

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JULY 2023



E-Newsletter Issue 7/2023
Steve and Sally Hadland
Great Village Fun Day
Hackleton
on 10 June 2023

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NEWS REPORT JULY 2023

Monthly Highlights

On Sunday 4th June 2023, Stagecoach East made changes to the 41 service within the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire network. 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.

I met our Network Manager Paul McGrath and Andrew Leighton on Tuesday 27 June at 11.00am to discuss drainage issues on Blacksmiths Way, Hartwell. I have included details in my Monthly Report.

It has been confirmed that that on Tuesday 4th July 2023, normal cyclical gully cleansing will start in Hartwell for 2-3 days. Cyclical gully cleansing consists of cleaning all of the gullies and jetting approximately 5m to the mainline, these works are not part of the flooding investigation. From the 10 July 2023, WNC will undertake a number of additional actions in Hartwell:

Residents are being encouraged to give their views on the second phase of a scheme to provide more places for children with special educational needs (SEND) in Northampton. Consultation is underway on part of the Hunsbury SEND provision, to operate from Chiltern Primary school instead of the original plans for the unit to operate on the Hunsbury Park site from September 2023. The Consultation closes on 19 July 2023.

People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to have their say from 3 July 2023 on the proposed policy for street trading across the area. The eight-week consultation on the Draft Street Trading Policy 2023 covers the Council's responsibility towards regulating street trading across West Northants.

The WNC Annual Report, issued at the recent Council meeting, outlines the significant milestones we reached in 2022/23. Recognising there is more work to be done, the Report also talks about our priorities for the upcoming year. We have made significant strides in our second year, but we recognise that there is more work to be done in our third year.

Our Council's annual canvass is due to get underway, during which every property in West Northamptonshire will receive a communication via email or letter. If you have provided your email address to us for the purpose of the canvass, you will receive branded emails from our Council. The emails will come from electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk and contain step-by-step instructions on how to check, confirm and/or change your details online. Details are in my Monthly Report.

Community Tree Planting Grants are available, and applications can be submitted now 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. 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.

There is a proposal to rename the DSN4 LAP as Rural East. Look out for details of the work being undertaken by this LAP in my Monthly Report.

The Virtual Wellbeing Festival 2023 (VWBF23) took place from Monday 3 to Friday 7 July. See my Monthly Report.

The Summer Reading Challenge launched on Saturday, 8 July. Participants will be rewarded with a medal and certificate upon completing the challenge. The Library Service has also partnered with local leisure centres to provide a voucher entitling children to a free swim or badminton, table tennis or squash court hire, depending on location. The Challenge runs until Saturday, 9 September and aims to increase children's reading engagement and confidence. Further information around the Summer Reading Challenge and library events and services can be found on the Libraries' webpage

Proposed changes to the Council's Home to School Transport service will be considered by Councillors on 11 July.

Key proposals to change the policy include:

1. Reviewing the non-entitled transport scheme, which currently enables parents to pay for seats on Council-run school bus services for children not eligible for free places.
2. Increasing the cost of a bus seat from £600 to £1000 to ensure it better reflects the actual cost of providing the service which has increased substantially over the last few years.
3. Only offering seats if spare capacity is available on existing contracted services.
4. Removal of Travel Assistance for some Year 11 Pupils who move home during the academic year.
5. Revised suitable walking route criteria which hasn't been reviewed in over 10 years.

All proposals being put forward would apply from September 2024.

The service has not been reviewed for 10 years.

Volunteer bus drivers are sought to support with this year's Heritage Open Days, which take place from 8 to 17 September. Drivers will need a category D PCV (passenger carrying vehicle) licence. We are also looking for volunteer bus conductors, who do not need a licence. Training will be provided for both drivers and conductors. Please email communications@westnorthants.gov.uk to register your interest.

A new Residents' magazine will be distributed to homes across West Northamptonshire every six months, with this first edition due to start landing on doormats from the week beginning 10 July. Not all residents live in a Digital world, so the aim of the magazine is to offer these people a way of finding out about the many things our council is doing across West Northamptonshire and the services and support available to them.

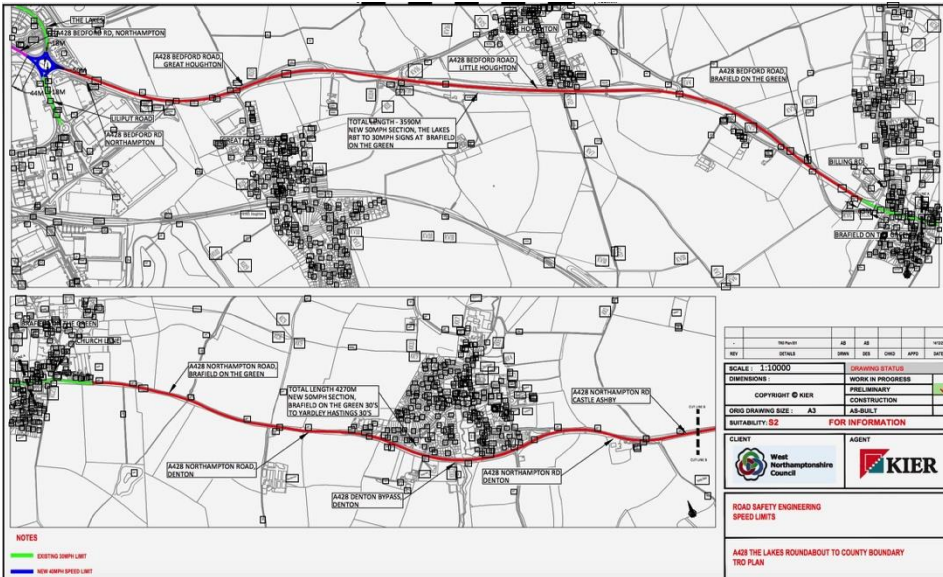
Did you know? Town and Parish Councils have a new dedicated officer at our Council who they can contact for help and support with all things WNC. Our Parish Council Liaison Officer Alan Burns has been in post since January 2023 with a remit to maintain and enhance good working relationships between West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

