire, improving our environment for our communities. WNC has committed to achieve Net Zero on all council operations by 2030, and those of residents and businesses by 2045, through our Sustainable West Northants programme. You can find out more on our Sustainable West Northants page:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/sustainable-west-northants>

Council's Inspirational Women's Awards

The winners of our Council's Inspirational Women's Awards were announced at Northampton's Guildhall on 4 March as part of an afternoon of activities to celebrate International Women's Day. The event aims to publicly recognise and promote those women who inspire and have a real impact on the lives of others in the community or the workplace. There were more than 70 nominations this year, and



It was incredible to hear about some of the women who are doing remarkable work in communities across West Northamptonshire.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the inspiring women who were nominated.

The winners were as follows:

- Community Award: Sally Jordan
- Business Award: Becky Bradshaw
- Special Recognition Award: Julie Bainbridge

SNVB First Volunteer Awards

SNVB are getting excited about its first Volunteer Awards. They are looking for some more nominations in these categories:

- Arts, Culture and Heritage Volunteer
Outstanding commitment to engagement with arts, heritage and culture in the community
- Outstanding COVID Volunteer
This award is for that special person who made sure that everyone was taken care of during the COVID pandemic
- Living World Volunteer of the Year
Volunteers involved with the outdoors, gardens, waterways or animals
- Physical Activity Volunteer of the Year
This award is for the volunteer who is encouraging people to live more active lives through sport, dance or other physical activities



https://www.snvb.org.uk/news/south-northamptonshire-volunteer-awards/?dm_i=5G58,Q5MK,40FIE,36OR8,1