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## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JUNE 2023



**E-Newsletter Issue 6/2023**  
**Fun Dog Show and Church Fete**  
**Castle Ashby**  
**on 4 June 2023**

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## NEWS REPORT JUNE 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.

Ukrainians in the UK will be helped into their own homes as part of a £150 million funding allocation. Funding can be used by councils to help Ukrainian families into the private rental sector, help them get jobs, and continue sponsorship for guests' second year in the UK. The Department for Transport has also announced it will extend the length of time Ukrainian refugees can drive in Great Britain on their home country driving licence, from 1 year to 3, in a move that will help many continue the lives and jobs they have forged since arriving here.

See my Monthly Report.

On Sunday 4th June 2023, Stagecoach East made changes to the 41 service within the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire network. This has been the result of considerable influence being exerted on Milton Keynes Council by Councillor Deborah Whitworth supported by me and others. The importance of this transport link for the communities who live alongside the A428 between Bedford and Northampton cannot be underestimated. It is a lifeline to those who have no other form of transport. Many of you have spoken out at various events about the need for this important service to be reinstated. Thank you to all of you who have played a part in achieving these changes. So, let's see what we can do to market and encourage an increase in bus patronage along this route so that we can secure it for the foreseeable future.

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 commencing on the 14 June until the 27 June at off peak times. The closure and diversion can be viewed on one network.

On 13 June 2023, I was extremely disappointed to hear about further flooding in Blacksmiths Way, Hartwell, particularly as I have been working on trying to obtain a resolution to this problem for the past two years. During this time, WNC and Kier have worked on site to carry out some remedial actions on an intermittent basis, but what is needed is a systematic review and an agreed action plan implemented which resolves this matter once and for all. I asked Anna Earnshaw, CEO, WNC to provide me with a statement of WNC's intentions on how they intend to resolve this matter. Previously WNC have undertaken works on Ashton Road to remove the roots from the drain, they have now confirmed they will be revisiting on a regular basis to ensure the drain is kept clear of tree roots. In addition, they have also identified a number of broken gully connections on Ashton Road when recent cabling works were undertaken by a third party. The Street Works supervisor team have been advised to repair them urgently and I am awaiting a confirmed date. As soon as I have a confirmed date, I will advise you accordingly. On Wednesday 14 June 2023 engineers were in the area to clear out the drains in preparation of a CCTV survey to see why the water was not clearing away from the drain near 71 Blacksmith's Way last week. They will complete the survey and then action the findings. I shall be meeting our Network Manager Paul McGrath and Andrew Leighton on Tuesday 27 June at 11.00am to look at the issues first hand. They are currently looking at all options and feasibility and will go through this at our meeting.

Look out for the West Northamptonshire Parks Visitor's Feedback survey which closes on 30 June 2023.

Families with schoolchildren experiencing hardship across West Northamptonshire received a voucher to support them with food costs during the May half-term holiday. Provided by the Department for Work and

Pensions (DWP), West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will be distributing over £187,000 in vouchers to help up to 12,500 of the most vulnerable families with the ongoing cost of living challenges. WNC's Cabinet met on 13 June 2023 to determine the best use of Household Support Fund 4 within the scope set out by government over the next 9 months, which will support struggling residents and deliver better outcomes as part of its anti-poverty strategy.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is moving its Daventry offices from Lodge Road to the Abbey Centre. The move will take place in two phases. Customer-facing services have now moved, to be followed by the move of the rest of the WNC teams and the Northamptonshire Children's Trust later this summer.

Local assets such as sports clubs, music venues and historical buildings will be able to apply for government funding as part of the third round of the Community Ownership Fund, with £150 million worth of allocations available.

Planning applications across West Northamptonshire will be determined by two new committees from June, as our Council continues work to improve planning services. Since vesting we have operated three Local Area Planning Committees, covering the former Daventry District, South Northamptonshire and Northampton Borough council areas.

Proposals to abolish those committees and replace them with two new committees – one covering the north of West Northants, and one for the south – were agreed at Annual Council on Thursday 19 May. The Strategic Planning committee will remain as it currently is.

The Planning Committee – North will be composed of eleven members and be constituted to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards:

Braunston & Crick, Brixworth, Moulton, Long Buckby, Daventry West, Daventry East, Woodford & Weedon, Duston West & St Crispin, Duston East, Dallington Spencer, Abington & Phippsville, Kingsthorpe North, Kingsthorpe South, Boothville & Parklands, Headlands, Talavera and Billing & Rectory Farm.

The Planning Committee – South will be composed of eleven members and be constituted to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards:

Bugbrooke, Towcester & Roade, Hackleton & Grange Park, Silverstone, Deanshanger, Middleton Cheney, Brackley, St George, Sixfields, East Hunsbury & Shelfleys, Delapre & Rushmere, Castle, Riverside Park and Nene Valley.

At the Annual Meeting of Council, 18 May 2023 I was appointed as Chairman of the West Northamptonshire Council Planning Committee South.

Community Tree Planting Grants are available, and applications can be submitted from June onwards with a final deadline of 15 December 2023. See my Monthly Report.

Stickers promoting the correct use of waste and recycling bins are being distributed to households across West Northamptonshire from this week. The stickers will be placed on top of general waste bins, with clear instructions on what cannot go into that bin:

- No Batteries, use separate collection
- No Food Waste, use your food caddy
- No Recyclables, use your recycling bin

People aged between 70 to 79 in West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to get their shingles vaccine to lower the chance of developing the infection.

A toolkit to help set up Warm Hubs across the country has been launched, with support agencies encouraged to build on this winter's Warm Spaces initiatives and convert them to Warm Hubs.

To help people with cost-of-living pressures and save on everyday travel costs, the government will continue to cap single bus fares at £2 outside London until the end of October 2023 and then at £2.50 until 30 November 2024 –when the government will review their effectiveness and future bus fares.

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

Voluntary and community sector organisations who deliver important services in West Northamptonshire can now apply for grants of up to £15,000. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) opened a fresh round of Discretionary Community Funding Grants from Tuesday, 30 May 2023.

Applications for this round of funding should be submitted no later than Wednesday, 28 June 2023.

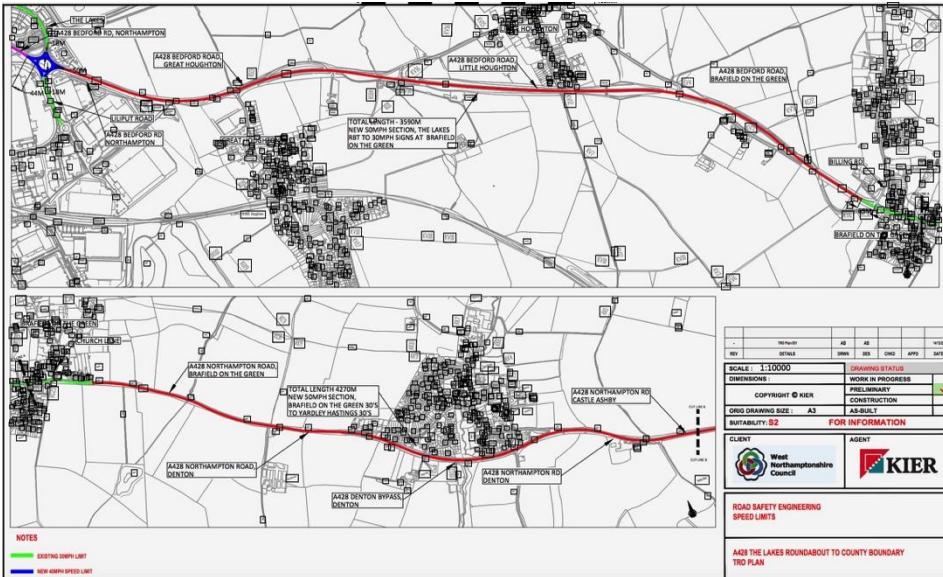
Did you know? Town and Parish Councils have a new dedicated officer at our Council who they can contact for help and support with all things WNC. Our Parish Council Liaison Officer Alan Burns has been in post since January 2023 with a remit to maintain and enhance good working relationships between West Northamptonshire Council and our Town and Parish colleagues.

Find out more on the Town and Parish Council help centre on our website, or email [alan.burns@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:alan.burns@westnorthants.gov.uk) for more information

*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.

I have heard from the team that manages the Traffic Regulation Order process and they have advised that both the statutory and public consultations have ended without the receipt of any objections. Our engineers will now draw up and finalise the signing plans and get these works priced and ordered. We anticipate that we will be in a position to install the new signs in approximately 3 months.

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.

### **Changes to the 41 Bus Service**

On Sunday 4th June 2023, Stagecoach East made changes to the 41 service within the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire network. This has been the result of considerable influence being exerted on Milton Keynes Council by Councillor Deborah Whitworth supported by me and others. The importance of this transport link for the communities who live alongside the A428 between Bedford and Northampton cannot be underestimated. It is a lifeline to those who have no other form of transport. Many of you have spoken out at various events about the need for this important service to be reinstated. Thank you to all of you who have played a part in achieving these changes. Rural areas, like urban areas, should be able to plan bus networks that meet people's needs. If bus patronage is going to grow, the bus user must be prioritised, whether that bus user is in a city or in the countryside. Rural local authorities need to have a range of options for creating high quality networks in their areas including the pooling of existing bus funding.



Rural areas have a lot of different transport services commissioned and run by different bodies: social services, education, health, youth service etc. If these were brought together, better rural transport services could be provided with no extra cost. I want to see more authorities co-ordinating their transport services and funding, and the Government promoting this through local area agreements.