All the Best, Steve

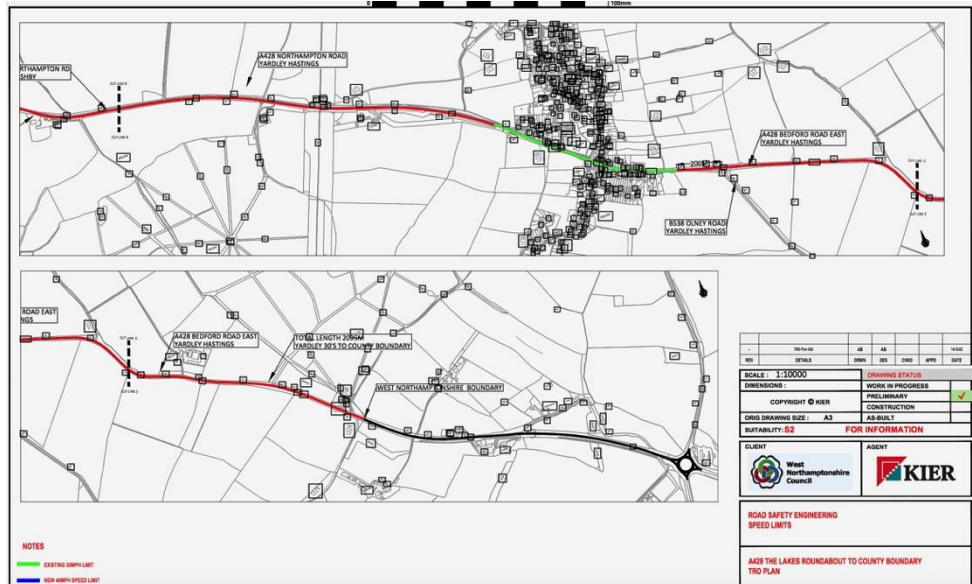
PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

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

Update on Flooding in Hartwell

I met our Network Manager Paul McGrath and Andrew Leighton together with local residents Sonia and Nathan Clews, Darius Saeidi and Amy Holt, Clerk to Hartwell Parish Council on Tuesday 27 June at 11.00am. This was regarding drainage issues on Blacksmiths Way. I have since received a response from Andrew Leighton setting out his response to the issues raised by Nathan Clews previously. The details are as follows:

The camber from Ashton Road into Amberley Road is to be reviewed. Water does not seem to flow down Ashton Road anymore and it diverts along Amberley Road which therefore means it ends up at our property.

This has been surveyed (29th June 2023), and we are looking to have a report on this issue and how this affects the drainage within the next two weeks.

For clarification that all the broken connections in Ashton Road to the main drain have been repaired.

We have been advised that these repairs should be completed by Gigaclear next week.

That the tree roots have been cleared from Ashton Road drains.

The tree roots from the Willow tree on Ashton Road have now been cleared. As we are unable to remove this tree we will need to come back and undertake further work to ensure that the drain is kept clear.

That the issues around Oakleaf Care home and the drainage there have been identified and resolved.

Again, the tree roots from the Willow tree on Ashton Road have now been cleared. As we are unable to remove this tree we will need to come back and undertake further work to ensure that the drain is kept clear. We are also looking to install some concrete to protect the pipework that had previously had root damage

That an additional measure is going to be put in place to protect our properties. Clearing the drains regularly is not solving it and something more substantial needs to be done to ensure the rainwater is channelled appropriately and not through the grounds of our property. From everyone attends after the rainfall it seems that we need additional drainage along Blacksmiths way with a more substantial pipe going onto Ashton Road.

Once the cyclical works and camera work have been completed we will put together a programme of works, should there be any additional work required, and will inform you of the outcome of both the above works programme and any further works programme.

All drains along forest road and Ashton road are investigated via CCTV, unblocked if required and any maintenance completed to ensure the water from the top and centre of the village is diverted before it gets to Ashton road.

We will be looking to arrange a full camera CCTV survey of the drains from M1 bridge down towards Blacksmiths Way in Hartwell. Once this is completed and we have confirmation of the drains being repaired in Ashton Road

Another site meeting as all the work that was carried out over the winter period has been ineffective so now we need to look at additional measures that can be put in place.

This has been arranged for 29th August at 11am

2 years ago the road outside our property was resurfaced, reducing the curb and in our opinion since then the issues have been occurring, this needs to be investigated.

As discussed at our site meeting, the resurfacing is not an issue that would affect the amount of rainwater running past this point. Our investigations and solutions will be aimed at discharging the water before it reaches this point.

