

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT MAY 2024



### E-Newsletter Issue 05/2024

Elizabeth Packer, Olive Stirling and  
Cllr Stephen Clarke at  
The Cogenhoe Sea Scouts  
60 Years Celebratory Fete  
21 April 2024

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## NEWS REPORT MAY 2024

### Monthly Highlights

WNC is proposing to implement a 50-mph speed limit to replace the derestricted signs on the entrance to and exit from Little Houghton. The proposed new speed limit has been approved by the Council's Speed Limit Review Panel. However, before WNC formally advertises their intention to make the relevant Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), they have invited your comments and feedback on the proposals by Wednesday 8th May 2024.

The works programmed for the resolution of the drainage issues in Hartwell were completed during April. The engineers are confident that all the completed works completed will alleviate any of the further drainage concerns on Blacksmiths Way.

I obtained confirmation of the status of the S106 funds for the improvements to the Yardley Hastings Primary School. The Section 106 amount received was £98,710.18 towards the improvement and/or alteration of facilities to enable the school to accommodate the 6 additional pupils expected to be generated by the new development.

Kier will carry out carriageway resurfacing works along a section of the A428 between Brafield on the Green and Denton. To undertake these works safely they will require a series of overnight closures commencing on 20 May 2024 to 29 May 2024 between 8pm and 6am. The closures will be for pre-patching works, surface dressing, sweeping and lining.

National Grid is intending to instal new electricity connections between The Leys and The Lane in Denton. To undertake the work safely they will close the road for up to four days and it is currently expected to commence on the 28 May 2024.

Cadent are intending on carrying out the installation of a new gas connection. To undertake this work safely will require that Main Road, Hackleton to be closed for up to 5 days and it is expected that the works will commence on the 17 June 2024

People can have their say on the new draft Local Plan until Sunday 2 June by visiting our online Consultation Hub.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is asking for local carers or someone supporting a carer to share their views and feedback on the newly drafted five-year Carer Strategy, which will close at midnight on Thursday 30 May 2024.

We welcome views on SEND funding and invite comments through an online survey, which closes at midnight Sunday 2 June 2024.

The Council has received £2,465,491.77 as part of the fifth tranche of the Household Support Fund (HSF) provided by the UK Government, following the announcement of a sixth month extension to the scheme, offering additional financial support to vulnerable households. Following Cabinet approval on 7 May 2024, work will commence with community partners for distribution of the funds.

The next stage of our Community Governance Review launched on 26 April 2024 closes on Sunday, 28 July.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) lead in managing local flood risks, this includes risks of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary (smaller) watercourses. People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to share their views during this non-statutory consultation which will help shape the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy during the early stages of its development. It is open for people to share their views from Monday 8 April to Sunday 16 June. See my Monthly Report.

Businesses in West Northamptonshire can now access a new decarbonisation support programme aimed at helping them to reach net zero and achieve their sustainability goals. The Net Zero West Northants project includes free business support, tailored energy audits and match funding of up to £20,000 to help them implement energy efficiency measures. Grants are match-funded and will initially cover 50% of project cost between the value of £1,000 - £20,000. See my Monthly Report.

If you have an unwanted bike, which is in good order and would suit a 6 to 11 year old; please consider making a donation to our bike scheme. You can donate your bike to the Delapre Bike Doctor at Delapré Abbey, Tuesdays to Fridays between 10am to 3pm, or between 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. Your bike will be assessed and if suitable we will then put it into the programme. See my Monthly Report.

Grants of up to £20,000 are available from the University of Bedfordshire to local businesses as part of a new programme launched by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to deliver business support, growth and innovation in the region. The initiative seeks to forge pathways to innovation that fuels local pride, skill enhancement, and the expansion of employment opportunities, with £325,000 in funding available as part of the support package.

You might like to be aware that the next round of Tesco Stronger Starts funding is coming up and applications are encouraged for the July - August voting period. Stores across Brackley, Northampton and Towcester each have three voting opportunities to include one school, one project involving children and young people and one other project.

In the week leading up to Armed Forces Day Saturday, 24 June 2024 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will be organising a series of events aimed at celebrating and supporting the local Armed Forces Community. See my Monthly Report.

This summer, between 7 and 9 June, there will be another opportunity to join volunteers in giving time to a worthy cause of your choosing. Those who are aware of any volunteer-led organisations looking to get involved in The Big Help Out 2024, should direct them to talk to the Northampton Community Foundation (NCF)'s Grants Team.

Just let me know if you would like a copy of my Third-Party Grant Funding document.

I attended lots of events across the ward this month. Please read about my activities in my Monthly Report.

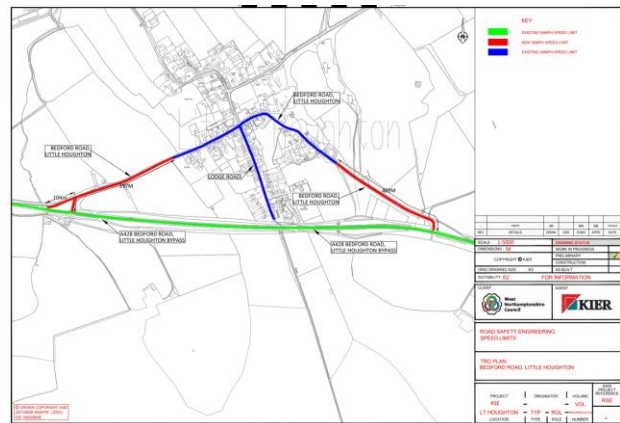
I hope that you enjoy this edition of my Monthly Report. Don't forget you can follow me on [www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924](https://www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924)

*All the Best, Steve*

## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

### Speed Limit Proposal for Bedford Road, Little Houghton, WNC Reference P2023

Following a request to improve the expeditious and safe movement of traffic in the above location, WNC is proposing to implement a 50-mph speed limit as indicated on the attached map plan. Before WNC formally advertises their intention to make the relevant



Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), they would welcome your comments and feedback on the proposals. The proposed new speed limit has been approved by the Council's Speed Limit Review Panel.

All comments or feedback can be sent via email to: [WNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk](mailto:WNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk) quoting Reference P2023 by Wednesday 8th May 2024.

If WNC does not hear from you by the end of this notice period stated above, they will assume you do not object to the proposal and will move to formally advertise their intent to make the relevant Order.

### Update on Drainage Issues in Hartwell

The works programmed for the resolution of the drainage issues in Hartwell were completed during April. The engineers are confident that all of the completed works completed will alleviate any of the further drainage concerns on Blacksmiths Way.



### Potholes Lodge Road, Little Houghton

I have asked WNC to explain how the council will prioritise the allocation of budget and resources for the complete resurfacing of Lodge Road in the future. I have been advised that WNC does not have any plans for surfacing Lodge Road as part of the Annual Plan. However, they have agreed to inspect the carriageway to see if a small patching scheme may be possible for later this coming financial year.

I have advised them that the local residents are working on a petition for WNC to prioritise the 'allocation of budget and resources for the resurfacing of Lodge Road'. Indeed, they have advised me that this road has never been surfaced properly. Therefore, I am arranging to meet the Assistant Delivery Manager on site so that we can discuss what options are available to improve the quality of the surface. I have asked him to let me have two or three suggested dates and times for us to meet. Before doing so, I would like to understand the details of previous repairs, which have not lasted.



### **Yardley Hastings Primary School Section 106**

On 25 March 2024, I received an e-mail from Anthony Williamson, Chair of Governors for the Ashby Federation who was seeking information on the status of their S106 funds so that they can make the relevant improvements to the Yardley Hastings Primary School. On 9 April 2024, I obtained confirmation of the current status from Ruth Furniss, Senior Enforcement and Monitoring Officer, Development Management (Planning Enforcement).

The Section 106 amounts received were as follows:

- £48,971.50 (1<sup>st</sup> 50% inc index)
- £49,738.68 (2<sup>nd</sup> 50% inc index)
- Total = £98,710.18

The wording in relation to the Contribution to be applied is as follows:

*“Towards the improvement and/or alteration of facilities at Yardley Hastings Primary School to enable the school to accommodate the 6 additional pupils expected to be generated by the development”.*

The process in relation to applying to access these funds has already been given.

Anthony Williamson needs to contact Alexandra Coombes, Strategic Project Officer, Place Planning & Admissions who will be able to help him further. In terms of the Section 106 team, as the money has now been invoiced and paid, they have no further remit in the process other than to ensure that the money is spent/allocated prior to 10 years from the date of receipt of the payment.

### **Cogenhoe Community Support Desk 4 April 2024**

On 4 April 2024 I went to the Tea Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall for the Parish Help Desk. Deborah was handing out prescriptions and after she finished, we caught up on recent events.

The Community Lunch Club was held on 15 April at 12.30pm in the York Room, followed by a Scam Awareness talk by Northants Police. On Tuesday 16th April the Table Tennis Club met at 7.15pm in the York Room. On 17th April they had a Chatty Cafe 11.15am -12.45pm when Cogenhoe Crafters learned a new craft. They also had a £4 Fixed price lunch 11am -3.30pm, which was followed by ‘Singing for Fun’ from 1.45pm-2.45pm in the York Room. Then, the Youth Club met from 6-9pm.



### **Coffee@Carey Hackleton 10 April 2024**

On 10 April 2024, I popped in for a Coffee, Cake and a Catch up at Coffee@Carey, the village coffee shop set up in Carey Chapel in Hackleton. They were very busy as the group of men that meet every Wednesday were there too. I was on my way to sort out some casework in the ward and I bumped into Bob Atkinson who was the last SNC Councillor for Hackleton before the formation of the Unitary Council. It was great to catch up with Bob and to find out what he had been up to since retiring as a South Northamptonshire Councillor.



Please note that the WNC Customer Service team will be at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, NN7 2AH on 14 May and 19 June 2024 from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Do come along on any of these dates when WNC Service Advisors will be able to answer your various queries. The Hackleton Parish Council Surgery was held at Coffee@Carey on 17 April 2024 10.00am-12.00pm.