In the meantime, as Councillor Debbie Whitworth and others say you will need to use the 41 service or it will be lost. So, let's see what we can do to market and encourage an increase in bus patronage along this route so that we can secure it for the foreseeable future.

Stagecoach published the changes to the 41 service on 18 May. The link and timetable information is as follows:

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?SituationId=ID-18/05/2023-14:18:59:593>

<https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/East/BEDFORD/BE-41-040623.pdf>

### **Flooding in Hartwell**

On 13 June 2023, I was extremely disappointed to hear about further flooding in Blacksmiths Way, Hartwell, particularly as I have been working on trying to obtain a resolution to this problem for the past two years. During this time, WNC and Kier have worked on site to carry out some remedial actions on an intermittent basis, but what is needed is a systematic review and an agreed action plan implemented which resolves this matter once and for all.

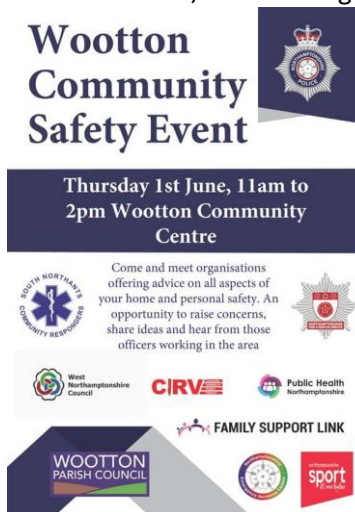
I asked Anna Earnshaw, CEO, WNC to provide me with a statement of WNC's intentions on how she intends to resolve this matter. Previously WNC have undertaken works on Ashton Road to remove the roots from the drain, they have now confirmed they will be revisiting on a regular basis to ensure the drain is kept clear of tree roots. In addition, they have also identified a number of broken gully connections on Ashton Road when recent cabling works were undertaken by a third party. The Street Works supervisor team have



been advised to repair them urgently and I am awaiting a confirmed date. As soon as I have a confirmed date I will advise you accordingly. On Wednesday 14 June 2023 engineers were in the area to clear out the drains in preparation of a CCTV survey to see why the water was not clearing away from the drain near 71 Blacksmith's Way last week. They will complete the survey and then action the findings. I shall be meeting our Network Manager Paul McGrath and Andrew Leighton on Tuesday 27 June at 11.00am to look at the issues first hand. They are currently looking at all options and feasibility and will go through this at our meeting.

### Wootton Community Safety Event

On 1 June 2023, I went along to the Wootton Community Safety Event at Wootton Community Centre. It



**Wootton Community Safety Event**

Thursday 1st June, 11am to 2pm Wootton Community Centre

Come and meet organisations offering advice on all aspects of your home and personal safety. An opportunity to raise concerns, share ideas and hear from those officers working in the area

Logos: South Northamptonshire Community Resilience, West Northamptonshire Council, CIRV, Public Health Northamptonshire, Wootton Parish Council, Family Support Link, Sport.

was a very interesting opportunity to learn how to perform CPR and speak to the other Emergency Services. I was able to meet Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT) a Family Support Group that provides a whole family structured support programme, which aims to improve the well being of children and families affected by substance abuse. Each MPACT programme brings together a small number of families (up to 8 families), which usually includes at least one parent (or parenting figure) with a substance use problem, and at least one child between 8 and 17 years. The programme comprises 10 sessions. An MPACT programme will take approximately 6 months. You can make a referral by contacting them on 01933 227078 or via their website:

[www.familysupportlink.co.uk](http://www.familysupportlink.co.uk)

There was advice on how to protect your home and property from Northamptonshire Police, together with a useful Burglary Prevention Pack. For more information refer to Crime Prevention Pages at

[www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk)

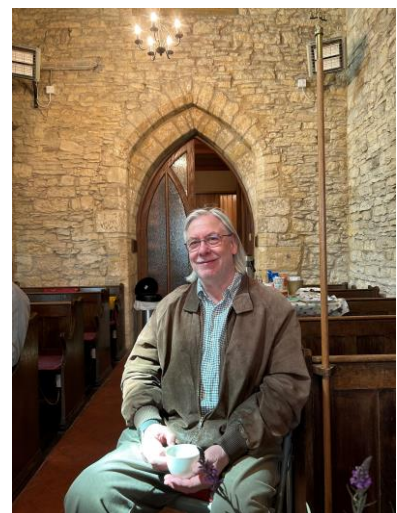
I also caught up with West Northamptonshire Council Community Safety Officers and received lots of other information on Firestoppers and the Northamptonshire Police Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) with its My Back Yard project.

As it was Half term, there were great colouring books for the children such as the 'Big Police and Fire Activity Book and the 'Big Fire Engine Activity Box' and other puzzles not to mention the chance to get up close to a real fire engine.

### Quinton Coffee Morning 3 June 2023

On 3 June, I attended the Quinton Coffee morning and caught up with Barbara, Julia, Mary, Andy and others. Open to all, the monthly first Saturday 10.30-12.00 coffee mornings provide an opportunity to relax and catch up with folks from the local community.

As always, everyone is always pleased to see a new face and offer a warm welcome to newcomers, including the person just taking photographs of such a beautiful church. The coffee and homemade cakes were most enjoyable especially the coffee cake. Everyone who turns up always enjoys a warm welcome, friendship and conversation. Well done to those who make it happen. We didn't meet last month because of the Coronation so it was good to catch up again yesterday.



### Castle Ashby Fun Dog Show and Church Fete



On 4 June, I visited the Castle Ashby fun dog show and church fete. We saw the flyball teams in action and lots of dogs winning some great prizes. I particularly enjoyed the beautiful strawberries and cream with a cold drink in the bright sunshine.

Well done to Susan Wilson and Michael Clarke and all those from Castle Ashby and Denton who produced such a great offer of cakes and strawberries in support of both churches. There were a number of lovely stalls, home-made refreshments and a children's entertainer.

Although much earlier than last year we still had glorious weather for this event.



### Brafield Flower Festival and Village Fete

After attending the Hackleton Great Village Fun Day, I went on to the Church of St Lawrence, Brafield on the Green for their Flower Festival and Village Fete. The theme this year was the countries of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth, also known as the Commonwealth of Nations, is a political association of 54 member states. It was formerly an organisation linking all of the British Empire colonies, but as more nations gained their independence, the role of the Commonwealth changed into what is now a group of countries with a shared history who work together on trade, the environment, and human rights.

The Floral displays reflected some of the countries and were of a size that ensured they were visible to the person a few seats down the aisle or adjacent to the display. In other words, they were big enough to be seen and not swallowed up by other things in the church. With the fine weather of the last few days bringing Britain into full summer bloom, the traditional flower festival in one of the county's most beautiful churches was underway. The efforts of those who had worked on it was seen and enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success!

After seeing the wonderful displays, I proceeded to the Village Hall for much needed refreshments.



### Little Houghton Church Coffee Morning

On 10 June 2023, I attended the monthly Little Houghton Church Coffee Morning. Everyone is welcome for tea or coffee and biscuits and to try your luck at the monthly raffle whilst meeting your friends, or even making some new ones. All proceeds go to support the Village Church Charity.

Whilst there, we were reminded about the fun dog show at next Saturday's fete and Teddy Bear Trail.

### Hackleton Great Village Fun Day

On Saturday 10 June 2023, after attending the Coffee Morning in Little Houghton, I travelled to Hackleton for their Great Village Fun Day. It was an exceptionally hot day, which meant that many had ventured out to join in the fun. There were lots to see and do and I enjoyed my time there catching up with many friends.

Most of the local Community Groups were represented as well as a number of trade outlets with stalls. We saw a demonstration from Team Thomas Outdoor Fitness. We heard 'Just Sing' led by Ann King sing 'Sailing' and a number of other popular numbers. They were very good and the audience sang along with them. Group Eight also performed for us later in the day and we were encouraged to support their forthcoming Special Cabaret Night in September.



There were teas and cake provided by the WI and a Bar offering lots of cold drinks from inside the Village Hall. After trying the Tombola and visiting the other stalls inside, you could take a quick rest with refreshments in the cooler facility inside before heading outside to enjoy the music and the dog show and other activities on the field. Thank you to everyone who took part in the dog show today and a special thank you to our judge Richard, owner of Hunters Lodge Kennels. Well done to overall show Champions, Alice with Monty and Reserve Champions, Lotie with Sausage.

It was great seeing the entire community enjoying the sunshine and the joys of the Hackleton Great Village Fun Day. A Special Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising it and everyone who worked tirelessly in extreme heat on the day to make it such a success.

### **Little Houghton Fete and Teddy Bear Trail**

On Saturday 17 June 2023, I went to the Little Houghton Fete and joined in with the Teddy Bear Trail. It was great fun for families, and I met many of you on my travels as we puzzled out the various clues at the 30 locations in Bedford Rod, Meadow Lane, Nursery Close, Station Road, Lodge Road and Lodge Close. Not all displays had a question to answer, but that was all part of the experience.



We enjoyed our afternoon tea in the church as we managed to locate the displays on the map and considered the various questions. We started in Bedford Road, and we very quickly identified the two famous pacifists near the War Memorial. Then it was on to find the answer to "At 31, Courtney Paws plays which sport for his country?" followed by answering which famous playwright was at Lodge Farmhouse. Then we bought a few things from the stalls there. All proceeds to Little Houghton Church.