In addition to the above actions it has been confirmed that that on Tuesday 4th July 2023, normal cyclical gully cleansing will start in the village. We are hoping that this will be completed within 2-3 days, and we will have all of the cyclical gully cleansing completed within the village. Cyclical gully cleansing consists of cleaning all of the gullies and jetting approximately 5m to the mainline, these works are not part of the flooding investigation.



From the 10th July 2023, WNC will undertake the following actions:

Phase 1 – The outfall to the highway drainage system on Ashton Road is to have CCTV inspection, and jetted through to Forest Road, and the junction of School Lane. This is to ascertain if there is any further damage to the highway assets or any root cutting that needs completing. Any channels will be jetted and checked at the same time.

Phase 2 – Will be to jet and survey Amberley Way to Blacksmiths Way

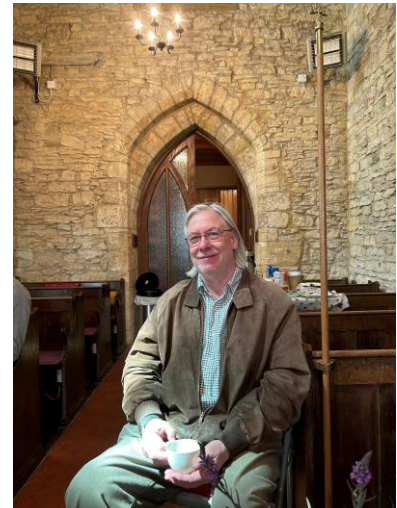
Phase 3 – Will be to camera and jet Blacksmith Way to Swyncombe Green

All of the statutory Undertaker's drawings have now been received and the mainline is a highway asset, meaning any further works that are required are to be completed by the highway authority, unless these have been damaged by a third party. Whilst the camera crew are on-site they will be supported by our drainage supervisor who will record any abnormalities found which we will then pass to our supply chain partners to price and repair.

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. There will be a collection around the village tomorrow 14 June between 6.30 and 8pm. If anyone would like to help with the door to door collection or to help sort everything in the village hall, your help would be much appreciated.

Please meet at the village hall at 6.30pm. If you are able to help with the collection or on the day of the fete, please contact Fiona 890482, Julia 889140 or Sarah 890271.

See you next Saturday!



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.

Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance at Cogenhoe Primary School

I was pleased to hear that Cogenhoe Primary School had received a visit from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, who have provided Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance items. The items are designed to help remind people to park and drive responsibly near and around schools. The scheme is running county-wide, so look out for the signs and please park considerably away from school entrances when on the school run.



Denton Coffee Morning

Yesterday, I attended the Denton Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church, one of West Northants Warm Welcoming Spaces. The church is in the centre of the village. It is open every day and provides a community space for everyone in the village. They hold coffee mornings, weekly craft sessions, quizzes, and many other general community events. Opening times: Open on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Although it was very hot outside it was cool inside the church.

We enjoyed catching up with Sheila, Doug, Russell, Mary, John and others and we were sorry to miss Pat, but hope that she has a speedy recovery from her recent operation.



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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. 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>



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

Second Phase SEND Provision to operate from Chiltern Primary School

Residents are being encouraged to give their views on the second phase of a scheme to provide more places for children with special educational needs (SEND) in Northampton.

Date	Key Milestones
22 June 2023	Publication of Statutory Notice and beginning of period of representation (consultation).
19 July 2023	End of four week period of representation.
19 September 2023	Final decision on whether to establish the proposed SEND unit made at WNC Cabinet meeting.

Consultation is underway on part of the Hunsbury SEND provision, to operate from Chiltern Primary school instead of the original plans for the unit to operate on the Hunsbury Park site from September 2023.

Proposed Policy for Street Trading

People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to have their say on the proposed policy for street trading across the area. The eight-week consultation on the Draft Street Trading Policy 2023 covers the Council's responsibility towards regulating street trading across West Northants. The street trading policy provides guidance and support for those providing services and goods across West Northamptonshire at a local street level. It is designed to ensure that activity takes place in the right places and will help prevent illegal trading.

This draft policy will replace the existing policies in the former South Northants, Northampton and Daventry areas, providing one policy for the Unitary Council. Its aims are to regulate street trading activities and to prevent obstruction of streets in the district by street trading. This includes:

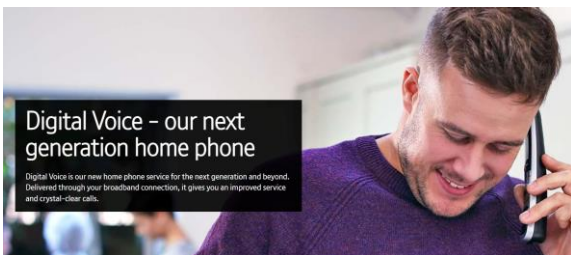
- Regulation of the location and number of street traders
- Offering assistance to traders, by providing understanding of where street trade is encouraged, the application and decision-making process
- Detail on where consent will not normally be granted in respect of certain sites
- Consent conditions including site and trading conditions.

The consultation will launch on Monday (3 July), when people will be able to find out more and have their say via our Consultation Hub.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/street-trading-policy-2023/>

Digital Voice

BT recently announced plans to roll out its new home phone service, Digital Voice, on a region-by-region basis, starting with the East Midlands. Throughout July, BT will be heading to towns and cities across the



region to host a range of events where they'll have a team on hand who can tell you what Digital Voice is, why the change is necessary and what it means for you.