### Great Houghton Coffee Morning 12 April 2024

On Friday 12 April 2024, I attended the Great Houghton Coffee Morning which takes place in the Great Houghton Village Hall on the second Friday of each month at 10.30 am. This delightful Community Coffee Morning is run by the WI and is very well attended by those from both Great and Little Houghton.

It was great to meet with James Earl, PCSO for this area and we talked about his role. Mike Barham,



Parish Councillor was there too, and I enjoyed catching up with him. Before leaving, I was able to speak to [Revd Kris Seward](#) who I had welcomed to the Wymersley Benefice on 27 March 2024 in Cogenhoe. Kris has the responsibility for Cogenhoe, Great Houghton, Little Houghton and Brafield on the Green Churches and we are all looking forward to getting to know more about him in the weeks and months ahead. Whilst there, I enjoyed chatting to John, Mike, Linda, Julie and others. I spent an interesting time hearing about several local issues. Very soon, the hour and a half flew by and then, I helped pack up tables and chairs. The next meeting of this friendly and welcoming group will be 10 May 2024, when I look forward to catching up with everyone again.



### Cogenhoe Community Lunch 15 April 2024

On 15 April 2024, I attended the Cogenhoe Community Lunch at the Village Hall, Cogenhoe. Well done to Deborah Rush and her team who were managing the event and for arranging the Scam Awareness' talk by Northamptonshire Police afterwards. The Fraud and Scam awareness team came with lots of information



on how to avoid on-line fraud. We heard about five simple steps to help keep your personal devices and online data safe. What to do with unexpected phone calls. How to be safe when shopping on-line. How to avoid copycat websites, fake links and phishing sites. You can get further cyber safety resources and advice by

contacting [CyberProtect@northants.police.uk](mailto:CyberProtect@northants.police.uk)

As we started our Community Lunch today, Deborah introduced [Revd Kris Seward](#) and his wife Karen who were both warmly welcomed by everyone. We had a very good lunch of Shepherd's Pie with vegetables followed by a Raspberry cheesecake and cream. This was the first Community Lunch prepared by Dale from Comunita Café, Cogenhoe. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our community lunch today. A big thank you to Deborah, and everyone else involved in making it such a great fortnightly event. All your efforts are appreciated. Community Lunch clubs can help you forge new friendships, share good food and enjoy a selection of interesting activities.

The next Community Lunch event is on 20 May 2024, York Room, Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, so please book your place by emailing Deborah: [clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk) or phone 07512 045418.

### **DSPG Coffee@Carey Hackleton 16 April 2024**

On 16 April 2024, I attended the fortnightly meeting of the Denton Surgery Patient Group (DSPG) at Coffee@Carey, Chapel Lane, Hackleton, Northampton, NN7 2AH. By 10.30am the various members from Denton, Little Houghton, Hackleton and other areas were arriving via the Transport Scheme which is provided by DSPG. If you are interested in finding out more then you can e-mail Sue Hayton: [coordinator@dspg.me](mailto:coordinator@dspg.me) or telephone 07506 866298. Before we started, we all sang Happy Birthday to Lorraine who was 80 today. It was lovely to hear the entire group singing words of encouragement to her despite her embarrassment.



PC Joanne Barlow, and her colleague from Northamptonshire Police Economic Crime Unit gave us a talk on how to avoid

Fraud and Cyber Crime. Although I had listened to them yesterday at the Cogenhoe Community Lunch, it was good to hear some of the messages again. Details of what to do if you have an unexpected call on your land line included just hang up and wait 5 minutes to ensure the call is dropped before calling the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency, and if you have provided any details to the caller, then you should notify your bank as soon as possible by calling 159. Well done to the DSPG for organising this talk, which was well received by all.



It was good to meet with Jennie, Liz, David, Lorraine, Sue and others. David Warwick told me about Green Machine Refill who have been invited to Coffee@Carey on 7 June 2024 at 4.00pm by the Hackleton Wildlife Environment and Biodiversity (WEB)Group. Green Machine Refill want to make reducing plastic an easy, affordable option for everyone. That is why they have set up a mobile refill service to serve local villages. They can bring plastic free products to your doorstep, reducing the effort you have to make to find a zero-waste shop and cutting carbon emissions. Look out for this event on social media.

<https://www.greenmachinerefill.co.uk/>

### **Denton Coffee Morning 19 April 2024**

On Friday 19 April 2024, I attended the Denton Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church, Denton. I was pleased to catch up with Pat, Sheila, Russel, John, Carole, Jane, Fiona, Alison and others. But sorry not to see Doug this week. I heard all about Sheila and Pat's recent visit to Baby Basics, Wollaston to help pack some of the Moses Baskets. They have been taking donations to them for some time, but wanted to better understand what the volunteers did. They have 2 Moses Baskets in the church, which will form starter packs for vulnerable mum's and their new born babies up to 3 months. You can donate items as listed on the Baby Basics leaflet.

<https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsNorthampton/>



We talked about their ideas for the D Day Commemoration weekend. On 6 June 2024, the world will mark the last major D-Day anniversary alongside Veterans of the Normandy Campaign, which is exactly 80 years on from the D Day landings. Their arrangements are at a formative stage.

The Crafty Sew and Sews had completed their Springtime project to make and sell Daffodil wreaths. They had made over £100 for Church funds. Abington Museum are planning a display to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Group are still making poppies to support this initiative. They have a box inside the church which is rapidly filling up with both knitted and crocheted poppies. They would be grateful for any donations of red wool.

The Coffee Morning which meets every Friday in St Margaret's Church, Denton is recognised as a WNC Welcoming Space. Why not come along and meet new friends.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../looking-welcoming...>

### **'Art on the Wall' Yardley Arts Centre 20 April 2024**

On Saturday, 20 April 2024, I attended the 'Art on The Wall' exhibition by Katy Burdett and Emma Lindsay



at the Yardley Arts Centre, The Old School Hall, The Square, Yardley Hastings, NN7 1EU. I arrived just after it opened for the weekend and there was a steady stream of people arriving. I was able to speak to Emma about one of her paintings and I heard more about her Collage and Mixed Media weekend on 18-19 May 2024. The spacious light setting of the Old School Hall provides a great location for creative events and exhibitions. At the same time as the Art exhibition, there was a Coffee Morning held in aid of the upkeep of St Andrew's Church.

### **Quinton Village Hall Book Swop 20 April 2024**

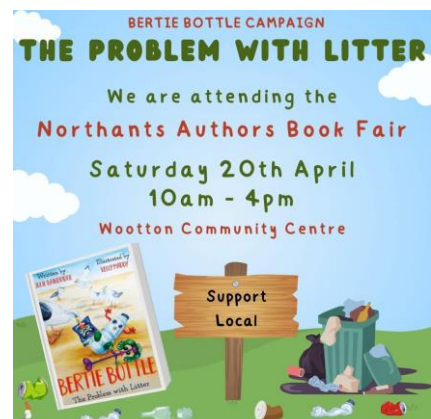
On Saturday 20 April 2024 after my visit to Yardley Arts, Yardley Hastings, I attended the monthly Quinton Book Swop at the Village Hall. They have lots of books which you are able to browse as you enjoy a cup of coffee and homemade cake whilst supporting the Village Hall. Books are available to take home with you in exchange for a donation of either a book or £1. I was sorry to have missed the Quiz evening, which had proved to be a great success. It was good to catch up with Joan, Helen, Emma, Andy, Kathey, Val and others. I enjoyed hearing about a walking quiz in London. The Quinton WI Fashion Show was on 24 April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.



### **Northants Authors Book Fair 20 April 2024**

After my visit to Quinton, I visited the Northants Authors Book Fair at Wootton Community Centre NN4 6ED, where a number of local authors were selling and signing their new books. As some of the authors kindly donated their books to the library stock, you can check out the Northamptonshire authors collection there soon.

However, I was thrilled to meet with Julie Bainbridge who was launching her Bertie Bottle Children's book 'The problem with Litter'.



When I first met Julie a few years ago her plan to create a book to inspire children and their families to leave no trace of litter when out enjoying the natural world was just at the early stages. Since then, Julie has been instrumental in running frequent litter picking on Grange Park with her Bertie Bottle Campaign. She can be seen out and about early in the morning collecting bags of litter around Grange Park. Well done Julie for sticking with the Bertie Bottle Campaign and finally publishing your book. Good luck with your plans to take it into schools.

### **Cogenhoe Sea Scouts Celebrate 60 Years at Fete on 21 April 2024**

On 21 April 2024, I attended the Sea Scouts 60 Years Celebratory Fete in Cogenhoe. There were lots of families there and many Sea Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. I was thrilled to catch up with many friends and whilst there Elizabeth Packer introduced me to Olive Stirling who was instrumental in forming the first group of Cubs in Cogenhoe. Elizabeth's husband David started Sea Scouting in Cogenhoe when the 1st Cogenhoe Sea Scout Group was formed in 1964. So, I was able to hear a lot about the history of Scouting in Cogenhoe. The group was Admiralty Recognised in 1969.



If you are interested in finding out more about 1st Cogenhoe Sea Scouts, Cubs or Beavers who meet at Short Lane, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1LE you can contact them by email: [1stCogenhoe@gdscouts.org.uk](mailto:1stCogenhoe@gdscouts.org.uk) or on-line at:

<https://gdscouts.org.uk/groups/1st-cogenhoe/>

They currently provide activities to around 65 young people aged 6 to 14.5 years old. They own their own grounds and building but are currently raising money to build a new storage hut on site to house their camping, boating and group equipment.