Afterwards we saw what Bearnie Keith was doing at 81 and caught up with a famous singer songwriter who was there too. We saw the railway display in the village hall and managed to get some cakes from the cake stall. Then we tackled the stalls in the Woodyard, and worked out which Commonwealth Country was the sweetest in the Old Woodyard before we saw Ralph, Alice, Fiona and others before having a well earned rest

and a cold drink.

As I came out of the Woodyard to complete my Teddy Bear trail, I saw John Ford sitting quietly in the shade at the cross roads outside the village hall with Lawrence. It was great to spend a few minutes with him and to tell him just how much we all had missed seeing him.



Then off to Meadow Lane and Nursery Close where we saw a dinosaur in Stone Court, Meadow Lane and an iconic Jamaican singer relaxing in Nursery Close. Station Road followed with Barbara Woodhouse training her dogs before the Dog Show and encountering the popular nanny and famous naturalist. By now we were heading off to Lodge Road and the Hogwort's Express not to mention Tedmaster teaching in Lodge Close with the teddy bears playing on the grass outside the entrance to the Primary School.

We safely finished at 5.27pm after arriving in Little Houghton at about 2.00pm. What a fine day out we and all the other families had, many of whom we met as we went around the village. I enjoyed chatting to the owners of the many bears outside their homes and congratulating them on their incredible creativity in putting their displays together.

It was a treat to see just how the entire village had entered into the spirit of the theme 'The Best of Britain and the Commonwealth'. Well done to all the organisers.

### **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.

## REFUGEES

### 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](mailto: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>



### 'The War Painted' by Ukrainian Artists

An exhibition of paintings and film created by Ukrainian artists was on display at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery between Saturday 3 and Sunday 18 June.



It is the first time the exhibition, curated by Ukrainian organisation Golden Time Talent and provided in partnership with the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Northampton Town Council, will be displayed in the United Kingdom, having previously toured the United Arab Emirates and Europe.

'This War Painted' portrays the stories of a war-torn country from 34 Ukrainian artists' perspectives, almost a year and a half since the Russian invasion of the country. All paintings were available to purchase and proceeds will go back to the Ukrainian community. Northampton Museum and Art Gallery will host the exhibition in the Central Hall, where 48 paintings will be displayed alongside an accompanying film showing the artists painting in their homeland.

### Refugee Week

West Northamptonshire celebrated the 25th anniversary of Refugee Week from 19 June with a number of events to raise awareness of issues affecting asylum seekers and the local support available to them.

Refugee Week is celebrated every year to honour refugees and appreciate the contributions, creativity and resilience of people seeking sanctuary. This year's theme was compassion and people were invited to celebrate 'what compassion looks like' and extend compassion to all after challenges faced in the last few years.

From 19 to 25 June, events took place at the University of Northampton, Northampton Filmhouse and online, with a full programme of speakers and presentations planned at the Guildhall in Northampton on Thursday, 22 June.



West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Diverse Communities Forum hosted the event alongside Town of Sanctuary, from 5pm to 7pm, with stalls from organisations including British Red Cross, DWP and Quakers. There was a short film and a photo exhibition from Learn2Live (L2L) during the event and presentations and stories from refugees that have settled in Northamptonshire.

The activities showcased all the support available to refugees in West Northamptonshire, whose communities have welcomed hundreds of individuals and families fleeing persecution from places including the Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria. Recent resettlement schemes have included supporting the arrival and community care needs of nearly 400 Afghan nationals and more than 700 Ukrainian nationals as part of the Afghan Relocation and Homes for Ukraine schemes.

### **Further £150 million funding to assist Ukrainians**

Ukrainians in the UK will be helped into their own homes as part of a £150 million funding allocation. The funding will be divided across the UK according to the number of Ukrainians in each nation. Funding can be used by councils to help Ukrainian families into the private rental sector, help them get jobs, and continue sponsorship for guests' second year in the UK.

Within England, this funding will be used to help people remain in their current accommodation or find alternative housing, including in the private rented sector. The Homes for Ukraine scheme has welcomed over 124,000 Ukrainians to the UK, with almost half of working-age nationals now in employment and settled into their local areas, having had the right to work, receive benefits and access public services from day one.

The Department for Transport has also announced it will extend the length of time Ukrainian refugees can drive in Great Britain on their home country driving licence, from 1 year to 3, in a move that will help many continue the lives and jobs they have forged since arriving here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukrainian-families-supported-into-own-homes-with-150m-funding>

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **West Northamptonshire Parks Visitors Feedback Survey**

West Northants Council manages over 160 parks and open spaces. Parks and open spaces provide vital opportunities for recreation, contributing to the physical and mental health of the people of West Northamptonshire as well as being important for habitats, supporting local wildlife and biodiversity. We would like to know your thoughts on certain major parks that exist in West Northamptonshire. If you would like to comment on more than one park, please complete a separate survey form. The Consultation closes 30 June 2023

## FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

### Cost of Living Support

Households experiencing hardship will receive over £5m of further financial support from the Government to be shared out in the year ahead by our Council. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has allocated £5,199,257 to WNC in the fourth round of its Household Support Fund, which will continue helping the most vulnerable with the ongoing cost of living challenges. This latest package of support measures got under way over the May half-term holidays, with our Council distributing over £187,000 in school meal vouchers to help up to 12,500 families. We are working with the community and voluntary sector to shape the arrangements, which include plans for:

- Around 12,500 families with children continuing to receive meal vouchers during the school holidays, as well as vouchers for uniforms over the summer
- Health visitors and midwives providing infant formula vouchers to new parents most in need of support to help give their little ones a healthy start
- Voluntary and community groups sharing out £1.2m in the form of £120 vouchers to support vulnerable households
- Over 1,500 households experiencing the most severe hardship receiving a £300 voucher
- £600,000 allocated towards food clubs and larders, with half of the funding to help upscale and improve their use of those facilities in a move towards providing more sustainable ongoing support
- £115,000 earmarked towards helping the most struggling households reduce their energy bills, with a further £110,000 to provide money and debt advice services to those facing severe financial hardship.

We know the impact and challenge that the cost-of-living crisis is continuing to have on residents and we are committed to doing all that we can to provide support. It's essential we meet the needs of our residents in the best way possible and this package of measures has carefully considered how we can maximise the use of the DWP's latest round of funding to achieve this.

Our partners, including schools and local voluntary and community groups play a crucial role in this and we will be working with them to ensure this funding is received by those who need it most. d to look out for further information on the support packages that will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information on cost of living support please visit [www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living) or call 0300 126 7000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

### Daventry Offices move from Lodge Road to the Abbey Centre



West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is moving its Daventry offices from Lodge Road to the Abbey Centre to make more efficient use of office space and generate savings as well as improve service quality and to meet the changing needs of our communities.

The move will take place in two phases. Customer-facing services have now moved, to be followed by the move of the rest of the WNC teams and the Northamptonshire Children's Trust later this summer.



The office relocation was informed by feedback from customers and employees about how office space is being used post-Covid. The move will bring together services more effectively for residents. This would include front-line teams like customer services, revenues and benefits, housing, adult social care, and children's services being based within the Abbey Centre in St John's Square. It is expected to save at least £200,000 a year in the Council's revenue budget, which pays for the day-to-day running of services.

Residents visiting the Abbey Centre can:

- Get advice about a wide range of West Northants Council services, from housing options to council tax and everything else in between.
- Report issues online, from potholes to concerns about a child or adult, using the website in our self-serve areas.
- Access LibraryPlus services and well as meet with our partners who can help with money advice, legal matters, or offer health and wellbeing support.

The full details of our new Customer Services Hub in Daventry are The Abbey Centre in St John's Square (behind the Leisure Centre), St John's Square, Daventry, NN11 4XG.

Our customer service team alongside other key council services and partner agencies offer a wide range of drop-in options across West Northamptonshire. Find a drop-in session near you on our website.

## RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

### Community Ownership Fund

Local assets such as sports clubs, music venues and historical buildings will be able to apply for government funding as part of the third round of the Community Ownership Fund, with £150 million worth of allocations available. Thanks to changes to the way the funding is delivered, it is now easier for the control of prized assets to be seized back by community groups.

This will help with the strengthening and levelling up of local communities, whilst also restoring optimism, hope and pride. The changes see the requirements for match-funding being reduced, making the process of acquiring assets without private funding easier.

Parish Councils are also now able to apply for the fund, with it previously only being available to charities and community groups.

More than 100 projects around the country are being supported by the fund



You can read about the Government's announcement at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/.../community-ownership-fund-prospectus>



## Community Tree Planting Grants

The UK Community Tree Planting Programme aims to support community projects that will:



- Conserve, restore and protect indigenous trees and woodlands, forests, habitats and associated biodiversity.
- Support community engagement in tree planting to promote reforestation and to increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.
- Encourage social cohesion and inclusion.

To be eligible, your organisation must be community-based e.g. a school, community group or non-governmental organisation. There are two tiers of funding available:

- Small scale: A maximum of £1,000 is available for projects of up to 1 year in duration. This could be small community woodland, orchards, hedging projects, etc.
- Larger scale: Projects to range from 1000 – 10,000 trees, with a maximum price equivalent to £1.50/tree (inclusive of tree protection). Most suitable for community woodland or hedging projects.

Applications can be submitted from June onwards with a final deadline of 15 December 2023.