BT will be present in townhalls across the region in July to address customer questions on the ground. Customers will be able to speak to BT advisors, test Digital Voice products as well as take part in digital skills training. There will also be a series of pop-up events in garden

centres and libraries, as well as a demonstration vehicle which will tour the region and try the new technology for themselves. Find out what's taking place in your area:

<https://www.bt.com/broadband/digital-voice>

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 or call 0300 126 7000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

Annual Report 2022/23

Over the past 12 months, the council has faced numerous challenges in the wake of significant cost of living rises, amidst an uncertain international and economic climate. Addressing the cost-of-living difficulties faced by our communities was one of the council's top priorities throughout the year 2022/23 and, working closely with partners, we made extensive efforts to provide vital support to residents in need.



We have also dealt with a multitude of significant issues, including assisting in the resettlement of families fleeing the war in Ukraine, leading the county's emergency response to the loss of our Queen, and taking proactive measures to tackle emerging financial challenges in future budgets that could not have been predicted this time last year. Despite these challenges, we have continued to make substantial progress towards our ambitions, and the Annual Report outlines the significant milestones we reached in 2022/23.

Recognising there is more work to be done, the Report also talks about our priorities for the upcoming year, reflecting our ongoing mission to provide even better services that enable residents to lead their best lives. We have made significant strides in our second year, but we recognise that there is more work to be done in our third year. There will be challenges ahead without doubt, but we are confident that we will be able to respond effectively to future changes and challenges.

The report is also available to download on our website.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/your-council/annual-report>

Northamptonshire Anchor Institutions Network

It was the official launch of the Northamptonshire Anchor Institutions Network this week, bringing together some of the largest employers in the county to work together to address important social and economic issues.

The Network will work together to seek best practice, to measure impact, and to hold each other to account, actively committing to the following:

- Empowering the next generation
- Creating positive employment opportunities
- Maximising social value gained from local investment
- Enhancing sustainability.

This is an exciting step forward for Northamptonshire, bringing together public and private sector organisations in a new way of working towards shared goals. Together, the Network will work towards improving wellbeing and create strong, safe, resilient, and

inclusive communities for our residents. All of these organisations, from the public, private and voluntary sectors, including community and social enterprises bring a breadth of knowledge, understanding and community impact, and together, can make so much difference to our communities.

By collaborating between these large employers, which include councils, education establishments, professional sports clubs, national financial institutions and others, we can achieve so much. At WNC, we are absolutely committed to our involvement in the network and are passionate about working with other members in a collaborative way to tackle social and economic inequalities. We

are really looking forward to the action that comes from the network and the impact it will make on our residents, such as the growth in 'Foster Friendly' organisations to support those young people so deserving of care.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS NETWORK

REGULATORY SERVICES

Council's Annual Canvass to get underway

Our Council's annual canvass is due to get underway, during which every property in West Northamptonshire will receive a communication via email or letter.

If you have provided your email address to us for the purpose of the canvass, you will receive branded emails from our Council next week. The emails will come from electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk and contain step-by-step instructions on how to check, confirm and/or change your details online.

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 on 20 April 2023

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

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.

CLlr David Smith, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services at WNC, said: "We will not hesitate to take action against those who think they can carelessly discard of their rubbish on our streets, causing a negative impact on our environment and our communities. There is simply no excuse for fly-tipping, and offenders will face the consequences of their actions."

People can report fly-tipping on our website, along with details of any information which can help to pinpoint the offenders. 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 this week. 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.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Local Area Partnership DSN4

The next DSN4 LAP meeting takes place on 4 July 2023. The date of the next meeting is 8 August at 13.00pm.

Notes from our last meeting include:

- Julie Curtis has asked for the percentage of owner occupier, those renting privately and in social housing within DSN4 area, and is awaiting a response.
- The 2021 Census data cannot be broken down in more detailed age ranges.
- Katie Rigby has confirmed there is no specified time before a child can be reported as missing.
- The definition in the NSCP Missing Protocol Guidance is:
- Missing – Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located and their well-being or otherwise confirmed.

This is then looked at as to whether they are high or medium risk and the protocol followed which then takes you through to the Home Return Interviews which are carried out by our Young Peoples Team. With missing children there is a need to work with the whole family and take a holistic approach to the lives of children who go missing.

Approximately £200k was spent on the Towcester Youth Coffee House by the previous South Northants Council. A charity owns the building and it is currently being used by Northamptonshire MIND to deliver talking therapies and a crisis café. Cllr Sue Sharps runs some youth provision in Towcester from the local leisure centre.

Decisions:

- An action for this LAP will be to get the Towcester Coffee House operational. A task and finish group will be formed once Jane Carr has received legal advice on the grant conditions.



Actions:

- The minutes from the West Northamptonshire Executive Place Board meeting 16th May will be circulated once approved at the next meeting 13th June.
- Jane Carr to access legal advice on the grant conditions of the Towcester Coffee House and feedback to the group.
- Helen Barrett to ask the trustees of the Towcester Coffee House for an update on the future plan for the venue.

Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum

Feedback from Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum Providers of Warm Welcoming Spaces have been asked if they would like to continue as Welcoming Space during the warmer months. West Northants Council (WNC) Community Development Workers will work with those organisations who wish to continue to ascertain which wrap around services can be provided from the venue. The WNC Communities Team are undertaking a piece of work mapping organisations that can be engaged with by LAP area, including hard to reach areas. This will include faith and community groups, with links to organisations websites. The Digital Team will look to see if this information can be accessed via the WNC app. The Insights Library is countywide and will include information on events and engagement completed by organisations. An update was given on the emerging priorities for the 4 Daventry and South Northants LAPs. NLAC are helping to arrange an engagement event with Town and Parish Council clerks on the 26th June. There was a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy engagement event held on 5 June for WNC Elected members, where emerging priorities across the 9 LAPs were discussed. There is a need to consider how to reach out to elected members who do not sit on the LAPs to ensure they know the importance of LAPs in their communities.

Men into Extra Time

The South Northants Volunteer Bureau ran a Men into Extra Time project between March 2022 and March 2023. This project was funded by the National Lottery and designed to work with older men identified of being at risk from social isolation. The project was ran from Brackley Town Football Club. Men who attended the project felt more confident, involved and engaged. The families reported the men were happier and more relaxed. The project cost £35k-£40k to run for 12 months. Learning from this project can be used for other projects, such as the Chatty Cafés. Grants for voluntary sector projects tend to only be for 1-2 years. Big organisations have access to social value funding which could be used for communities projects. Feoffee charity run in Brackley and Towcester and may be useful in hosting events. Actions:

- Summary pack of Men into Extra Time project to be circulated to the group.

Chatty Cafes

Emma Parry has obtained approximately 50 licences for Chatty Cafes and it is hoped these can be used primarily in the Welcoming Spaces for phase 1. For Towcester this will be Renew 169 and Towcester Library. Miranda Wixon has scoped using commercial environments such as Waitrose, Bell Plantation and Morrison cafes. Sporting venues may be more appealing for men to attend.

Actions:

- Julie Curtis to discuss with Emma Parry how to use learning from Men into Extra Time project to strengthen the Chatty Café model. 22/23

LAP Naming

The names of the LAPs need to change from numbers. The name has to be recognisable to residents, whilst not making communities feeling excluded. There is a proposal for Daventry and South Northants LAPs to be named:

- DSN1 Rural North

- DSN2 Rural West
- DSN3 Rural South
- DSN4 Rural East

The proposal for Northampton LAP names is:

- N1 Northampton East
- N2 Northampton South
- N3 Northampton West
- N4 Northampton Central
- N5 Northampton North Ward areas will be included under the LAP name.

Planning committees are now named North and South.

Decisions: LAP naming to be discussed at the next meeting.

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 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 or contact energy@ca-north.org.uk

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



Integrated Care Northamptonshire win HSJ Digital Award

Integrated Care Northamptonshire – along with health and social care partners West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and healthcare technology experts Docobo - is delighted to announce their collaborative project 'Remote Monitoring in the community' has won the 'Improving out of hospital care through digital' category at the inaugural HSJ Digital Awards.

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



The awards, which took place on Thursday 22 June in Manchester, recognise outstanding contribution to healthcare and earning the opportunity to showcase their achievements on a national platform. The team were also Highly Commended in the 'Connecting Health and Social Care through Digital' category. The remote monitoring project has been developed to support people in care homes and in the community as part of the Integrated Care Northamptonshire's Ageing Well programme. Teams from West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, and Northamptonshire

Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have been working on the remote monitoring project with Docobo to roll out the technology across 11 care homes so far with a further 9 onboarded later this year.

One of the care homes using the technology with the Virtual Clinical Hub has reported the average number of GP same-day appointment requests being reduced from 15 per week to an average of 6 per week freeing up GPs' time to care for those residents in greater need. Within the same care home, the number of ambulances being called out has also dropped from 60 per month to 8 per month. Patients are monitored by a Virtual Clinical Hub Team using Docobo's DOC@HOME platform. Carers or patients can enter vital signs and answer questions about their health onto a device, which is then automatically and securely sent to the clinical hub. Patients are monitored daily or three times a day depending on their clinical needs and whenever an anomaly is detected.

The Remote Monitoring project was shortlisted in total for an impressive three categories at the HSJ Digital Awards:

- Empowering patients through digital
- Connecting health and social care through digital – Highly Commended
- Improving out of hospital care through digital – Winner

The judges commented that the project was "an excellent example of how a well-thought-out model can succeed on multiple levels – reducing demand in other areas, giving patients confidence in out-of-hospital care, and increasing efficiency. There is a clear vision here for innovative developments to take this initiative further and expand."

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.

Consultation on part of Hunsbury SEND provision

Residents are being encouraged to give their views on the second phase of a scheme to provide more places for children with special educational needs (SEND) in Northampton.

Consultation starts today on part of the Hunsbury SEND provision, to operate from Chiltern Primary school instead of the original plans for the unit to operate on the Hunsbury Park site from September 2023. The provision caters for primary age pupils who are in receipt of an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) with a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disabilities (ASD).



West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) originally established plans for a 50 place SEND Unit to be created at Hunsbury Park Primary School in two phases. Phase 1 caters for children in Key Stage 1 classes – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Phase 2 will cater for children in Key Stage 2 classes – Years 3 to 6.

In November last year, under Phase 1 of the project, a specialist unit creating 20 new places for key stage 1 children with ASD and Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) was opened at Hunsbury Park Primary School. However, due to construction constraints and a delayed delivery date, the remaining provision of 30 places for Phase 2 cannot be accommodated on the same site.