### **Beat Bus Hackleton 24 April 2024**

On Wednesday, 24 April 2024, I attended Coffee@Carey, Hackleton in order to meet Matt Taylor, PCSO who had come along with the Northamptonshire Beat Bus. Our Neighbourhood police officers hold regular



surgeries in local communities across their beat area. As well as holding them in local venues such as village halls or community centres, your local officers are regularly out and about with our two Neighbourhood Beat Buses. If you cannot visit the Beat Bus in person you can still email them on [NT-SouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk](mailto:NT-SouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk) or report on-line at [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk) or by calling 101. Remember all emergencies must be reported on 999.

It was busy day with folks chatting over coffee, picking up their prescriptions and the men's group in attendance. I had a quick chat with Wendy, Pam, Bob, Rev Jennie and others. Attendance at Coffee@Carey continues to grow as more 'Well Being' Groups meet there.

Please note that the WNC Customer Service team will be at Hackleton Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, NN7 2AH on 14 May and 19 June 2024 from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Do come along on either of these dates when WNC Service Advisors will be able to answer your various queries.

### **New Local Plan Drop-in Session 25 April 2024**

On Thursday afternoon, 25 April 2024, I attended the WNC drop-in session at Wootton Community Centre.



Whilst there I bumped into Julia Javes, Councillor, Quinton Parish Council who was taking a look at the details of the new Local Plan that is out for consultation. It was an opportunity for local residents to ask questions of Alan Munn, WNC Principal Planning Policy Officer and the team of Planning Policy officers.

WNC are seeking views on its draft Local Plan which is being prepared and will guide development up to 2041. The Local Plan is a key document that helps us plan for the future. and guides all development proposals. This consultation is your opportunity to get involved with this stage of the local plan process and will help us consider and address issues before a final draft is produced. For further information and to have your say please visit: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../new-local-plan-west...>

Consultation on a Regulation 18 Draft Plan commenced on 08 April and will run for a period of 8 weeks until 2 June 2024.

For further information and to have your say, please visit.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../west.../>

### **Oakfield Community Yardley Hastings 26 April 2024**

On 26 April 2024 I supported the Oakfield Community small pop-up Charity Shop in Yardley Hastings which has been open every Friday during April 2024. Oakfield Community is an organisation devoted to the better understanding and welfare of young people in need of special care. Their vision is 'to enable adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities and autism to live meaningful lives'.



In addition to the main house in Easton Maudit, Oakfield also own a house in Yardley Hastings where they have been providing a specialised supported living service since 2016. The Yardley Hastings home is a Grade 2 listed building, of which there are 12 individual supported living flats. Within the grounds there is a Community Garden which consists of a Sensory Garden, seating and vegetable patches, with an array of flowers adding colour and scents to the garden.

A special thank you to Georgia who was able to tell us all about the Oakfield Community in Yardley Hastings. They will be holding more pop-up Charity events next month on 3rd May 10th May, 17th May, 24th May and 31st May from 10am-2pm. 100% of donations will go directly to Oakfield Charity.

### **Organ Recital Little Houghton 27 April 2024**

On 27 April 2024, I attended an Organ Recital at The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Little Houghton, Northampton, NN7 1AB where Ivan Linford B.Mus. MA ARCO FISM played the 1846 Hill organ, which was originally from West Bromwich Parish Church and restored and installed at St Mary's Church in 2000 after it was meticulously restored to its original condition by Michael Latham, Organ Builder from Northampton, Northamptonshire. Ivan gave a wonderful performance with a programme that started with the Hornpipe (from Water Music) by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) and concluded with the War March of the Priests by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847).



Ivan had carefully chosen his entire programme to include music that would bring out the best of this particular Hill organ. It has just one complete keyboard, a short-compass Swell Organ, and a set of eighteen pedals, but it boasts a complete flute chorus, and one or two 'fancy' stops a Suabe Flute and an Oboe.

Ivan was an organ scholar at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral before holding posts at Oakham Parish Church, Leicester Cathedral and Oakham School. As a Choral Accompanist, he has visited various countries including Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Hungary and the USA. He has given Organ Recitals and accompanied choirs at many English Cathedrals, and he has performed on BBC television and radio.

There was a representative from the Northampton & District Organists' Association which exists to advance the knowledge and enjoyment of the organ and we were invited to become engaged with them. They belong to the Incorporated Association of Organists, and they welcome everyone with an interest in the organ – whether organists or simply those who enjoy the music of the organ.

We should give a special thank you to John Ford who planned this event meticulously. In preparation for the evening, he had arranged for Ivan Linford to play for us and for Simon Brown, IBO, Ark Voicing Ltd to make sure that the organ was in fine tune for the evening and inviting Michael Latham to attend. The organ is a rare surviving early work of William Hill-England's leading organ-builder during the middle years of the nineteenth century. It is a musical instrument of distinction, and the tone reveals Hill at his best. On Saturday evening with Ivan's talents, it became an instrument of considerable flexibility.

And finally thank you to John for planning and hosting the evening, [Revd Kris Seward](#) for his kind words and to all who worked so hard to prepare and serve the refreshments.

### **Coffee@Carey Hackleton 1 May 2024**

On 1 May 2024, I visited Coffee@Carey, which is the village coffee shop set up in the Carey Chapel Hackleton. I frequently visit it when out and about in Hackleton. There were a fair number of folks in attendance today collecting prescriptions and enjoying coffee and cake whilst chatting to friends. Coffee@Carey now delivers a Social Prescribing and a Prescriptions Service from Denton Surgery. Regularly they have different visiting 'Pop Up Shops' selling local products. Over the next two weeks they have handmade items by Judit, including denim bags, make up bags, and glasses cases.



The WNC Customer Service team will be at Hackleton Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, NN7 2AH on 14 May and 19 June 2024 from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Do come along on either

of these dates when WNC Service Advisors will be able to answer any WNC related matters.

### **Time for a Cuppa Little Houghton 1 May 2024**

By the time you've boiled your kettle, another person will have developed dementia. Over 944,000 people in the UK are affected by the condition – and if someone you love is living with dementia, you're living with it too. At Dementia UK, they believe every family facing dementia should have the support of a specialist nurse – but right now, they can't reach everyone who needs one. Making 'Time for a Cuppa' is an initiative that is intended to change that.



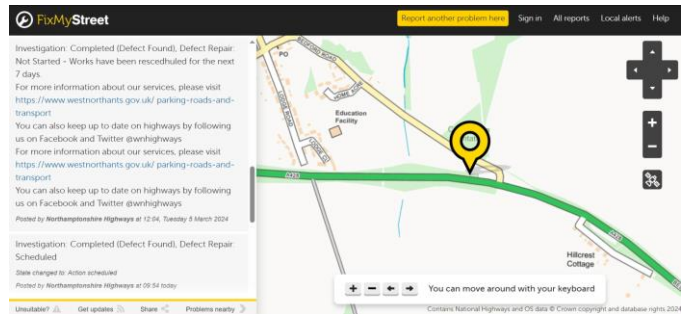
Dementia UK wants us to make, bake and brew to raise vital funds for families facing dementia.

On 1 May 2024, Gill Bailey and Liz Banyard rallied to the call in Little Houghton. They held a 'Time for a Cuppa' event at St Mary the Virgin Church, Little Houghton, NN7 1AB. We were all able to catch up over a brew with beautiful home baked cakes, whilst making a small donation to help fund the charity's services. Dementia UK's Admiral Nurse service works alongside people suffering from dementia and their families to ensure they receive compassionate one-to-one support, guidance, and practical solutions to their daily needs. Making time for a cuppa has never been more important, and for people who are living with dementia or caring for someone, reaching out to make sure they're ok can make the world of difference. Thank you, Gill, Liz and everyone who made the event such a success.

### Fix My Street Little Houghton Large Hole by Junction

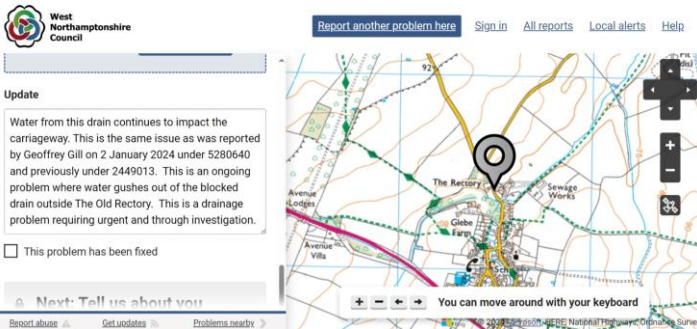
I escalated this issue as the pothole was likely to cause a serious accident and I asked highways to reconsider the timescale to fix which was far too long for a safety issue such as this.

On 15 April 2024, I heard that the repair was rescheduled to take place in the next seven days. It was fixed on 17 April 2024.



### Fix My Street Yardley Hastings 5381279

Water from this drain continues to impact the carriageway. This is the same issue as was reported on 2 January 2024 under 5280640 and previously under 2449013. This is an ongoing problem where water gushes out of the blocked drain outside The Old Rectory. This is a drainage problem requiring urgent and through investigation. I have escalated the matter to Highways asking them to investigate what actions have been taken to resolve the matter and to explain why this

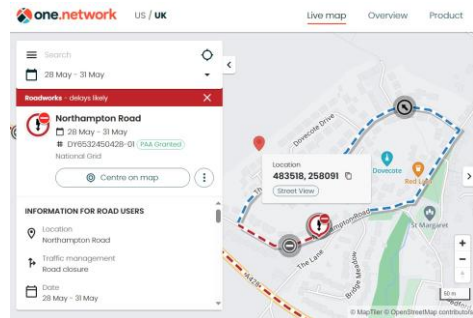


problem is still outstanding.

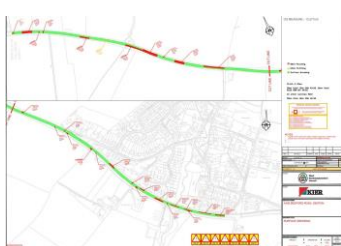
problem is still outstanding.