UK Community Tree Planting Grant — International Tree Foundation

<https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/uk-grants>

## 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.
- WNS/2022/0904/MAO Manor Oak Homes, Outline application for sixty-seven homes, Land at Stratford Road Deanshanger-Withdrawn

- 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-Dismissed

### **Outstanding:**

- 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 4 Days 23/05/2023
- 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 3 Days 06/06/2023
- S/2020/2083/FUL 5 New Houses, Greenway, Eastcote-Written Reps.
- WNS/2022/0071/MAO Outline for 32 dwellings on Land off Blenheim Rise, Kings Sutton Hearing 2 Days 26 July 2023 at 10:00

## **HOUSING**

### **Landlord Fined £115,181**

A landlord has been fined a total of £115,181 for offences under the Housing Act 2004, following a number of complaints received.

West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Private Sector Housing Team inspected the four properties in March 2020 under a housing warrant after complaints were raised over noise concerns, fly-tipping and waste accumulations. It was found that all four properties were unlicensed houses in multiple occupation and that each had significant defects.



During the sentencing which took place on Thursday 20 April at Northampton Magistrates Court, the District Judge stated

that the tenants were vulnerable and there was reasonable expectation that the landlord would provide a safe home. In this case, without the intervention of the Council nothing would have been done to improve living conditions for the tenants.

The landlord was ordered to pay the following:

- £100,000 fine
- £15,000 contribution to the Council
- £181 statutory victim surcharge

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Voi e-Scooters and e-Bikes Safety Training**

Events to help riders use Voi's e-scooters and e-bikes safely are being put on in Northampton. The company has arranged a number of online safety webinars and in-person events from next month onwards. The hour-long webinars cover all aspects of safely riding a Voi e-scooter or e-bike, from wearing a helmet, to the correct position in the road and how to park without causing an

obstruction for pedestrians. Anyone completing one will receive 30 free minutes for use on either a Voi e-scooter or e-bike. IN person events are also scheduled to take place at the University of Northampton's Waterside Campus on Saturday 20 May and Saturday 1 July.

Participants get a day pass worth £10, so they can ride for free throughout the session, and an extra 15 minutes of free riding time to practice riding safely afterwards. They also get a free helmet, worth £35.

To book a place at a Safe Riding Skills Event or Webinar, visit: Voi UK: Safe Riding Skills Events 2023

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/uk-forthcoming-events-200259>



### Funding to clear Fly Tipping

Landowners across West Northamptonshire can apply for funding to clear and prevent fly-tipping on their land under a scheme delivered by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

To find out more and check eligibility, visit:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../funding-remove-fly...>



### Fly-tipping Wilberforce Street

A man who dumped five bags of waste on the corner of Wilberforce Street and St Edmunds Road, Northampton has had to pay out £2,055 for fly-tipping.



West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) officers carried out a routine patrol in the area in May 2022, when they came across the large amount of waste carelessly discarded on the street. After carrying out investigation they found items which linked this back to Mr Marian Gheorghe aged 49 of Edith Street, Northampton.

Gheorghe was issued with a fixed penalty notice of £400, which he did not pay. The case was put forward for prosecution where Gheorghe attended court on Tuesday 22 November 2022 and pleaded not guilty.

Following a trial at Northampton Magistrates Court on Wednesday 31 May 2023 Gheorghe was found guilty and was subsequently fined £1,050, costs amounting to £1,000 and a victim surcharge of £105.

People can report fly-tipping on our website, along with details of any information which can help to pinpoint the officers. To find out more visit: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cleaner-communities>

### Stickers Promoting correct use of waste and recycling bins

Stickers promoting the correct use of waste and recycling bins are being distributed to households across West Northamptonshire from 20 June. The stickers support three campaigns which aim to raise awareness of what people can and can't put into their collections, in a bid to reduce contamination in household

collections, improve the quality of our recycling and maintain the safety of crews and residents by ensuring batteries are disposed of correctly.

The stickers will be placed on top of general waste bins, with clear instructions on what cannot go into that bin:

- No Batteries, use separate collection
- No Food Waste, use your food caddy
- No Recyclables, use your recycling bin



From Tuesday 20 June and into July, the stickers will be distributed by crews to every household across West Northants. Everyone will receive these, and we will be notifying people of this work via social media. Our customer services team are aware of this work and can support with making residents aware.

If you have any questions about this campaign please contact Sherry Kerr, Waste Reduction and Recycling Officer or Vanessa Kelly, Waste Services and Projects Manager.

### **Daventry Flytipping**

Our neighbourhood wardens spotted this large amount of bedroom furniture against the sub station in Howe Crescent, Daventry. This is a regular flytipping hotspot and our team are investigating it. If you have any information that might help the investigation, please email [envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk)

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

### **Local Area Partnership DSN4**

The last DSN4 LAP meeting took place on 6 June 2023 The date of the next meeting is 4 July 2023.

The West Northants Executive PLACE Board consists of operational leaders from organisations across West Northamptonshire overseeing PLACE development and feeds into the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) in Daventry and South Northants area report into the Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum. Children and young people , children and young people’s mental health and anti-social behaviour are emerging priorities across the LAPs in West Northamptonshire. Rurality, social isolation and older people are also emerging priorities across the four LAPs in the Daventry and South Northants area. Lots of organisations collate data and the PLACE Board meeting earlier the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was discussed and how this could be used at a LAP level to help identify pockets of need which will also overlap the Local Area Profiles. The PLACE Board held a workshop on the 3rd May to discuss how partners were collating data, what is was used for, how can this be shared. Attendees agreed for a subgroup to be created to look at collaboration and data sharing in more detail. Joanne Barrett, Assistant Director, Housing and Communities has data on the areas with the greatest number of homelessness, and quality of the social housing stock. Sarah Reed, Executive Director Corporate has birth and death data at a LAP level. New mothers or those suffering a bereavement could be sent information on groups/assets within their local area. During the previous year there were approximately 930 births in N4 LAP and 89 in DSN3 LAP. The Outcomes Framework and metrics will be presented to the Integrated Care Partnership meeting on the 8th June for endorsement. Each LAP will have its own webpage.



### **Youth Provision in Towcester**

Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) is commissioned to provide statutory children's social care and targeted early help services across the county. Within NCT there is a Children and Family Support Service, which includes the following:

- Strengthening Family Service, working with families on a wide range of issues.
- Young Peoples Service, supporting adolescent and families with adolescents focusing on exploitation.
- Early Help Partnerships team providing early help support in the community.

The Young Peoples Services have supported 260 young people and families over the past year with an average age of 15 years. 65% of these young people have emerging or actual exploitation concerns. This service also provide support with children who go missing, completing home return interviews for early missing child in Northamptonshire, these interviews are completing within 3 days of a child returning home. In the past year there have been 2433 missing children across Northamptonshire, and had 80% engagement with these children.

Within the Young Peoples Service there is RISE (Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation), a multi-agency group who works with young people who are known to statutory children's services and at a high level risk of exploitation. 23 people were seen by RISE during the previous year, 91% of these saw a significant reduction in the in exploitation following intervention. The Children and Family Support Service also have a group work offer of Parenting, supporting parents who are experiencing challenging behaviour from their adolescents. The Children and Family Support Service are also piloting Teen Freedom at Daventry for young people who have experienced domestic abuse within their relationships. Agencies also deliver services into children centres such as child parent violence course. A small SEND team also support families where there is a complex need.

Early Help Partnership is consists of organisations who provide early opportunities to help families. Services for youth include:

- Grange Park Youth club
- Pulse Café in Deanshanger
- Bugbrooke, Harpole and Hartwell have youth clubs who are registered with NAYC(Northampton Association of Youth Clubs) who can provide the DBS system, training and provide resources.
- Tove Valley Baptist Youth Club

South Northants youth Club (SNYC) has been set up to support local youth groups and provide provision where there are gaps. They have a new youth officer for Towcester and will provide support to Tove Valley, Bugbrooke and Harpole youth groups. SNYC work with Sponne School for children who are entitled to free school meals 14-16 years to encourage physical and social activities and are hoping to set up a no faith youth club based in Towcester. SNYC are looking to offer street sport activities. Towcester Youth Coffee House has now been taken over by Northamptonshire MIND. There is a need to consider how can we engage with youth people who would not traditionally attend a youth club.

Julie Curtis has asked for a case study on the Brackley Youth Club to see if this can be replicated across other areas of West Northamptonshire. There is a Play and Activities day taking place in Towcester on the 1st June. There is a need to use the data from DSN4 to show where investment is needed and try to influence targeting of resources.

Claire Neilson is working with VCSE organisations providing youth work to have similar systems and qualifications across the county, also looking at existing resources. Asset mapping is being undertaking to look at the assets and services across West Northamptonshire, once completed work will take place with other organisations and town/parish council to include their information on assets and services.

**Actions:**

- Katie Rigby to check the duration before a child is reported as missing.
- Jane Carr to find out more information about the provision for the Towcester Youth Coffee House.

### **Elderly Isolation Subgroup**

The aim of this subgroup is to look at how to encourage elderly people to participate in social activities. There is a nationwide Chatty Café scheme and Emma Parry has 50 registrations who would like to participate in this scheme. This will enable organisations participating to get a toolkit and training. These registrations are being offered to the Welcoming Spaces of which there are 10 in the DSN4 area. Registrations can also be offered to existing cafes such as Waitrose or Bell Plantations. Additional funding could be made available to enable those hosting Chatty Cafes to collate profile data on those attending. Also looking at premises such as bars that could also provide alcoholic refreshments.

A National Lottery project has been completed 'Men into Extra Time' specifically focused on reducing social isolation for men and was ran in conjunction with Brackley Football Club. There is a project evaluation of offering opportunities who may be socially isolated.