As a result, WNC has explored alternative options with sufficient spare accommodation having been identified at Chiltern Primary School, Northampton. The unit at Chiltern Primary, which will cater for children in Key Stage 2, Years 3 to 6, will continue to be operated by Hunsbury Park Primary School and their specialist SEND staff, with plans to open fully from 3 October 2023.

The additional 30 places will be achieved via the refurbishment of existing classrooms to provide a modern and fit for purpose teaching environment for new pupils. The scheme will also provide further bespoke outdoor learning facilities and dedicated specialist areas such as new hygiene rooms. The accommodation at Chiltern will also allow for an additional 15 places to be created from September 2024, taking the total number of places delivered under Phase 2 to 45.

Relocating Phase 2 to Chiltern primary will also enable a further 10 places to be created on the Hunsbury site as part of the first phase of work due to be completed in January 2024. Overall, this will result in a total of 75 much needed new places being created during both phases – 25 above the original plans.

The Council is liaising closely with the schools and affected families who have been made aware the proposals.

This proposal forms part of wider plans for Hunsbury Park Primary and Chiltern Primary to work more closely together in order to improve outcomes overall. Known as a 'soft federation' the arrangements will

allow both schools to carry out some functions jointly, such as through joint committees and joint board meetings, with a focus on effective collaboration improving key strategic areas. The local authority is supportive of this measure to protect and strengthen LA maintained schools.

Under this proposal, an executive leadership model will be implemented with Dan York, current headteacher at Hunsbury Park Primary, acting as the new executive headteacher (subject to final agreement). Dan will take a strategic role in both schools with an overarching statutory responsibility of leading the school's day to day activities in each school and overseeing the SEND provision on both sites.

The unit will continue to be operated by Hunsbury Park Primary School and their specialist SEND staff, with the combined funding for both schools at £2 million, delivering 75 much needed ASD places for children and young people in West Northamptonshire.

This proposal forms part of a wider programme of works that aims to deliver up to 600 new SEND places across West Northants by September 2025. To find out more about the consultation or to share your views by 19 July 2023, please visit the WNC Consultation Hub.

Proposed Changes to Home to School Transport Service

Proposed changes to the Council's Home to School Transport service will be considered by Councillors next week following feedback from residents. At their meeting next Tuesday (11 July), West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet will discuss proposals to revise the service for children up to the age of 16 following an eight-week public consultation, which welcomed comments from over 1,450 parents, children, young people and other stakeholders.

Key proposals to change the policy include:

6. Reviewing the non-entitled transport scheme, which currently enables parents to pay for seats on Council-run school bus services for children not eligible for free places.
7. Increasing the cost of a bus seat from £600 to £1000 to ensure it better reflects the actual cost of providing the service which has increased substantially over the last few years.
8. Only offering seats if spare capacity is available on existing contracted services.
9. Removal of Travel Assistance for some Year 11 Pupils who move home during the academic year.
10. Revised suitable walking route criteria which hasn't been reviewed in over 10 years.

Following feedback from residents, the Council will retain entitlement to free transport to a child's linked school and is no longer proposing to remove discretionary travel assistance for mainstream pupils in Reception Year who have not yet turned 5 years.



All proposals being put forward would apply from September 2024 and only affect those applying for a bus place from this period and beyond. The proposed changes do not cover Home to School Transport policies for students aged 16 and over, which will be reviewed later this year, following a fuller review of all bus services.

The review of the service is the first to take place in a decade and seeks to ensure it is delivered in line with other local councils and at a reasonable cost. It will help overcome some of the challenges including a significant increase in demand from users and rising operating

costs caused by high fuel prices and inflation. It also explores opportunities for a more flexible, environmentally friendly service that increases choices for parents and better supports the independence of young people.

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.



Summer Reading Challenge



This summer, children aged 4 to 11 can visit any West Northamptonshire Library to get involved in a Summer Reading Challenge themed around the power of play, sport, games and physical activity. The Summer Reading Challenge, which launches on Saturday, 8 July, invites children to read six books over the summer holidays while tracking their reading via a fictional summer obstacle course - brought to life by children's author and illustrator Loretta Schauer.

Participants will be rewarded with a medal and certificate upon completing the challenge. The Library Service has also partnered with local leisure centres to provide a voucher entitling children to a free swim or badminton, table tennis or squash court hire, depending on location.

The Challenge runs until Saturday, 9 September and aims to increase children's reading engagement and confidence whilst supporting their health and wellbeing and introducing families to their local library.

People can sign-up to the Challenge in any library branch from 8 July. Further information around the Summer Reading Challenge and library events and services can be found on the Libraries webpage

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

£165m to transform Skills Training

The Department for Education issued a press release on the 24th May 2023 setting out how local employer skills gaps are to be addressed with a funding boost to transform training and grow the economy. The press release provides details of how local communities across the country are set to benefit from a share of



£165 million to transform skills training in their area and help get more people into jobs closer to home. Further education providers are invited to apply for cash from the Local Skills Improvement Fund, which will be used to renovate facilities with up-to-date equipment, help to upskill teachers, and deliver new courses in key subjects such as green construction, carbon capture and cyber security that meet the needs of local employers. This means that wherever there are skills black holes, they will now be filled. Thousands of people will benefit from this boost to skills training, helping them secure good jobs close to where they live. It will also provide a boost to local economies, as employers will have access to a workforce which is equipped with the specific skills businesses need to grow.