### Denton Road Closure 28 May 2024

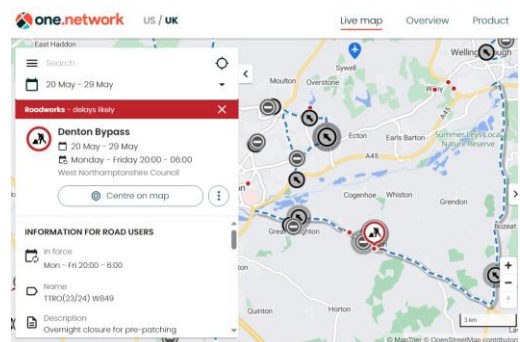
National Grid intend to instal new electricity connections on the above road between The Leys and The Lane in Denton. To undertake the work safely they will close the road for up to four days and it is currently expected to commence on the 28 May 2024. The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=138384192> If you require more information about the works please contact Simon Dormer on 01604 875528 or 01604 875517.



### Carriageway Resurfacing A428



Kier will carry out carriageway resurfacing works along a section of the A428 between Brafield on the Green and Denton. To undertake these works safely they will require a series of



overnight closures commencing on 20 May 2024 to 29 May 2024 between 8pm and 6am. The closures will be for pre-patching works, surface dressing, sweeping and lining. Please see attached drawings for this work.

The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=138119773>

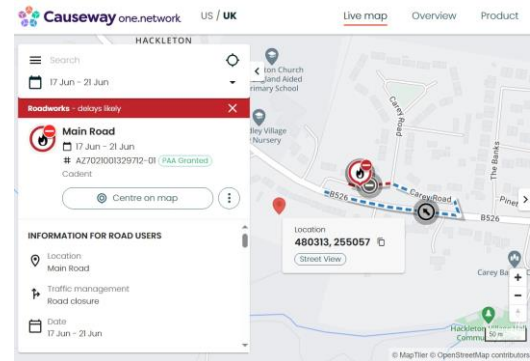
If you require more information about the works, please contact Sophie Parnell on 01604 529700.

### **Hackleton Road Closure Main Road, 17-21 June 2024**

Cadent will carry out the installation of a new gas connection. To undertake this work safely will require that the road will be closed for up to 5 days and it is expected that the works will commence on the 17 June 2024

The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=138560734>

If you require more information about the works please contact Kelly Wilcox on 03700 500792.



### **Predisposition, predetermination or bias**

As Chairman of the South Planning Committee, West Northamptonshire Council, 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.



## CONSULTATIONS

A range of consultation and engagement activities are currently taking place across West Northants. I have summarised the main consultations below, but please remember you can check new consultations, have your say, and sign up to receive alerts and updates via our Consultation Hub.

### WNC New Draft Local Plan Consultation

People can have their say until Sunday 2 June by visiting our online Consultation Hub. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../west.../>



We are also holding a number of consultation events across West Northants in the coming weeks. Sessions have already been held in Moulton, Daventry, Wootton, Brackley and Northampton with another one planned at:

- Towcester The Forum, Moat Lane (NN12 6AD) Wednesday 8 May between 2 and 6pm.

The draft Plan is accompanied by a number of technical documents and other evidence. All can be found on the dedicated New Local Plan for West Northamptonshire page.

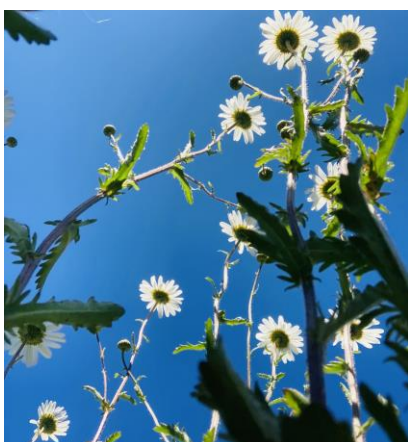
<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../new-local-plan-west...>

The evidence will continue to be updated as the Plan progresses.

### What Are You Doing to Support Local Habitats and Biodiversity

As we enter the spring and summer months the Council is looking at ways it can help promote environmental awareness for the natural environment. We would like to understand who takes part in one of the national campaigns so that we can understand how West Northamptonshire residents have positively impacted biodiversity.

The council supports a national campaign run by Plantlife called No Mow May. The campaign runs each year through the month of May and encourages garden owners and others that look after green space to



avoid cutting grass areas, allowing their gardens to grow wild for a while. We are also doing our bit by allowing some of the green spaces we look after to grow wildly for May, where safe and reasonable to do so.

Why should we take part in No Mow May? Creating areas for our wildlife is vitally important, the best time to do this is in late Spring although we encourage this all-year round. Birds, bats, beetles, butterflies and other wildlife are pollinators, this means that they are needed for flowers and crops to reproduce or produce food. Without pollinators we would not have an agricultural economy, which means we would not have a food supply, it would greatly change the natural environment and surrounding landscapes.

We are asking West Northamptonshire residents to feedback: if they know about the scheme, if they have taken part in the past and if they would like to take part in the future. It is important for us all to do what we can to encourage wilding and biodiversity, and this is a way for us to understand how you are getting involved in your communities to help the natural environment.

The result from this very short survey will help us to know how many are taking part in the national campaign, map local areas where people are taking part and make sure we are reaching as many people as we can in our area, as well as allowing us to broadly monitor sustainability.

If you have any queries about this survey, you can contact: [sustainable@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable@westnorthants.gov.uk)

This survey will close midnight Sunday 19 May 2024.

### **Comment on West Northants Carer Strategy 2024-2029**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) are asking for local carers or someone supporting a carer to share their views and feedback on the newly drafted five-year Carer Strategy. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../draft-west...>



The draft strategy is for all unpaid carers that live in, or care for someone that lives in West Northants, and has been developed together with local carers, ensuring their voices drive forward progress over the next few years to provide the right support and information for them.

Chosen by our local carers, 17 priorities have been identified to focus on improving over the next five years as well as specific measurements to track progress which the Council would like to

seek views on. Each priority has a set of actions that will support achieving the priority over the five year period. More details on each of the priorities and how they will be achieved can be found in the strategy.

Please tell us your views by completing this online questionnaire via the online consultation survey. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../consultation.../>

The council will review all feedback with our group of local carers and make any necessary changes, before taking it to Cabinet for final approval.

Your feedback will be part of reports with other people's feedback, so you will not be personally identified.

The survey will close at midnight on Thursday 30 May 2024.

### **West Northamptonshire Council: SEND Funding Recommendations**

West Northamptonshire Council Children and Young People's Services are looking to gather feedback on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding recommendations. This makes up a final stage of consultation before the WNC SEND funding changes in September 2024. The feedback from this will be considered, summarised and presented at West Northamptonshire Schools Forum on 2 July 2024. Further adjustments to funding arrangements may then be made within the framework of the WNC



#### **West Northamptonshire Council: SEND Funding Recommendations**

approved budgets ahead of implementation on 1 September 2024. Final arrangements will be published on the WNC website and via the WNC Local Offer.

We welcome views on SEND funding and invite comments through an online survey which can be accessed below. Alternatively you can write to us at:

Funding for SEND

West Northamptonshire Council  
The Guildhall  
St Giles' Street  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

This consultation closes at midnight Sunday 2 June 2024.

### Have your say on Towcester Town Centre revitalisation

We are asking residents and visitors to let us know how they feel about Towcester Town Centre and what improvements they would like to see. The market town of Towcester boasts a long and fascinating history and features a variety of distinctive businesses, boutiques, eateries, and expansive green spaces. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) are keen to establish a clear vision for building on Towcester's strengths to ultimately enhance the community and sustainably grow the economy.



We need your help to shape ideas for these improvements and have set out a series of questions to understand your current and future uses of Towcester Town Centre and how you'd like to see it improved. We are aware that traffic is a key issue for many people in Towcester and there are currently projects underway to improve traffic flow including pedestrian and cycle routes, the Towcester Relief Road and National Highways improvements to the Town Centre, therefore we have not included any questions around this in the survey.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/towcester-town-centre/consultation/subpage.2024-03-13.0443225645/>

The deadline for responding to this consultation is midnight Sunday 9 June 2024.

### Brackley High Street Revitalisation

Please share your views on helping Brackley High Street to flourish. Brackley is a unique market town based on a proud heritage and boasts independent businesses, boutique shops, quaint eateries and more. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) are keen to establish a clear vision for building on Brackley's strengths to ultimately enhance the community and sustainably grow the economy. Residents and visitors are being asked to share their ideas about enhancing Brackley and any improvements they would like to see made to the high street. Nationally, high streets across the UK are facing a variety of challenges and



many people are using them differently to how they have done in the past. Now is the time to reflect on the future of the high street and particularly how Brackley can prosper.

WNC's Brackley Town Centre Manager has been working closely with local businesses, organisations, and Brackley Town Council to champion the local community, to harness the pride in the town and to establish opportunities to improve the local high street and benefit every local resident, business and visitor.

We need your help to shape ideas for these improvements and have set out a series of questions to understand your current and future uses of Brackley High Street and how you'd like to see the high street improved. Some of the ideas already suggested include:

- 1) An improved marketing strategy to raise awareness around what is available to residents and promote the town to visitors
- 2) Working alongside landlords and commercial agents to encourage leasing of empty premises and provide more choice to prospective businesses and investors
- 3) Attracting more independent businesses to relocate to or open additional branches in Brackley
- 4) Tailored support & guidance to nurture new business start-ups
- 5) Delivery of more town centre events; including music, pavement dining and activities for families
- 6) Additional markets and stalls to provide more choice and attract people to the town
- 7) Considering the introduction of a Town Gift Card or loyalty scheme to encourage people to spend locally

Take part in the survey by visiting the WNC Consultation Hub by midnight on Sunday, 26 May.  
<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../brackley-high.../>

## FINANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSFORMATION

### Cost of Living Support

Are you feeling the strain on your finances?

There is support available to many residents living in West Northants. Have a look to see if you are eligible for support.