Each LAP will have its own engagement plan and this will capture all the information on assets within villages.

**Actions:**

- Helen Barrett to bring information on the Men into Extra Time' project to be brought to the next meeting.
- Emma Parry to send the list of Welcoming Spaces to the group.

### **People Aged 70-79 encouraged to get their shingles vaccine**

People aged between 70 to 79 in West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to get their shingles vaccine to lower the chance of developing the infection. Shingles is a painful infection that can cause a headache, high temperature and an itchy rash, often accompanied with a burning, throbbing pain. The rash usually appears on the chest and abdomen (tummy), however any part of the body can be affected, including the face and eyes.

As older adults are more at risk of developing shingles it is important that people above the age of 70 years old get their free shingles vaccine to help lower the chance of catching the infection and reduce the nasty symptoms that can be experienced from it.

Dr Annapurna Sen, Consultant for Health Protection at Public Health West Northamptonshire Council said:



"In Northamptonshire, the number of those who have been vaccinated against shingles has declined, with only around 44% of people eligible having received the vaccine. The symptoms experienced from this infection are severe and can be life changing, therefore the vaccine is important in helping to protect people from this infection and help relieve the symptoms if they do catch it. So, please take the time to protect yourself from this infection.

"If you have not yet taken up the free

vaccine and you are eligible to do so, please do get booked in via your GP or local pharmacy. If you have not yet been contacted that you are eligible, but think you should be please do speak to your GP or pharmacy who will be able to advise you further.”

The shingles infection cannot be caught from another person, however someone who has had chickenpox is at higher risk of developing the infection. After having chickenpox, the virus stays in the body but remains inactive. As people age, their immunity weakens which means the body cannot protect itself against infections or disease the same as it did, and as a result the virus can be reactivated later in life, causing shingles.

Most people will recover fully from this virus, but for some they may experience complications for several months or years. If you are over the age of 70 and have not yet had your vaccine, please contact your GP or your local pharmacy to discuss how you can arrange to get protected.

### **Warm Hubs Tool Kit**

A toolkit to help set up Warm Hubs across the country has been launched, with support agencies encouraged to build on this winter’s Warm Spaces initiatives and convert them to Warm Hubs.

Warm Hubs were originally created by Community Action Northumberland (CAN) in 2015 as places within the local community where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity, advice and the company of other people. Funding for the scheme was provided by Northern Gas Networks (NGN).



However Warm Hubs are much more than a warm space. They are warm, resilient, sustainable, energy efficient buildings/emergency centres often using renewable technology. The Warm Hub volunteers are fully trained in skills such as first aid, food safety, energy advice and dementia awareness. Finally, every Warm Hub is tailored to meet the needs of its local community, including identifying any gaps in support.

During the last year, CAN was inundated with enquiries from charities and local authorities wanting to set up a Warm Hubs scheme in their own areas as the energy crisis hit. Warm Hubs is trademarked, so to help address the need and to share good practice, CAN created the Warm Hubs toolkit at [www.warmhubs.com](http://www.warmhubs.com) thanks to support from Northern Gas Networks.

The website describes how to set up and run a Warm Hub scheme, aimed at support agencies across the UK such as local authorities and rural charities. It provides training via a free toolkit of guidance to ensure the Warm Hubs they’ll be supporting are meeting the Warm Hub principles.

There are now 42 Hubs across rural Northumberland used by thousands of people each week. The scheme has won various awards and been highlighted as good practice by Ofgem and the Prince’s Countryside Fund.

To access the Warm Hubs toolkit visit [www.warmhubs.com](http://www.warmhubs.com) or contact [energy@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:energy@ca-north.org.uk)

## 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](http://www.wellbeingfestival.live) to download our 'Save the Date' calendar appointment.

## Crisis Cafes

If you or someone you know needs mental health support, you can drop into one of our crisis cafes to talk with a mental health professional and a MIND peer support worker.

For locations and times, visit: [www.nhft.nhs.uk/crisis-cafe](http://www.nhft.nhs.uk/crisis-cafe)

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Major Step Forward with SEND School near Towcester

Plans for a new purpose-built school near Towcester to create at least 230 new places for youngsters with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have taken another major step forward this week.

With Department for Education backing, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has now successfully entered into a lease agreement with trustees of the St John Tiffield Trust, who own the land, for the use of the proposed site. The Council has been involved in providing education and care on the site for many years, and the new lease arrangement will ensure a successful expansion of the education provision on offer.



The new special school will provide places for children age 4 to 19 on the autistic spectrum continuum, with speech, language and communication needs and with severe learning difficulties. The new school will be run by the Greenwood Academies Trust and delivered under





the Department for Education Free school presumption process.

In addition to the build of a new special school, the lease will also allow for the extension of the Gateway school, with plans to add up to 50 new places for students with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Gateway school is part of the Creating Tomorrow Trust.

Entering the lease agreement is the latest step towards progressing proposals for the new special school, with the next stages set to include seeking planning permission and consulting local residents on the future application as well as moving forward with design development and any future site surveys required. The Council is continuing to work closely with partners and Tiffield Parish Council to provide regular updates on developments and works underway.

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

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

#### **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

### **Fostering Agency Ofsted Report**

Following the last inspection from Ofsted of Northamptonshire's Fostering Agency in February 2023, a follow up monitoring visit has been carried out by Ofsted with the latest report available to view here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/4/2615433...>

This report recognises the work happening by Northamptonshire's Independent Fostering Agency, and some of the key actions in development to improve experiences and outcomes for foster parents in the county and our children and young people.

It is encouraging to see the work underway, and even though it is too early to see the desired impact of these changes, it is assuring that progress is being made against both the compliance notices and recommendations.

We are continuing to work closely with Northamptonshire Children's Trust to embed improvements and build on progress to ensure our children and young people have access to the best support and opportunities.



### **South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE)**

A charity which supports young people in the Brackley, Towcester and Kings Sutton areas is going from strength-to-strength with support from local partners.

More than 1,000 young people and their families benefit from the events put on by South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE), including two regular youth clubs at Brackley Leisure Centre and Southfields School and a range of community play and activity days.



Most of the events are free or cost no more than £2 per session to cover costs, but are proving invaluable in helping local children build their confidence and skills.

The charity is supported by a range of organisations, including West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and both Brackley and Towcester Town Councils.

Councillors Sue Sharps, Fiona Baker and Tony Bagot-Webb sit on both councils and between them supported SNYE with £2,000 of funding

from their Councillor Covid Support Funds. Cllr Sharps is also a trustee of the charity, alongside Towcester Town Councillor Martin Johns.

Brackley Town Council recently funded training for SNYE staff to allow them to put on popular skateboarding sessions for children ahead of the installation of a new skate ramp in the town.

And SNYE also works with Northamptonshire Sport, Sponne School and Towcester Leisure Centre to run regular sports sessions for young people, with plans for a youth club in the town once a suitable venue is found.

The charity this year appointed two new youth workers to work in Brackley and Towcester, but is always in need of new volunteers to help them support more children in the area.

Anyone interested in volunteering should email [admin@youth-engagement.co.uk](mailto:admin@youth-engagement.co.uk)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

### £5.4million funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

New cycleways will be created and local businesses and voluntary organisations are set to benefit from



more than £5.4million funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The funding is the largest allocation in the South East Midlands and will be used to create pride in place, improve people's life chances, increase skills, create stronger communities and support local businesses over the next 2 years. Our plans for the funding include creating new and improved pedestrian crossing facilities between the Billing Road and Abington, in Northampton, and improving paths

and cycleways to encourage active travel. The funding will also be used to tackle fuel poverty and the cost of living through the provision of a range of services across West Northants, including improving Household Energy performance in people's homes.

Local voluntary and community organisations will also receive a portion of the money to help increase engagement in community centres and improve the support available to residents.

A range of initiatives, including a new grants programme to help local businesses at all stages to start, sustain, grow and innovate and tailored employment support to help people into work, will also receive some of the funding.

Other areas planned to benefit include:

- Funding for volunteer and social action projects
- Decarbonisation and improving the natural environment
- Business support to enable employers to better utilise the local workforce and understand the advantages of being flexible in terms of recruitment.

We have worked closely with stakeholders, community groups and local partners to analyse the greatest needs for this funding, and most importantly, to deliver economic prosperity in our area whilst supporting sustainability, increasing employment opportunities and offering greater support for local businesses.

### Plans to improve car parking at Northampton Railway Station

Plans to increase spaces and provide improved facilities at Northampton Railway Station, by building a new 1,198 space multi-storey car park (MSCP), have moved forward as West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)



approved proposals at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday, 13 June.

WNC is working closely with Network Rail and its development partner, BlocWork to bring forward the new MSCP which will provide much-needed parking in this area increasing capacity from 800 to 1200.

Following cabinet's approval in December 2021, plans have altered while the Council has responded to lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, and cost inflation. As

such, the terms of the lease were not agreed. Therefore, the Council stepped in to deliver proposals which will see the Council manage the facility offering best value for money for residents.

To keep up to date with regeneration across West Northamptonshire visit:

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

### New Round of Discretionary Community Funding Grants

Voluntary and community sector organisations who deliver important services in West Northamptonshire can now apply for grants of up to £15,000. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has opened a fresh round of Discretionary Community Funding Grants from Tuesday, 30 May 2023.

Applications for this round of funding should be submitted no later than Wednesday, 28 June 2023.

Councillor David Smith, WNC's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services, said: "These grants allow us to support the local voluntary and community sector who are providing vital services to our communities.