Successful applicants will receive funding to invest in a broad range of initiatives that respond to the specific priorities identified in each area's Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). The plans have been created by employer representative bodies in every region of the country and set out the key priorities and changes needed in each area to make post-16 technical training more closely aligned to local labour market needs. The initiative builds on the success of the Strategic Development Fund, which has already made £157 million available to the further education sector to invest in a range of projects that have had a huge impact on plugging skills gaps in communities up and down the country. This includes investment in the equipment and facilities needed to upskill people in areas such as electric and hybrid vehicle maintenance, automation and artificial intelligence.

Food for Life working with Schools

Working with food culture leaders, Food for Life, the new programme aims to make healthy food the norm for thousands of children in West Northamptonshire. The three-year programme will work with schools and communities with areas of high deprivation and obesity to give children better access to healthy food and an understanding of where our food comes from. In West Northamptonshire, the programme will be a key part of the Council's joined up approach to decreasing obesity through building relationships between schools, early years settings, caterers and local food systems. Food for Life has been working with schools across the country for the past 20 years, instilling good food culture through their pioneering awards scheme and high-level accreditation standards. Recent work in Walsall has seen 16,058 pupils benefit from having the Food for Life programme in their school.



The programme will work with 35 Schools and 10 Early Years settings to establish a healthy food culture for pupils, staff and families. Food for Life will also work with the wider community to embed nutritional knowledge, cooking confidence and support for behavioural change in relation to food.

School caterers will work towards a Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) Award. FFLSH is a sustainable catering certification that ensures food is at least 75% freshly prepared, uses seasonal ingredients where possible and the School Food Standards are met as a minimum.

Local Programme Manager Joanne Plater who will be working with targeted schools across the district to embed the programme, says: "I'm very excited to be support settings in West Northamptonshire to develop their uniquely positive school food culture using the framework of the Food for Life Schools and Early Years Awards."

"Connecting children with where their food comes from and increasing their knowledge and experience of healthy foods is thing of joy. Food for Life will support targeted settings to make these opportunities accessible to all through a variety of free and individual support." To find out more, please contact jplater@soilassociation.org"

New Interim Director of Children's Services

Rebecca Wilshire has been appointed as Interim Director of Children's Services within the People directorate, having been Deputy Director since September 2022. She brings with her a wealth of experience in children's services and a proven track record of delivering change.

Rebecca has worked in Children Services for over 25 years, having worked in both the private and public sector during this time.

She started her career working in residential children's homes, and then as family support worker, before training and working as a social worker. As a social worker she held several roles, progressing into management and leadership roles along the way. Rebecca has held Assistant Director levels roles for the last 6-7 years, working for several different local authorities and a Children's Trust during this time.

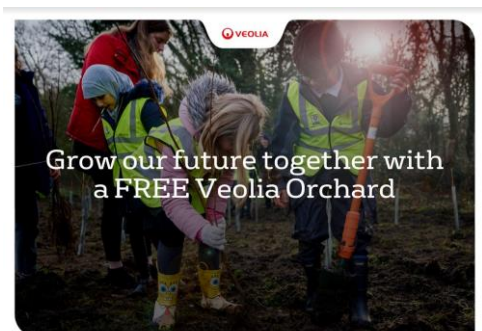
Rebecca is passionate about families' rights, good practice and working together in the best interest of children and their families, and also sits on the Advisory Board for Child Sexual Abuse Centre of Expertise, having undertaken several Peer Reviews via the LGA



Free Fruit Trees to schools in Northampton

Following the success of last year, we're delighted to offer FREE fruit trees to schools in Northampton as part of a campaign with Veolia UK and Groundwork!

Apply for a Veolia Orchard at your school by 24 July here and help grow our future together.



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>

Refurbishment of 78 Dergate

Visitors to Northampton's iconic and historic 78 Dergate 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 (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

Last week, DLUHC 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.

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/>

Jobs Fair 19 July

Are you looking for a new job? Is it time for a career change? Do you need any support to take the next step? Join Daventry Jobs Fair at the iCon Innovation Centre on Wednesday 19 July for a chance to discover local vacancies and discuss them directly with recruiting employers so that you can find your dream job. The event, which runs from 10.30am to 1pm, will also offer support to help you search and apply for jobs, from CV writing and interview skills to even starting your own business.



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/daventry-jobs-fair-tickets-662908656637?aff=oddtcreator>

Applications invited for Growing Innovation Funding

There are two new capital grant schemes for enterprises across the South East Midlands. Launched by SEMLEP, the Resilience and Innovation, and Growing Innovation grant schemes are now open for applications, with a total of £6.65million available to support businesses impacted by cost of living challenges and support their innovation ambitions.



Businesses are requested to submit an Expression of Interest for the Growing Innovation funding by 5pm on 1 August 2023. Projects that score highly with their Expression of Interest will be invited to submit a full application by 15 November 2023. The Resilience and Innovation grant scheme will open in rounds until the full £1.9million allocation is awarded. There is lots of support available to help businesses submit a robust, quality application. Contact the SEMLEP Growth Hub Advisors for more information.
<https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/our-team/>

Masterplan for former Greyfriars Bus site.

The regeneration of Northampton town centre has taken an exciting step forward as our council seeks designers and engineers to develop the vision and plans for the former Greyfriars Bus site.