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

Government Cost of Living Hub

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

The website will be updated with details, to ensure funds are made available. Due to recent publicity of this support payment, we are seeing an increase in applications. This may increase the processing time from 3 weeks to 5 weeks. To avoid further delays in processing and making payments, please be patient and wait for us to contact you.



### Cabinet to Discuss £2.4m Funding for Household Support

West Northamptonshire Councillors are set to discuss plans at next week's Cabinet meeting regarding distribution of the £2.4 million funds to households in need of financial support.



The Council has received £2,465,491.77 as part of the fifth tranche of the Household Support Fund (HSF) provided by the UK Government, following the Government's announcement of a sixth month extension to the scheme, offering additional financial support to vulnerable households.

The proposal builds upon the successful partnership with local voluntary and community organisations developed during previous

HSF tranches to best support West Northants households who are facing financial hardship with daily living costs such as; food, clothing, and utility bills. This is in line with the work underway as part of the joint Anti-Poverty Strategy and looks to provide financial support to residents who are most in need and may not be identified through the benefits system.

For the six-month extension period, from April 2024 to September 2024, the recommendation includes:

- Around 12,700 families with children will receive school meal vouchers over the summer holidays at the cost of £15 per child, per week. In addition, families will also be given a further £30 voucher to help towards school essentials such as uniforms.
- Continuing to work closely with our trusted partners to provide tailored support to residents from; debt and money advice, energy saving advice, practical energy saving measures and practical household support.
- Approx. £690,000 in the form of grants for voluntary and community organisations to apply for to increase the dedicated and tailored support that they offer to residents.

To provide a longer-term offer of financial wellbeing, all awards and funding will be complimented by wrap around support schemes with the view to help transition households from crisis support to more sustainable support.

Following Cabinet approval, work will commence with working closely with community partners for distribution of the funds.

To view the cabinet report please visit: Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 7th May 2024, 6.00 pm - West Northamptonshire Council <https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments...>

### Are you Eligible for Childcare Help?

Working families with young children are being urged to check whether they are eligible for childcare support following the introduction of national changes. The changes are being introduced in a phased



## HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



approach as follows:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.
- From September 2024, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents with a child from 9 months old up to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.
- For eligible working parents in England, with a child who has turned two before or on 31 March 2024, if they have not done so already, can now apply for their 15 hours of childcare via the government website here to get their code: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working> and share it with their childcare provider. To continue receiving the government support, all eligible parents will need to reconfirm their details every three months via their [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) account.



As stated, from September 2024 this will increase again and will come alongside the existing government childcare support, including 30 hours for 3-and 4-year-olds, Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare. Parents might be able to use more than one offer to help with their childcare costs.

Like the existing offer, depending on the childcare provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year or up to 52 weeks

if you use fewer than your total hours per week. For more information and full details of the eligibility criteria please visit the Childcare Choices website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>  
Alternatively, visit: Family Information Service via our website. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../free-early-education...>

## REGULATORY SERVICES

### Stage Two Community Governance Review

The next stage of our Community Governance Review launched 26 April 2024, giving residents, parishes and businesses across West Northamptonshire a chance to shape electoral and governance arrangements for our town and parish councils. The Stage Two consultation will run from Friday 26 April until Sunday, 28 July, and will seek views on the proposals that emerged from Stage One of the process. This includes things such as parish boundaries, the number of parish councillors, and potential changes to parish names.

Affected parishes include:

- Adstone
- Althorp
- Boughton – Dixon Road Ward
- Boughton – North and West of Boughton Parish
- Brockhall
- Clay Coton
- Cottesbrook
- Daventry
- Dodford and Weedon Bec
- Helmdon
- Kings Sutton and Newbottle
- Little Houghton and Great Houghton
- Moulton – Moulton Leys
- Moulton – Moulton and Overstone
- Northampton – Abington Vale and Weston Favell
- Overstone
- Pitsford
- Ravensthorpe
- Roade and Stoke Bruerne
- Silverstone
- Thorpe Manderville
- Tiffield

- Upton
- West Hunsbury
- Wootton and Hackleton
- Wootton and Hardingstone.

New parish arrangements resulting from this review will take effect at the May 2025 local elections, providing parish arrangements which better meet the needs of communities and ensure an efficient and effective governance structure. For more information, please visit the Community Governance Review webpage:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../community-governance...>

You can have a say on the Community Governance Review here:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../community.../>

People can also request a paper form by contacting:

[cgrconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:cgrconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk)

## RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

### RSN 2024 seminar programme

The online seminar programme continues as follows:

- Rural transport – 22nd May
- Rural affordable housing – 26th June
- Rural planning – 23rd October
- Rural health and care – 27th November

### Pub is the Hub Gardening Guide

Pub is The Hub has been working in collaboration and partnership with a range of organisations to support rural pubs, publicans and their communities with different activities. A new gardening guide, in partnership with the charity Horticap, which has popular gardener Alan Titchmarsh as patron, has been produced to help pubs in developing their outside areas and bring local people together. Pub is The Hub has also supported various community pub awards in Norfolk for more than 15 years as part of its partnership working with local councils. This year Pub is The Hub supported the search for the Broadland Pub of the Year 2024 and South Norfolk Pub of the Year 2024.



Other collaborations from Pub is The Hub include support to the arts project INN CROWD, which helps bring quality live literature and theatre-style performances to thousands of people living in rural areas in England. Pub is The Hub has recently encouraged publicans to 'Make Space For Music' by working with membership organisation Making Music. This encourages publicans to host music groups that are increasingly struggling to find performing spaces. Other successful activities supported include those at the Blue Bell in Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, which hosts a 'Repair Café', which is held twice yearly in the pub's garden and annexe room.

- <https://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/.../02/Gardenguidefinal.pdf>
- [https://rsnonline.org.uk/.../pub-is\\_the-hub-case-studies...](https://rsnonline.org.uk/.../pub-is_the-hub-case-studies...)

## Community Ownership: Empowering Rural Communities

Plunkett UK, a charity supporting community ownership across the UK, has released its 2024 Impact Report, highlighting the transformative effect of community-owned businesses in rural areas. In this article, the Rural Services Network focuses on the impact of these businesses in rural communities in England.



Plunkett UK has a long history of promoting community ownership, with a particular focus on rural areas. According to the 2024 Impact Report, there are now 787 community-owned businesses trading across the UK, with 32 new entities opening in 2023. In England, these businesses serve as lifelines for remote communities, providing essential services and fostering economic growth.

Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, community-owned businesses in England have shown remarkable resilience. The report notes a five-year survival rate of 99%, significantly higher

than the national average for small and medium-sized enterprises. This resilience is a testament to the commitment and hard work of the people behind these businesses, as well as the support they receive from Plunkett UK.

Community-owned businesses play a crucial role in bolstering local economies in rural England. Plunkett UK's research shows that for every £1 spent with a community business, 56p stays within the local economy, compared to just 40p for large private sector firms. This emphasis on local sourcing and circular economies helps strengthen rural communities.

These businesses not only provide goods and services, but also create employment and volunteering opportunities. The report estimates that over 4,000 people are employed by community-owned businesses, with 25,000 volunteers contributing their time and skills. This workforce includes individuals who often face barriers to traditional employment, demonstrating the inclusive nature of community ownership.

Community-owned businesses in rural England are also leading the way in environmental sustainability. The 2024 Impact Report reveals that 96% of these businesses took some form of climate action last year, with many focusing on reducing waste and implementing energy-saving measures.

One inspiring example is Cleve Archers, a community business in South Gloucestershire that has embarked on a project to develop an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly sports venue. This initiative includes solar panels, tree planting, and wildflower meadows, demonstrating the commitment of community-owned businesses to sustainable practices.

Plunkett UK's work extends beyond economic and environmental impact, with a strong emphasis on social inclusion and diversity. The report highlights how community-owned businesses in rural England are creating safe and welcoming spaces for all through initiatives that offer a range of services, including arts facilities, rental spaces, and cafés, fostering a sense of community and inclusion.

The impact of community-owned businesses in rural England is evident in the way they bring people together, promote equity, and offer opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be isolated or marginalised. These community businesses play a vital role in strengthening rural communities.

You can read the full report [HERE](#).

<https://plunkett.co.uk/wp.../uploads/Impact-Report-2024.pdf>



## 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**
- WNS/2022/0071/MAO Outline for 32 dwellings on Land off Blenheim Rise, Kings Sutton Hearing - **Dismissed**
- WNN/2021/0466 Land North Of, Bedford Road, Great Houghton - **Dismissed**
- WNS/2022/1525/FUL Land North of Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire – **Allowed subject to conditions**.
- WNS/2021/1858/EIA Solar Farm Milton Road Gayton-**Dismissed**
- N/2020/1474 a 6 storey building providing up to 112no. one, two & three bed flats and apartments (Use Class C3), commercial development (Use Class E (a,b,c,d,e,f,g(i))) and associated ancillary infrastructure', 123 - 135 Bridge Street, Northampton-Appeal **Allowed**
- N/2020/1497 6 storey building providing up to 66no. one, two & three bed flats and apartments (Use Class C3), commercial development (Use Class E(a,b,c,d,e,f,g(i))) and associated ancillary infrastructure', 153 - 165 Bridge Street, Northampton- Appeal **Allowed**

### 10% Biodiversity Net Gain Requirement

On 11 March 2024, Urban Design Learning (UDL) held an event to discuss how the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement for planning applications, London's Urban Greening Factor, the sustainable drainage policies many councils have, and other nature-centred strategies fit – or don't fit – together. And, beyond the policy framework, what approaches will actually deliver more biodiverse, climate and flood resilient places?

These were the main points that emerged from the presentations and the discussion:

- It is vital that we preserve and improve water management systems and habitats for nature – failure to do so leads to such a wide range of environmental and human problems from health to flooding, pollution to food insecurity.
- Our planning system leads to negotiated,



discretionary outcomes and even the strongest planning policies are not always met by schemes that gain approval. But the 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) is now legally required so is non-negotiable and the same is expected for sustainable drainage systems during 2024. Adoption of SuDS will be mandatory and local authorities will become lead local flood authorities with legal responsibilities.