"These organisations are highly connected and can react quickly to specific needs. They are an important partner and we're delighted to be able to offer them this much needed funding which will help to support our local communities."



The grant scheme is open to local voluntary and community sector organisations, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, for

projects or services that support one or more of the Council's strategic aims, objectives and priorities. You can find out more about the criteria and who can apply for a grant on the WNC website and in the Council's Community Funding Grants Framework.

If you are interested in applying for a Discretionary Community Funding Grant, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest Form, which is available on the WNC website.

If you would like to speak to the Community Funding Officer about your eligibility to apply for a grant, please call or email Peter Worth. Email: [peter.worth@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:peter.worth@westnorthants.gov.uk) Telephone: 01327 322227.

Further rounds of Discretionary Community Funding Grants of up to £5,000 will be announced in the summer and autumn. The dates can be found on the WNC website.

### **Refurbishment of 78 Derngate**

Visitors to Northampton's iconic and historic 78 Derngate can now visit the heritage house and its expanded visitor centre, spend time in the rejuvenated secluded garden and enjoy the revitalised visitor shop following the completion of the extensive £950,000 refurbishment this month.

As the only building located outside Scotland designed by renowned artist, Charles Rennie Mackintosh this local gem and former home is now a museum. Following funding from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) of £400,000 through the Town Funds, £200,000 match funding from WNC and generous donations from a multitude of individuals and organisations the expansion to this cultural facility reached completion in May this year, following more than 12 months of regeneration work.

The site now boasts an extension to the main buildings and enhanced gardens, allowing larger groups to visit and enjoy the museum, as well as benefit from an enriched visitor experience at one of Northampton's most popular attractions.



This is an internationally significant venue. 78 Derngate attracts visitors from all over the world to see the outstanding design work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, one of our country's most famous influences on early 20th Century style. The house, remodelled by Mackintosh, is unique and it is fantastic to see the empathetic redevelopment works come to life to enhance the museum and enable the 78 Derngate Trust to build its income to become more sustainable for the future.

Northampton Town Centre is going through extensive transformation over the next decade, with the appearance of Fish St and Abington St being sympathetically enhanced to match the neighbouring St Giles St area, and a new heritage park being introduced in Marefair offering community facilities and dedicated green space. The gateway to the town from the Railway Station and main roads will be transformed to offer grade A offices, high-quality homes and a hotel as the expansive 5-acre Four Waterside is regenerated.

To keep up to date with regeneration projects across West Northamptonshire visit our regeneration page.

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

### **New Towcester Car Parking Facility**

Following seven months of extensive redevelopment works to transform a former derelict supermarket in Towcester into a new parking facility for the town, Sponne Arcade Car Park officially opened to the public on 10 June.



The former Co-op and Poundstretcher building in the Sponne Arcade located in the heart of the town stood empty for four years prior to the construction of the expanded parking facility.

Over the last year our Council has worked with Jeakins Weir to demolish the derelict stores, level out the area to provide a high-quality central parking facility and expand the site from 70 to 150 formal spaces. This more than doubles the parking space in the town centre and has provided improved lighting and safety features for visitors to the area.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the project and in bringing the vision to life.

The businesses nearby have provided invaluable support throughout the construction, and we'd like to formally thank them for their patience throughout this time. The conclusion of this project is also testament to the hard work of members and officers at the previous South Northamptonshire Council.

The £850,000 project has been funded by the council and was completed within budget.

### **Third Round of the Community Ownership Fund Launched**

DLUHC has launched the third round of its £150 million Community Ownership Fund. Applications to bid for round three of the funding will open on 31 May. Changes to the fund will make it easier for voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to acquire important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community.

A summary of the key changes to the eligibility requirements for the relaunch of the fund include:

- Reducing the match funding requirement
- Increasing the amount of funding all projects can bid for from £250,000 to £1 million
- Allowing parish councils (and their equivalent town and community councils) to apply in the same way that community groups do currently



The government is providing funding over four years to support community groups to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings.

The deadline for applications for this funding round is 12 July. Further information, the application form and prospectus can be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/.../more-cash-to-rescue-community...>

### **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.

### **Merged Futures 5. UON Learning Hub**

Merged Futures returns to the Learning Hub at the University of Northampton's Waterside Campus on Friday June 30 and, as with all Digital Northants events, it's free to attend. A celebration of Northamptonshire's innovators, educators and entrepreneurs, the event brings together people from different sectors interested in digital, tech and innovation to share and spark ideas. It's also an opportunity for the business community to discover some of the University of Northampton's innovative teaching methods, the skills developed by students and the potential to partner and collaborate with the University in different fields. Northamptonshire is a forward-thinking county, home to hundreds of entrepreneurs and innovators. Events like this provide us with the ideal opportunity to make new connections, share best practice and drive forward change together.



The event takes place at the Learning Hub, University of Northampton, on Friday June 30, 2023 from 10am to 4pm. You can find out more and book a free ticket online.

<https://www.digitalnorthampton.com/events2/merged-futures-5>

### **Funding for Places – The Wolfson Foundation**

The Trust's main grants programme provides support for places. These grants are for capital initiatives, i.e. buildings (new build or refurbishment) and equipment.

They fund a broad range of organisations working across the fields of education, science & medicine, health & disability, heritage, humanities & the arts.

The Foundation accepts applications from the following types of organisation:

- Charities working with disability.
- Charities working in mental health.
- Charities working with older people.
- Historic buildings and landscapes.
- Hospices and palliative care organisations.
- Places of worship.
- Libraries and archives.
- Museums and galleries.
- Performing arts organisations.
- Public engagement with science organisations.
- Secondary schools and sixth form colleges.
- Special needs schools and colleges.
- Universities and research institutions.



Specific funding criteria apply to each.

The round one deadline for stage one applications is 1 July 2023.

Funding for places - The Wolfson Foundation



### **Funding to improve quality of life of older people**

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/>

### **Business Awards**

Entries are open for the prestigious Northamptonshire Business Awards 2023. Recognising and celebrating the very best in Northamptonshire, the Awards are free for all businesses to enter and can help local firms increase their visibility, attract new customers, help with future marketing, boost the morale of their employees and attract new talent. Businesses can enter any of the 15 categories, including the two that have been sponsored by our Council:



- West Northamptonshire Business of the Year
- West Northamptonshire Sustainability Award

This is a fantastic opportunity for local businesses to raise their profile so if you are aware of any businesses in your area that may be interested, please encourage them to enter.

Entries to the awards close on 30 Jun <https://northamptonshire.awardsplatform.com/>

## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **A428 Carriageway Resurfacing**

Kier Highways, working together with West Northamptonshire Council, we will be carrying out essential carriageway repairs under a full road closure in Denton and Yardley Hastings. Attached is their factsheet. Please note that this is the first phase of ongoing essential works happening in this area. You will receive further factsheets in the upcoming months for the second phase.



## Roadworks are starting in your area soon

### What's happening, where and when?

**What:** Pre-Surface Dressing Carriageway patching - We are carrying out minor resurfacing works in this area in preparation for enabling further works this summer. These future works will involve surface dressing, which is a cost-effective road surface treatment used to prolong the life of roads that are starting to show the first signs of minor deterioration. It extends the life of the road surface, increases skid resistance, and seals the surface to stop water ingress, protecting it from damage caused by severe winter weather, such as potholes. Prior to surface dressing, carriageway patching will be undertaken to address any minor issues to prepare the road for the dressing. You will receive a further factsheet this summer with more details on the next phase of surface dressing.

**Where:** Bedford Road, Yardley Hastings (12<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023) & Bedford Road, Denton (23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

**When:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023– Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023. (Weekday working only)

**Traffic Management.** A diversion will be in place between 20:00 – 06:00 as shown on the map overleaf. The **RED** line shows the road closure, and the **BLUE** line shows the diversion route.

**How long:** 11 days, 20:00 – 06:00. (Road will be accessible as normal outside of working hours.)

**Traffic Management:** The road will be closed to through traffic on Bedford Road between Yardley Hastings & the A509 roundabout for 9 days starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and closed between Brafield on the Green and Denton for an additional 2 days on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June. A diversion will be installed during the work hours as shown on the maps below.

**Emergency Vehicles:** Access will be maintained where possible. However, prolonged delays are to be expected.

**Residents/Businesses:** Access for residents only will be maintained where possible. Our Traffic Management marshals will escort residents through the closure. Please expect delays and plan your journeys accordingly. We will have access signs installed in front of driveways. If you require access, please call the number and our TM foreman will get someone to assist you. Where possible, please park outside of the closure. Access for pedestrians will be maintained where possible, but there will be no access for cyclists.

**Public Transport:** There will be no bus services through these closures during the working hours.

**Parking:** To help us with our work, please move any vehicles parked within this section of the road before 20:00. This is to enable our workforce to be able to carry out the works swiftly, without delay. We also ask that you park leaving a minimum of 20 metres of any junction for the duration of the works. Advanced 'No Parking' warning signs will be placed in the area 24 hours before. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and co-operation.

## Active Travel Grant Funding

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has been awarded £642,871 funding from Active Travel England to roll-out a new traffic free route in Northampton.

The 1,300-metre route will provide an accessible route through Delapré Park to link Far Cotton with Brackmills, and will encourage walking, wheeling, and cycling whilst providing a missing link between these areas. A planning application showing the routes in Delapré Park has previously been submitted.

The funding will also provide covered cycle parking, wayfinding and information boards in the area and support the social prescribing and cycling hub project, which aims to promote mental and physical wellbeing, based at Delapré Abbey.