Greyfriars is the largest brownfield opportunity within West Northamptonshire and represents a significant opportunity to deliver a large scale development in this area. The site is a prime location at the heart of town, next to the ongoing transformation of the historic Market Square and redevelopment of the former Marks and Spencer's and BHS units.

The central location provides a unique opportunity to transform this part of the town centre and have a positive impact on the wider area. The project is in its initial stages, as our

Council seeks to work with experts to develop a masterplan and vision for the area which will outline how this can meet the needs of the local community and businesses.

It is proposed that the initial outline plan will deliver a new high-quality homes, commercial uses, a new park, leisure facilities and a new coach interchange. A core element of the proposal is to improve connectivity within the surrounding area and provided enhanced walking, cycling and vehicle routes.

This is an exciting step to transform the Greyfriars Bus site as we seek to bring on board a consultant to develop a vision and plans for the area. As part of this, we will engage with the local community and businesses through a public consultation.

The project has the opportunity to deliver a step change for the area, increasing footfall to support local business, attract new inward investment and create a place where all can be proud of.

Organisations have until the end of July to submit their interest in working with our Council to develop the vision for the area. As part of the next steps, we will seek to work with a highly experienced multi-disciplinary team of architects, transport and commercial experts. Evaluation will take place over August with the team being appointed in September with a view to develop a vision by spring 2024. To keep up to date with regeneration across Northampton, visit www.wearenorthampton.com

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

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/government/news/government-extends-2-bus-fare-cap-and-protects-vital-services)



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

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>

CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

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 be interested in taking part in this year's event to contact 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.

Volunteer Bus Drivers

Volunteer bus drivers are sought to support with this year's Heritage Open Days, which take place from 8 to 17 September. Drivers will need a category D PCV (passenger carrying vehicle) licence. We are also looking for volunteer bus conductors, who do not need a licence. Training will be provided for both drivers and conductors. Please email communications@westnorthants.gov.uk to register your interest.

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. "

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

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 by Wednesday, 30 August, and include the entrant's name, age, the school, and the school's postcode.

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.

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.

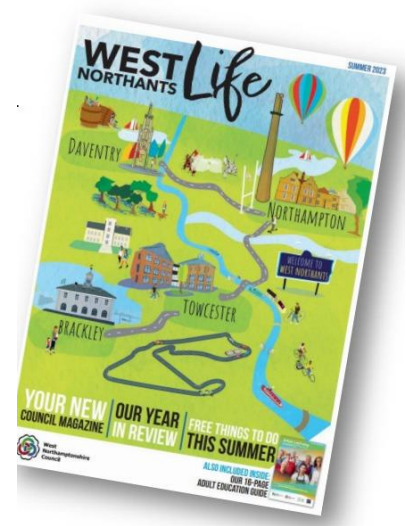
New Residents' Magazine, West Northants Life

WNC has signed off this week on the first edition of our Council's new residents' magazine, West Northants Life. The new magazine will be distributed to homes across West Northamptonshire every six months, with this first edition due to start landing on doormats from the week beginning 10 July. Its publication is the last of a number of actions agreed last year by the Residents' and Parish Communications Task & Finish

Group – a cross-party group set up to consider how the council can develop its direct communications channels and activities with residents and parishes to keep them regularly informed and engaged.

That led to the establishment of our Town and Parish Briefing, as well as the development of our e-news platform which provides general news updates to more than 8,000 subscribers every fortnight, as well as offering regular newsletters from services including Economic Development, Community Safety, and the Museums Service. The new magazine will provide news on a range of council services, as well as providing information about local events and activities, and also incorporates our adult learning brochure, which the Government funds us to distribute.

We know that many of our residents live in a digital world these days, but there are many that still value or rely on the printed word, so the aim of the magazine is to offer these people a way of finding out about the many things our council is doing across West Northamptonshire and the services and support available to them.



Honouring the victims of the Srebrenica Genocide

A ceremony of remembrance to honour the victims of the Srebrenica genocide on its 28th anniversary will take place on Tuesday, 11 July, at 10.45am in the Guildhall courtyard on St Giles' Square in Northampton.

People are invited to join the Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Morcea Walker MBE, along with representatives from Northamptonshire Inter Faith Forum, Northamptonshire Police and others, to hear speeches and observe a one-minute silence at 11am, in honour of the 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys who were massacred in Srebrenica, Bosnia, in July



1995. The service will be followed by refreshments served in the Court Room. The Srebrenica flag will also be raised at each of West Northamptonshire Council's main offices in Northampton and Towcester and candles of remembrance lit to mark the occasion.

Councillor John Shephard, Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council, said: "We are proud to be raising the Remember Srebrenica flag on behalf of people of West Northamptonshire.

"This is an important day of international commemoration, so it is right that we come together to remember the victims of this atrocity and demonstrate that there is no place for hate in our society."

The day of remembrance is part of the Srebrenica Memorial Week, which runs from 4 to 11 July, with this year's theme Together We Are One providing an opportunity for people to reflect on how coming together makes us stronger and empowering people to actively challenge stereotyping, scapegoating and hate speech within their communities.

Northamptonshire Police is committed to challenging all forms of hatred, prejudice and intolerance within communities. Anyone who has experienced a hate crime or incident is encouraged to report it to the police by calling 101. More information about this year's theme and the memorial week can be found on the Remembering Srebrenica website.