- Although the legal power to enforce BNG comes from outside the planning system, the Urban Greening Factor is a planning policy requirement (applied across London and recommended elsewhere by Natural England). The two requirements are different, in particular:
- BNG is about replacing and improving habitat affected by development. If a site has no habitat none is created. UGF is about creating habitat irrespective of what is on site to start with
- BNG can be provided off site, but it costs more to do so. UGF should be provided on site.
- BNG is a non-negotiable requirement, UGF can be negotiated away.
- On greenfield sites, BNG is a good framework to inform design.
- On urban redevelopment sites, if UGF informs the design process, BNG is often delivered by default.
- SuDS aim to slow the passage of water from rain to river to allow for greater levels of infiltration to ground water reserves, remove pollutants that could damage rivers and other habitats and hold water back during high rainfall events to prevent flooding. SuDS can be combined with BNG and UGF approaches, but each has its own objectives.
- BNG, UGF and SuDS are relevant for many planning applications. Local authorities should consider if they want to adopt and strongly apply SuDS and UGF-type policies, guidance or codes that clearly explain the types of approaches they wish to see and why. They may wish to also direct how local, off-site provision of BNG should be delivered and how on site SuDS will work with wider public realm systems they may develop
- Viability may be cited by developers as a reason for not delivering UGF, SuDS or local BNG delivery. However, it has been found that SuDS can be 30% cheaper than traditional drainage systems if factored in from the start of the design process. Maintenance of these and more biodiverse habitats can also be cheaper than traditional approaches, but only when carefully designed and planned. More information on cost-effective nature-supporting approaches would be very useful.

## HOUSING

### More Households to Benefit from Efficiency Upgrades

Low-income off-gas households with an annual income of £36,000 or less are urged to find out if they could access funding to help them deliver energy efficiency upgrades and install clean heating systems. The funding is made possible through the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 funding bid secured by our Council.



Responding to feedback and a thorough review of the program, the Department of Energy and Sustainable Net Zero (DESNZ) has recently increased the household income threshold to £36,000, up from £31,000, to ensure that more families can benefit. This expansion of the eligibility criteria is expected to increase the number of eligible households by about 19% nationally, meaning more families will have access to support to improve the energy efficiency of their home, reducing fuel poverty, and contributing to the UK's Net Zero commitment by 2050. Homes must also be off the gas network in order to qualify.

We have partnered with Agility Eco to offer this scheme in West Northamptonshire, and their local installers are on hand to guide customers through the application process. Their installers will also identify

which home improvements provide the greatest benefits, and arrange for any surveys and installations to take place. People can find out more and apply here <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../home-upgrade-grant...>

### **WNC Explores Modular Housing as Temporary Accommodation**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is exploring options to address the growing need for temporary accommodation in the local area. This month, officers from WNC attended Milton Keynes to view 70 new modular homes and assess if this form of temporary accommodation would be suitable in West Northamptonshire.



The three-storey modular homes two-bedroom units act as a practical alternative to providing B&B stays to local families and individuals in urgent need of somewhere to stay. Each residential unit is equipped with furniture and contains a living/kitchen/dining space, a double-bedded room, a single/bunk bedroom and a shower room with WC and sink. The units are intended for families to live in for up to 12 months during which time they would have access to support services including opportunities for training and work.

Modular housing can be a cost-efficient alternative and would enable us to support families while they get back on their feet and help them to find more permanent accommodation. The council is actively exploring options to ensure we're able to meet the safety and support needs of our vulnerable residents and address the growing demand for homes in West Northamptonshire.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **West Northants Approach to Managing Flood Risk**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) lead in managing local flood risks, this includes risks of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary (smaller) watercourses.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, WNC is required to develop, apply, and monitor a Local



Flood Risk Management Strategy which sets out how it intends to manage floods and the effect of flooding on our area. The Strategy will focus on local flood risk from surface water, groundwater, and watercourses including rivers, streams and brooks, culverts and ditches and sets out the way the Council manage flood risks for the next six years.

People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to share their views during this non-statutory consultation which will help shape the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy during the early stages of its development. This is a consultation on the draft strategic objectives for the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. It is open for people to

share their views from Monday 8 April to Sunday 16 June. To view the draft strategic objectives and provide your feedback visit: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../local-flood...>

WNC's current Northamptonshire Strategy requires updating as a result of environmental and governmental changes, in addition to West Northamptonshire Council now operating as a unitary body. The feedback collated from the consultation will help to shape the Strategy during the early stages of its development. A statutory public consultation will take place once the draft Strategy has been developed,

which will give you another opportunity to have your say. The Strategy will then be presented to cabinet for consideration and adoption.

This survey ends midnight 16 June 2024.

### **New Grants Scheme to Help Businesses Reach Net Zero**

Businesses in West Northamptonshire can now access a new decarbonisation support programme aimed at helping them to reach net zero and achieve their sustainability goals. The Net Zero West Northants project includes free business support, tailored energy audits and match funding of up to £20,000 to help them implement energy efficiency measures. Grants are match-funded and will initially cover 50% of project cost between the value of £1,000 - £20,000. Examples of projects that can be funded include LED lighting, solar panels, insulation and glazing, heating and cooling systems, new energy efficient equipment, and water and waste reduction technologies.

Following a competitive tendering process, we have appointed Ngage Solutions to deliver the programme, which has received £630,854 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a central part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. Ngage are leaders in this field and will work with local businesses to help them understand more about their carbon footprint, providing information, advice and guidance on decarbonisation solutions, including how the business can monitor reduction in carbon emissions. The free support will include 1-2-1 sessions, workshops and the use of expert diagnostic tools.



As you may be aware, the Council has a target for the area to reach net zero as a whole by 2045, and this fund will be a catalyst to realising this target. Businesses can find out more by visiting Net Zero West Northants: <https://www.ngagesolutions.co.uk/west-northamptonshire...>

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

### **West Northamptonshire Local Area Partnerships**

Many of you are aware that I am the Hackleton and Grange Park WNC Representative on the Rural East LAP. Therefore, I thought that you might like to hear more about the LAPs new web site 'Live Your Best Life' which is bringing together events, activities and offers of support happening where you live, keeping information relevant and local to you.

The new 'Live Your Best Life' website, brought to you by local health, care, community, police, fire and voluntary sector organisations in West Northants aims to be a central point of information for all things local. Currently in its 'first phase' of launch, the new 'Live Your Best Life' website explains the role of the nine Local Area Partnerships, also known as LAPs in West Northamptonshire and how by working together with partner organisations, as well as community and voluntary sector organisations we can ensure local services and activities are better coordinated and focused on the needs of each area they serve. By working in this way



with local communities, we can design services that really make a difference, to help residents, their families and their neighbourhood, to live their best life.

If you live in West Northamptonshire, your area will be part of one of the following Local Area Partnerships:

- 1) Northampton East: Billing and Rectory Farm, Riverside Park and Talavera
- 2) Northampton South: Delapre and Rushmere, East Hunsbury, Nene Valley and Shelfleys
- 3) Northampton West: Duston East, Duston West, St Crispin and Sixfields
- 4) Northampton Central: Abington and Phippsville, Castle, Dallington, Spencer and St George
- 5) Northampton North: Boothville and parklands, Headlands, Kingsthorpe North and Kingsthorpe South
- 6) Rural North: Braunston and Crick, Brixworth, Long Bucky and Moulton
- 7) Rural West: Daventry East, Daventry West and Woodford and Weedon
- 8) Rural South: Brackley, Middleton Cheney and Silverston
- 9) Rural East: Bugbrooke, Deanshanger, Hackleton and Grange Park and Towcester and Roade

You can see which one covers your area by using the interactive map. Simply, type in your address and click anywhere within the boundary and it will give you the information of your LAP.

<https://westnorthantsliveyourbestlife.uk/>

Each of our LAPs covers communities of between 30,000 and 50,000 people, so your neighbourhood may be part of a LAP with surrounding villages or towns and will include some local organisations specific to



your area. You can see the organisations involved in your area by visiting your Local Area Partnership page. (You can find links to all 9 LAP pages on the homepage).

Each of the LAPs has their own webpage that includes information about the neighbourhood, spotlights events and activities happening locally, partner organisations involved as well as what the priorities are and latest news / updates – bringing lots of local information together in one place. From Knit & natter classes, to Carpet Bowls, Family Fun sessions and creative expression workshops there is lots on offer

within your local area – so take a look on the webpage for where you live to find out more.

### **Local Area Partnership Rural East**

The last meeting of the Rural East LAP took place on 23 April 2024 at 1.00pm and the next meeting is due to take place on 23 May 2024 at 1.00pm.

### **Update Robopets**

Rachael Byrne has been asked to present at the University of Northampton at the Merged Futures event on AI and Technology. If we can embed some of those technologies into people's hearts, it will mean they will be able to stay longer in their house rather than going into hospitals or other places. We initiated the project, working with town and parish councils to include dementia friends training in the group, promotion of dementia safe spaces within the welcoming spaces and chatty cafes. There will be monthly check-ins on the robopets to see how it is going and we'll be doing case studies to prove that this reduces depression, anxiety and makes people happy in their homes. Hopefully, if there's a case that proves that they add people and communicate. Then potentially we can get some funding for it.

### **Men's Mental Health**

We had a questionnaire sent out and we've got 70 back. It is all about how they want a mental health group to look like. We have built a schedule of 20 events, and it is going to be like a youth club scenario.

There will be things like canoeing and football. We've got an escape room built. We have linked them to the five NHS targets. We've got an app cycling week and it will be linked to the repair café, canoeing, a walk and talk and a skill share week. It is important to grow resilience within the group so that they can carry on if there's no funding. We are hoping that as the group matures there will be a lot more input from the group, sharing skills and activities. The total comes to about £950; we are seeking funding of around £1,000. The costings based on 20 people attending activities works out as £5 a week each person.