The route is set to be delivered by March 2024 and forms part of the Active Quarter, a collaborative partnership of key public, third sector and private stakeholders who have come together around a shared ambition to pioneer active travel in the south-west area of Northampton.





The Active Quarter's vision is to create accessible routes and projects in the southwest area of the town to promote active travel and encompass Midsummer Meadow, Becketts Park, Delapré Abbey, Delapré Park Golf Centre, the University of Northampton, Brackmills and the neighbouring Pocket Parks.

Progress has been achieved already with the delivery of projects such as the award-winning Northampton Mountain Bike Park, wheelchair accessible angling platforms around the Nene Valley water-skiing lake, and a partnership between the University of Northampton (UON) and Public Health West Northants to develop Waterside as an 'Active Campus' for staff and students.

The Delapré Active Travel route will cater to individuals walking, running and users of all types of wheels, including wheelchairs, pushchairs, and bicycles during all seasons. By designing an inclusive route, we are ensuring that everyone can benefit from this traffic free route connecting nature, heritage, education, and employment.



### Angel Street Closed until mid-end September 2023

Angel St in Northampton remains closed to cars while redevelopment works take place to create a new cultural space at 24 Guildhall Road with NN Contemporary Art. This closure is expected to end mid-Sept. Pedestrian access has been maintained and local businesses continue to trade as usual.

For more info on regeneration projects across WN:

<http://ow.ly/M3oS50OvtmO>

### £2.86m Investment into Road Network across Area

Road users across West Northamptonshire are set to benefit from an additional £2.86 million investment into the road network across the area.



West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is investing an additional £1 million for 2023/24 into our roads. The Council is also looking to invest in new technologies to help maintain the roads it is responsible for more efficiently and to a better standard. In addition to the Council's additional investment, WNC has been awarded £1.86 million from the Government to boost the planned improvements for the year ahead.

As part of the new Highways contract which kick-started in September 2022, WNC is working with Kier to deliver a multi-million-pound plan to maintain our road network through the Community Enhancement Plan. This work has reached over 161 parishes, clearing nearly 4km of vegetation and cleaning more than 1,500 road signs to date. Alongside this, Kier has also rectified over 1,688 road and footpath defects, and 6,771 carriageway repairs.

As part of the new contract, Kier set out their commitment to working with WNC on sustainability goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, as well as increasing social value to benefit the wider West Northants community and economy, such as supporting local disadvantaged groups and working with local sub-contractors.

### Bus Fare Cap Extended until end of October

On Wednesday, as part of the Help for Households support, the government announced that they are



extending discounted bus travel. To help people with cost-of-living pressures and save on everyday travel costs, the government will continue to cap single bus fares at £2 outside London until the end of October 2023 and then at £2.50 until 30 November 2024 –when the government will review their effectiveness and future bus fares.

The government has published a list of bus companies and bus routes included in the £2 bus fare cap scheme. The government also announced £160 million will be provided to local transport authorities to improve fares, services and infrastructure while £140 million will go to operators to help protect essential services across England

[Government extends £2 bus fare cap and protects vital services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### Community Transport Grants

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

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



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

<https://www.motability.org.uk/.../community-transport.../>

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Bleed Control Kits

Kits holding life-saving equipment to help control traumatic bleeding have been rolled out for the first time to public places in South Northants and the Daventry area. The rollout is thanks to a partnership between campaigning group Off the Streets NN and Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold, who has funded 14 kits to be located in an area spreading from Brixworth to Brackley.

The new bleed control kits are in shops and other venues that will be shown by a window sticker and have items that are used to stop catastrophic bleeding and support an injured person until the emergency services arrive.

Work by Off the Streets NN that has already seen more than 120 bleed cabinets and kits installed around the county, and hundreds of people trained in life-saving skills. These 14 new kits are the first available for public use that have been rolled out in South Northants and Daventry.



Off the Streets NN set up the scheme to tackle knife and gang-related crime through a partnership approach, involving community bodies ranging from educational establishments to faith-based organisations and voluntary agencies.

### **Community Safety Partnership 2023/2024 Strategy**

The West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has launched its 2023/24 strategy reinforcing its commitment to make West Northamptonshire a safer place for residents and visitors by taking a partnership approach to reducing crime, serious violence, and anti-social behaviour. The responsible partners for the CSP include West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Probation Trust, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board and Northamptonshire Fire Service.



The strategy has been co-produced with members of the community, elected members and the Voluntary and Charity Sector to help refresh the priorities for the partnership. The current volume of crime and community concern, and impact on communities and victims were also taken into consideration.

Key priorities of the strategy include:

- Working with communities to ensure our neighbourhoods are safe spaces for everyone
- Targeting those causing the greatest harm and tackling the causes of crime through prevention and early intervention
- Reducing incidents of serious violence including domestic abuse, sexual offences and knife crime
- Protecting vulnerable people and safeguarding those at risk of exploitation

To ensure it is accessible for all, the strategy has avoided using a multiple page document and is instead laid out in sections on the CSP webpage. The webpage will feature quarterly live updates to reflect how the CSP has delivered against its key priorities. As part of the strategy, partners have a commitment to deliver the Serious Violence Duty in accordance with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which is intended to ensure relevant services work together to share information and collaborate on interventions to prevent and reduce serious crimes within their local communities.

These services include:

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Health
- Local Authorities

The specified services have a collective responsibility under the Act to assess serious violence in their local area and produce and implement a delivery plan to address this by January 2024. Funding attached to the delivery of the Duty will be allocated to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) and distributed by the responsible authorities.

Projects already delivered by the CSP include providing a critical response to incidents of knife crime and supporting Police with knife amnesty events, working with youth providers such as Free2talk to offer mentoring and support to young people involved in gangs and knife crime, and the launch of an animation for young people highlighting key community safety subjects including fire and water safety, child exploitation and online safety. In addition, the CSP partners between them secured Safer Streets funding

of more than £1.7 million, which enabled projects, programmes and physical improvements, including installing 'Help Points' on the Racecourse and Becket's Park as part of 'safer routes' in Northampton town centre, reinstating CCTV cameras across Northampton, improving street lighting, and alleygating anti-social behaviour hotspots.

Partners have also worked together to deliver more than 60 community engagement events, bringing communities together and celebrating diversity, including Srebrenica, International Youth Day, International Women's Day, Northampton Pride, Diwali and Stephen Lawrence Day, and support campaigns including 16 Days of Activism, Serious Organised Crime week of action, Operation Revive and the launch of the Flare app.

More information including the CSP strategy and full list of partners can be found on the CSP webpage.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/west-northamptonshire-community-safety-partnership>

### **Northamptonshire Police Cracking down on irresponsible HGV drivers**

Northamptonshire Police was back on-board National Highways' unmarked HGV earlier this month (June) as part of the latest operation to crackdown on illegal and irresponsible drivers using the county's major road network.



Officers from the Safer Roads Team, supported by colleagues from the Roads Policing Team and Special Constabulary, used the vehicle to patrol the county's stretch of the M1 to spot drivers putting others at risk by their poor driving behaviour. The patrols were carried out between Tuesday, May 30, and Friday, June 2, as part of National Highways' Operation Tramline campaign which aims to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the UK's major routes.

During the four days of action, officers used the HGV super cab to film evidence of unsafe

driving behaviour by pulling alongside vehicles. Drivers seen committing an offence were then pulled over by a police car following a short distance behind.

In total 187 traffic offences were detected with more than half involving the fatal five driving offences, which are the main contributors in collisions, with 85 drivers and passengers stopped for not wearing a seat belt. A further 51 drivers were found to be using a mobile phone while behind the wheel, 14 were reported for driving without due care or reasonable consideration to other road users another five were driving at excess speed.

However, one disqualified driver may have regretted not wearing his seatbelt and using his mobile phone after he was spotted and stopped by officers on the southbound carriageway of the M1 on Wednesday, May 31. The 34-year-old from Warrington not only had his yellow Mercedes HGV seized but he was arrested and subsequently charged with four offences - driving while disqualified, driving with no insurance, driving while using a mobile phone and not wearing a seat belt.

Eriks Teivans of Rylands Drive in Fairfield and Howley, was released on unconditional bail until his first appearance at Northampton Magistrates' Court next Thursday (June 15).

While a 21-year-old Sebastian Bone of Leicestershire, was charged with possession with intent to supply Class B drug, after a black Nissan Micra was stopped on the northbound carriageway near junction 18 on Tuesday, May 30.

He appeared before Northampton Magistrates' Court last Thursday (June 1), where he was released on conditional bail until Thursday, July 13, when he will appear before Northampton Crown Court. In addition to the fatal five offences, 14 drivers were stopped for having illegal window tints, number plates and no valid MOT, nine had insecure, dangerous loads and three people were driving without insurance. PC Dave Lee, of the Northamptonshire Police Safer Roads Team, said: "Reducing the number of people who are killed and seriously injured on our roads remains our priority and to hold a driving licence is both a privilege and a responsibility.

"Some commercial drivers travel thousands of miles each year in the UK and across Europe and are sadly more likely to see the tragic consequences of poor driving standards, so it is always disappointing to still catch a small minority breaking the law.

"It was particularly disappointing to find so many drivers prepared to not only put their own lives at risk but also those of others to check messages, send texts or watch online content on their mobile phones.

"Nothing is so important that it can't wait and certainly checking your mobile while driving is not worth risking not getting home safely. Driving needs your full attention, so please take responsibility for your personal safety on the roads and hang up."

National Highways Assistant Regional Safety Co-ordinator, Marie Biddulph, said: "Through the use of our unmarked HGV cabs, we hope to persuade that small minority of motorists who continue to put themselves and others at risk to think again about their driving behaviour. So, it is disappointing to see the number of traffic offences that were spotted during this operation on the M1.

"However, unsafe drivers should be aware that, thanks to the elevated position in the HGV, police officers can see exactly what they are doing, whatever vehicle they are travelling in. Hopefully, this will encourage them to rethink their behaviour and help keep our roads as safe as they can possibly be."

Tragically in 2022, after being involved in a road collision in Northamptonshire, 36 people never returned home safely to their loved ones, and 347 required urgent medical assistance for serious and life-changing injuries.

## **CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT**

### **Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla**

Thousands of people came together to enjoy a bank holiday weekend of events and activities as communities across West Northamptonshire celebrated the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

On Saturday hundreds of people braved the rain for the Community Festival street party in Northampton town centre, with the celebrations continuing in the sunshine on Sunday as over 6,000 people flocked to the Coronation Big Lunch and After Party in the grounds of Northampton's historic Delapré Abbey to enjoy a range of live music, performances, activities and stalls. Visitors to the free event were treated to a variety of local performances including StyleStars and Dance with a Difference, Northampton's Pauline Quirke Academy, Similar Jones, Old Savoy Jazz Band, Rock Choir, Djin-Li, Britain's Got Talent semi-finalists Born To Perform and Lucien



Moon, who appeared on The X-Factor in 2015 and is opening up for the legendary boy band Westlife later this summer – all topped off with a live broadcast of the National Coronation Concert on the big screen. Coronation events also took place at towns and villages across West Northamptonshire, with over 70 street closures taking place as neighbourhoods gathered to stage their own street parties. The weekend concluded with the Big Help Out on bank holiday Monday, where people across the country joined over 1,500 charities to take part in voluntary work to highlight the impact of volunteering on local communities. James Saunders Watson, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, said: “It was fantastic to see thousands of people turn out to enjoy the celebrations across a spectacular bank holiday weekend. “The weather on Sunday was splendid and it was great to see so many street parties and local events taking place across the whole weekend, with children, families and local communities all getting involved. “The Big Help Out on Monday was the cherry on top of what was a truly terrific Coronation celebration.” All council-owned car parks in Northampton town centre were free to use over the Coronation weekend along with the parking facilities in Car Park One and Two at University of Northampton Waterside Campus.

### **Armed Forces Week 2023**

To mark the start of Armed Forces week 2023, West Northamptonshire Council will be hosting three flag-raising events at 10:00 on Monday 19 June. You are duly invited to attend one of our three events and join us in showing your support for the serving troops, veterans, cadets, and family members who make up West Northamptonshire’s Armed Forces community.



**ARMED FORCES DAY**  
**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

#### **Northampton**

09:50 | Attendees to assemble outside County Hall steps on George Row for introductory speeches  
10:00 | Armed Forces Flag to be raised  
10:02 | Closing speeches  
10:10 | Refreshments served in Room 58 at County Hall

#### **Daventry**

09:50 | Attendees to assemble outside Lodge Road for introductory speeches  
10:00 | Armed Forces Flag to be raised  
10:02 | Closing speeches  
10:10 | Refreshments served in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 at Lodge Road

#### **Towcester**

09:50 | Attendees to assemble outside the Forum for introductory speeches  
10:00 | Armed Forces Flag to be raised  
10:02 | Closing speeches  
10:10 | Refreshments served in the Council Chamber at the Forum

To confirm your attendance at one of our events, we would be grateful if you could RSVP to [Covenant.NNC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NNC@westnorthants.gov.uk) by Friday 9th June 2023.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Armed Forces Covenant Support Team

### **Community History Month**

To celebrate Local and Community History Month in May, people are invited to join Northampton Central Library to learn about the rich heritage and history of West Northamptonshire.

The library will be hosting a community history fayre on May 17, from 10am to 4pm inside the Gathering Space at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre in Northampton, where 11 local groups will have stands and be available to talk to anyone interested in learning more.

The aim of the month is to increase awareness of local history and promote history in general, whilst engaging with local communities and helping them to discover more about the area where they live.

Groups attending on the day will include Delapré Abbey, Northamptonshire Family History Society, 78 Dergate, Heritage Hunters and more.



The library's monthly Reading Friends session will take place from 11am to midday, with this month's session featuring a special Q&A discussion from the Delapré Abbey Cluniac Research Group on how they combated loneliness throughout the pandemic with their collective interest in the Cluniac Abbey.

The Radical History group will also be present to give a talk about the suffragette movement in Northamptonshire, taking place at 1pm.

In addition, The Northampton Central Library local studies department, Discover, will be showcasing their work and talking to residents about the information and resources they can access through the library. To find more events and become a member of the LibraryPlus service, visit the WNC website.

### **Heritage Open Days Event 8-17 September 2023**

Historic buildings, churches and venues across West Northamptonshire will be open to the public for free from Friday 8 to Sunday 17 September, as part of the Heritage Open Days event. The initiative is a once-a-year opportunity for residents to explore some of the area's unique historic buildings and sites, many of which are usually restricted access or charge for entry, finding out about West Northamptonshire's vibrant culture and heritage like never before.

We'll be listing all local attractions and events over the coming months on our website and across our social media channels. Please encourage any local attractions who might interested in taking part in this year's event to contact [economy@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:economy@westnorthants.gov.uk) by 31 May 2023.



All sites and associated events/activities taking part in HODs must be completely free to access, from entry to exit, and ideally will offer something to your audience which is not normally available.

Residents can also download our Explore West Northants App to discover the full offer of the area from independent businesses and attractions to exclusive discounts and events.



### **Coronation Art Competition**

Schoolchildren of all ages in Northamptonshire are being asked to display their creative skills and share what inspired them about the King's Coronation by taking part in the countywide Coronation Art Competition.

His Majesty's Representative in Northamptonshire, the Lord-Lieutenant is inviting pupils to create a work of art based on their take on the Coronation

celebrations that took place across the country in May.

James Saunders Watson Esq, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, said: "The possibilities are endless: you can submit drawings on size A3 canvas, paper, board, or you can use oil or water-based paint, pencil, pastel, crayons, collage, and photography to show what Coronation meant to you and remember you're limited only by your imagination.

"Being Northamptonshire I expect we'll see plenty of creative ways to use shoes and boots, and if you're not creative with your hands, write a poem or a song or send across your computer graphics.

"We are looking forward to receiving some wonderful and colourful submissions and I cannot wait to see the entries displayed at the final exhibition that will take place during the October half term. "

There are four age categories for children with ages between four and sixteen with a cash prize of £100 per category, to be awarded at the final exhibition that will take place at The Stables at Lamport Hall on Thursday, 26 October. The top ten contestants in each category will be invited to exhibit their artworks at the exhibition. Residents, entrants, and their families will be welcome to visit the exhibition, which will run from Thursday, 26 October until Sunday, 29 October.

Entries must be sent to [coronationart@outlook.com](mailto:coronationart@outlook.com) by Wednesday, 30 August, and include the entrant's name, age, the school, and the school's postcode.

### Transport Day

Abington Park Museum is once again opening its doors for Transport Day on Saturday, 24 June, where visitors will experience a wide range of vintage and classic vehicles in the beautiful setting of Abington Park, taking place from 11am to 4pm. Within the museum itself, visitors can view a working Bassett-Lowke gauge one model railway and take part in transport themed children's activities including a trail. Set in the picturesque park grounds, there will be many vehicles to see outside, including a Morris Minor and Morris 8 and vehicles from the East Northants Landrover Club.



There will also be a range of commercial vehicles including Bee Tee Alarms and Chelsea hire vans, and a Country Lion vintage bus. The bubble blowing Old Bakehouse van will also be present as well as emergency service vehicles from the police and fire service.

Visitors will be able to ride around the Abington Park area on the Heritage Buses for free, departing and returning to Park Avenue South. Models and books will also be on sale to help raise funds for the 794 Preservation Group for

heritage buses. Local band The Buggs will be playing popular songs live from the Bandstand and a variety of refreshments will be available including Gallones ice cream, Simply Sicily Coffee and Serious Dough pizza.

This is a free event, with free parking available in the overflow car park. Please see address and details below:

Abington Park Museum, Park Avenue South, Northampton, NN1 5LW

Abington Park Museum: 01604 838110

Visit the Northampton Museum's website for more information about Abington Park Museum.

### Basketball Tournament at Northampton Racecourse

A basketball tournament taking place at Northampton Racecourse has received recognition from the world governing body for basketball. The NN3X3 tournament, which will take place on Sunday, 16 July, is registered with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), with participating players and teams receiving an international classification.



The Racecourse basketball courts received a £278,000 makeover in Autumn last year following funding from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and Sport England. The improvements saw a new surface with six colour coordinated 3x3 basketball courts, replacement basketball hoops and new floodlights which will allow players to play up until 9pm.



with six colour coordinated 3x3 basketball courts, replacement basketball hoops and new floodlights which will allow players to play up until 9pm.

3x3 basketball is a variation of basketball played three-a-side, with one backboard played in a half-court setup. It has high energy, speed and performance and is the most popular urban team sport in the world.

Basketball Northants will be holding an event to support their anti-knife crime campaign Carry a Basketball not a Blade, on Tuesday, 20 June, from 6pm, at Archways Real Estate, Northampton, NN1 5BA. Find out more by visiting the Basketball Northants Facebook page.