### **Social Isolation**

The Loneliness 40-point task plan Rachael Byrne created has been aligned to David Smart's wellbeing plan. It will be localised so that there are different ones for each area that would link to assets within that area. We are promoting chatty cafes and action for happiness resources. Ongoing work with Aging well, Spring and NHS partners to develop a standardised support with diverse offers dependent on community need. This is why it is important to work with the town and parish councils to develop their own offer and link to their health and wellbeing strategies.

### **Welcoming Spaces**

We have 18 welcoming spaces within the Rural East and 101 across West Northants. Since the warm welcoming spaces launched in December 2022, at present 98,667 people have attended. Total referrals to organisations including money and debt, housing and homelessness, welfare rights, immigration issues, education, employment and support, mental and physical health is 4,525. We will grow these and get more wrap around support into the villages.

### **Children, Young people, and Families**

We have the family hub and teen clinic as task groups. We will set up a teen clinic and ensure WNC are involved with the right governance and funding. Victoria Ononeze from public health and Charlotte Morris from the police are keen to get involved. Dr Phillip Stevens engaged and offered contacts to support. Nurse and Social prescribers are identified as potential partners. In terms of Youth Enterprise, there seems to be an issue with children aged 10-14 who have nothing to do. Rachael Byrne has spoken to the children partnership, and she was told that's the age where they can easily go off track. Programmes will help them develop their commercial and work skills for business. They will be taught how to do profit and loss, finances, presentations. There are lots of programmes, one of the programmes is part funded. They start off with £10 each and they have to grow the money. Another event will take place in a day, there are different businesses, and they will be given a business. Throughout the day, they will do a presentation, learn how to do finances. They will develop skills, confidence, and communication, all of which will be funded by East Midlands Railway. Rachael Byrne has funding agreed for 90 students from 3 schools to take part in the event.

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

Rachael Byrne has spoken to Penny Embden and she is keen to develop something for the fundraising. They are running a youth club in Towcester, and they have one in Brackley. There is schedule of events and they have the use of community buildings for a year.

### **Dementia Support**

In September, a 3K memory walk will take place. All nine local area partnerships will do the memory walk together and raise funds for Alzheimer's. Rachael Byrne is liaising with the Alzheimer society to make sure it is done properly, and that we get maximum promotion. The satellite groups will be within the local area partnership. It will be accessible to older people. We will base it in the area, there are many green spaces and lovely places to walk. We will get the schools involved, all the community, health teams and organisations.

### Local Area Partnership Bike Donation

Local Area Partnerships (LAP) would love your help with bike donations. The aim of the Access to Bikes project is to support children across West Northants, by providing refurbished bikes to young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to own their own. By having access to a bike it is hoped that young



people are encouraged to become more physically active and will help them become more connected to family and friends through a love of being outdoors.

Since “Access to Bikes” started in December 2023 it has grown and become so popular LAP's need more bikes to accommodate the schools who have asked to take part. We are encouraging you to recycle your bikes so we can upcycle them; that way we can also make a positive environmental impact and help support our sustainability agenda. It costs the Access to Bikes Partnership around £70 to refurbish and service a bike, put lights on it, and buy safety equipment such as helmets or stabilisers. The

schools we are working with will then provide the details of the children taking part and we will match the child to the correct size bike. Our main Partner, The Delapre Bike Doctor will then deliver a package of a bike, safety equipment, a bike maintenance session and a cycling safely lesson along with local Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) involvement.

If you have an unwanted bike, which is in good order and would suit a 6 to 11 year old; please consider making a donation to our bike scheme. You can donate your bike to the Delapre Bike Doctor at Delapré Abbey, Tuesdays to Fridays between 10am to 3pm, or between 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. Your bike will be assessed and if suitable we will then put it into the programme. If you are unable to make the journey to Delapre, please contact Steve Adams (Delapre Bike Doctor) on 07711 945963 to arrange collection.

### LAP Website Update

The website is in its soft launch. The client user group testing was done recently, and we will see the output from that. Once we've got the feedback and we are happy with the accuracy of the website, it will go into the public domain. Phase one launched by the end of February. A subgroup has been set up to look at the possibilities of phase two to make it more interactive where it shows the assets and groups that are around. The webpages will be bespoke to each LAP geography, but will also contain generic information across all LAPs.

There is a post code search and an interactive map, information on places to visit, spotlight on key projects, information on the priorities the LAP is working on. Information will also be included on how we're working together and the difference we are trying to make, what's happening in the area - including new stories and case studies. Different news stories will appear every month and will be kept up to date on the website. We have all the partners logos loaded onto the websites.

**Get in touch** – We are working on a generic e-mail address which will be monitored by the LAP administrators to review emails and signpost where appropriate. There will be a local events calendar and asset mapping on each of the LAP websites. Those wishing to display Information for the website will need to complete an online form. At the top of the Homepage, the About page tells you what the local area partnerships are about, the way we're working together and the communities that they cover. The 10 live your best life ambitions informs people that it's coming out of the strategy and explains what we're trying to achieve in West Northants. The News page has all the news in the 9 local area partnerships collated on one page. There are 3 news stories from each LAP every month, so there should be 27 different news stories on the news page. The second phase of the website will involve it being linked to the WNC

application. This will have the Where's my nearest function. The developers will continue onwards for Phase two development.

### **Hackleton Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

All the town and parish councils are being asked to create a health and well-being strategy. Cllr Wendy Blake from Hackleton updated LAP members about the Hackleton health and well-being strategy. Hackleton Parish Council takes pride in their work, always being visible with the needs of residents first, and looking after their green spaces. Over the past two years, they installed an outdoor gym and a new children's play area. As a rural area with no public transport, Cllr Wendy Blake has asked that the health and well-being initiatives to be looked at as their 2024 project. Hackleton Parish Council are passionate about bringing people together to help them combat isolation, loneliness, making them feel valued and with the good neighbour scheme, they can enhance the lives of their residents. In October 2023, their well-being working party was created. Community outdoor fitness sessions were held in the village. The classes have been set up and training is currently ongoing, the sessions began in April.

From the meetings, engagement with like-minded people and relevant council bodies, they decided the best way forward is to use some of the good neighbourhoods. For residents, they would like to see how they can benefit from the initiatives they've explored from contributions to our welcome working party. They sent out a questionnaire asking local residents what facilities they currently use and what they would like to see in the village. So far, they've had a walk-in group and park group suggested. We would like to set up things like Chatty café with community lunches, talks and activities. The needs of the community may change, and they will need additional funding. There is a lot of work to be done but they hope that it will continue to make the parish better. With the chatty cafes, some of the activities can be embedded in David Smart's "action for happiness". He is doing a lot of work with faiths so we can potentially link up there and see if there's something that could be spread through that.

### **For those waiting for a Dementia Diagnosis**

Patients can access any of these services even though there may be no diagnosis as yet. Carers Support Line on 01933 677907, Option 2 or [carers@northamptonshire-carers.org](mailto:carers@northamptonshire-carers.org) Northampton carers run dementia community asset groups where it is informal. The expert dementia leader can support the carer privately and/or, get professional guidance from one of the Admiral Nurses.

Although there may not be a formal diagnosis yet, they can still access the group mentioned above or any of the support groups or cafes

<https://www.northamptonshire-carers.org/.../carers-groups...>

In addition, there are many community groups run by local Parish Councils. Depending where they live, details are available on local websites.

The Alzheimer's Society have many resources available to download:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/find-support-near-you>

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/.../publ.../the-dementia-guide>

[https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/.../making\\_your\\_home...](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/.../making_your_home...)

### **Making your home dementia friendly**



**Alzheimer's Society**  
Together we are help & hope  
for everyone living with dementia



## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Term Dates for West Northamptonshire Schools

Below are the term dates for the area, according to West Northamptonshire Council. Dates will vary at independent schools, and there could be additional days off at all schools for teacher training days, which will vary from school to school.

#### Spring term 2024

*Thursday January 4 to Thursday March 28.*

February half term: Monday February 19 to Friday February 23.

Easter bank holidays: Friday March 29 and Monday April 1.

Easter holiday: Tuesday April 2 to Friday April 12.

#### Summer term 2024

*Monday April 15 to Tuesday July 23.*

Bank holiday: Monday May 6.

May half term: Monday May 27 (bank holiday) to Friday May 31.

Summer holiday: Wednesday July 24 to Friday August 30.

#### Autumn term 2024

*Monday September 2 to Friday December 20.*

**October half term:** Monday October 28 to Friday November 1.

**Christmas holiday:** Monday December 23 to Friday January 3, 2025.

### New Service for Children and Young People

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has launched a brand new service called iDiscover to support the learning, growth and wellbeing of our county's children and young people. iDiscover is a new community of children, young people and those who care for them in Northamptonshire. It offers a wide range of free and fun activities, resources and information to inspire young people to explore who they are, grow as people and learn new things.

This new service and its activities have been shaped through co-production with children and young people. Activities include workshops, courses and webinars covering a range of themes support good mental health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles and personal growth – all delivered completely free of charge as part of a safe and supportive community. Any young person in Northamptonshire under the age of 25 years old can attend iDiscover activities, along with family members, carers and friends who support them.



### Help Celebrate Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre

People across West Northamptonshire are invited to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre, Daventry by joining two open days on 5th and 6th May from 1pm – 5pm.

Everdon is marking 50 years since opening its doors as an Outdoor Learning Centre. To celebrate this significant milestone there will be two open days, providing people with an opportunity to look around the



centre, see the new outdoor classroom and take a trip down memory lane for those who have previously visited. There will also be the chance to cook some marshmallows with the rangers onsite.

The commemorative book that has been made specifically for the 50th anniversary detailing the history of this old Victorian building and how it has evolved over the years will be available to purchase on the day with lots of photographs and memories included.

The centre offers residential overnight stays and day trips for schools, Forest School Level 3 training & CPD courses for adults and a space for community events. The surrounding countryside provides contrasting landscapes, making it the ideal spot for studying geography, science, and the environment.

There will also be an opportunity to buy tea and homemade cakes at the Village Hall who are also celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Find out more about the centre.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../contact-everdon...>

### **Update to Former Short Breaks Service**

You may be aware that Northamptonshire's Children's Trust has been working on a new way of delivering services that were previously known as short breaks.

Following several consultation opportunities with parents and working together with people who run and use these services, NCT has created a new model that better meets the needs of families. NCT have advertised this so that organisations can decide if they would like to provide these services. Organisations are interested and they have come back with questions which have been answered fully. This has been an important part of the process and will help ensure that the organisation that takes on the work is well informed and able to provide what we have all decided we need.

However, this process has taken time, therefore have had to extend the timeline by 4 weeks to enable this to happen. The new timescales are published below:



- 1) Tender documents were published: Wednesday 7 February 2024
- 2) Current deadline for clarification questions: Friday 5 April 2024
- 3) Current deadline to answer clarification questions: Tuesday 9 April 2024
- 4) Deadline to submit bids 12 noon on: Monday 15 April 2024
- 5) Evaluation of bids Monday 15th to: Wednesday 17 April 2024
- 6) Notification of Award to the Provider: Monday 22 April 2024
- 7) Standstill Period (Allows time for other provider feedback on process): 22 April to 6 May 2024
- 8) Notification to all stakeholders: Tuesday 7 May 2024
- 9) Setting up of new service: 6 May to 31 October 2024

10) New service starts: Friday 1 November 2024

We will share further information on the outcome of the tender on:

Tuesday 7 May. If you have any questions in the meantime, please email Sufficiency@nctrust.co.uk

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

### Support for Local Business to Innovate

Grants of up to £20,000 are available from the University of Bedfordshire to local businesses as part of a new programme launched by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to deliver business support, growth and innovation in the region. The initiative seeks to forge pathways to innovation that fuels local pride, skill enhancement, and the expansion of employment opportunities, with £325,000 in funding available as part of the support package. As part of this comprehensive programme, the University will deliver business growth initiatives, including activities designed to empower businesses with innovation and technological support, enhancing their productivity and competitiveness. From fully-funded participation in short courses to personalised 1-2-1 consultancy sessions with industry experts, businesses will receive tailored support to address their unique needs.



Funded by £625k of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), a central part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, this project marks a strategic investment in local businesses operating within the West Northamptonshire region. Building upon the successful outcomes of previous partnerships, this venture is poised to deliver tangible results in business innovation and support. All

businesses should take advantage of this free support as well as the range of support available on the WNC website all year around. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/free-business-support>

Find out more about the business support available through this programme via the University's Research & Innovation Service.

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/ukspf-wnc>

### Tesco Grant Funding Available

You might like to be aware that the next round of Tesco Stronger Starts funding is coming up and applications are encouraged for the July - August voting period.

Stores across Brackley, Northampton and Towcester each have three voting opportunities to include one school, one project involving children and young people and one other project. Any not-for-profit organisation can apply, including constituted community groups, charities, community interest companies (must be operating 2 years), town and parish councils, local authorities, health bodies, social housing providers and sports clubs.

Tesco Stronger Starts is open to charities and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £1,500. For further information and support please contact Sean Silver [sean.silver@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:sean.silver@groundwork.org.uk) or 07912480537.

#### How does Tesco Stronger Starts work?

Tesco Stronger Starts is open to charities and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £1,500. Every three months, three local good causes are selected to be in the blue token customer vote in Tesco stores throughout the UK.



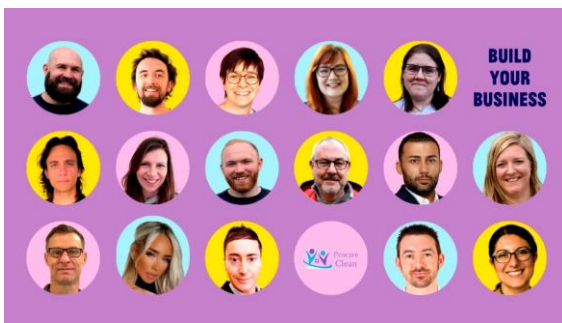
Since 2016 Tesco grants have supported over 50,000 community groups with more than £100 million in grants

## Entrepreneurs Awarded Business Grants

18 entrepreneurs from West Northamptonshire have been awarded business grants from the Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire's Build Your Business Small Business grants scheme.

Winners of the programme participated in various BIPC Northamptonshire Build Your Business sessions, designed to help strengthen their businesses, enabling them to create comprehensive business plans. The successful grant winners are:

- 1) Alessandra Amico-Jones - Alessandra Amico-Jones EFT
- 2) Chris Bartley - Towcester Carpet Cleaning Company
- 3) Leah Campbell - The Inclusive Strengths Co
- 4) Callie Early - Ace Decluttering
- 5) Milly Fyfe - No Fuss Meals For Busy Parents
- 6) Brendan Gilbert & Harry Evans - TwelveTwentyFive
- 7) Stephen Hodgkinson - Affordable EV Charging Solutions
- 8) Nicola Kay - Kay Howard Tutoring
- 9) Zoe Laughton - Laughton Young Consulting Limited
- 10) Roddy Lloyd-Jones – LJPhotostop
- 11) Tessa McAndrew - Remidy Clinic
- 12) Francis Robertson-Marriott & Ralph Major - The Cool Classics (TCC)
- 13) Aveline Rust & Aprille Russell - Glam-Start Hair and Beauty Academy
- 14) Davit Sikharulidze - Mavis Technologies Limited
- 15) Vicky Skinner - Animal Focused
- 16) Gareth Watson & Sarah Watson - Procure Clean
- 17) Adrian Watt - Brackley Ewaste Recycling
- 18) Michelle Westgarth - Wootton Wellness Counselling Services



Following the success of the first round of grants, we're thrilled to announce a second round of funding under the Build Your Business programme. If you're an aspiring local entrepreneur with a business under one year old, you have the chance to apply for a start-up grant of £2,000 to help towards business-associated costs.

The Build Your Business programme comprises five modules covering a range of essential topics including marketing, business growth and financial planning, and businesses can tailor engagement with these according to

their individual needs. As part of the complete package of support, drop-in sessions are on offer at Wellingborough, Kettering, Brixworth and Towcester Library. A key component of Build Your Business is the opportunity for Entrepreneurs in Northamptonshire under one year old to apply for a £2,000 start-up grant to help cover business expenses. Businesses are invited to apply online for this financial boost, and successful applicants will not only receive this important funding, but also ongoing support from the experienced BIPC Northamptonshire team.

Businesses interested in taking advantage of the Build Your Business programme are encouraged to visit the BIPC Northamptonshire website <https://www.bipcnorthamptonshire.co.uk/buildyourbusiness> where they can learn more, find dates for drop-in sessions, register for workshops, webinars, one to ones and more. This project is part-funded using £300,000 from the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

For more information, visit Government website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

### Be a Part of Northampton's Historic Market Reimagined

Local market traders and businesses who are interested in moving to the revitalised Northampton Market



Square are being encouraged to submit an expression of interest. With the historic market square's extensive refurbishment set to be completed by late summer, we are looking for traders to be a part of the revitalised market. Existing and prospective traders were invited to attend a drop-in session at Northamptonshire Central Library in Abington Street on Monday 22 April 2024 between 10am and midday. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../be-part-northampton...>

Hosted by our Council and the Business & Intellectual

Property Centre Northamptonshire (BIPC), the event was a chance to find out more about the move back to Market Square.

### Job Support at Towcester Library 8 May 2024



Come along to Towcester Library on 8th May (1pm - 3pm) & get free help to find your dream job in West Northants. Together with our employment support partners we can help you with jobsearching, CV writing, training, one-to-one guidance & more. No booking required.

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

## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

### Road Closures for NW Relief Road

Motorists are being advised of road closures as work to complete the Northampton North-West Relief Road continues. The road is being built in partnership with Kier Transportation and contractor Balfour Beatty and will provide a link from the A428 Harlestone Road to the A5199 Welford Road, serving housing growth and reducing congestion. The scheme is supported by SEMLEP, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and benefits from £7.93 million of Local Growth funding. Road closures are set to be in place in the following locations:



- 1) Sandy Lane was closed until 3 April with a diversion in place via Northampton Road and Harlestone Road. Access to properties and amenities on Sandy Lane was maintained throughout the closure.
- 2) Brampton Lane/ Welford Road was closed at night (between 8pm and 6am Monday to Friday) from 18 March to 28 March with a diversion in place.
- 3) Welford Road will be closed from 3 April until 21 June with a diversion in place. Access to properties will be maintained throughout the closure.

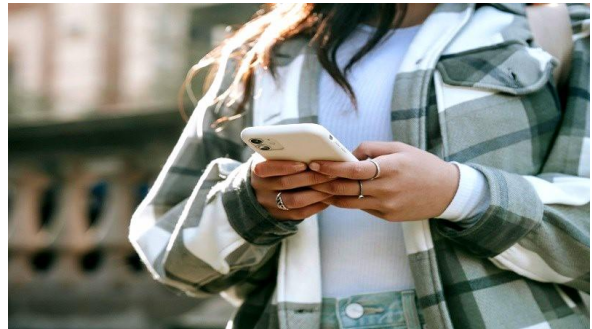
Find more information about this project here and access more details about these road closures here.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../major-highways-projects>

## Parking App in Northampton

Motorists now have the option of using the Pay by Phone app to pay for parking in some parts of Northampton town centre. The scheme was launched in 12 places across the town centre on Tuesday 23 April 2024, offering drivers an alternative to cash or card payments as part of a year-long trial. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../car-parking-payment...>

Signage is in place at the parking places included in the scheme. Pay by Phone is not available in car parks which are equipped with ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) technology. Drivers who do not already have the Pay by Phone app <https://www.paybyphone.co.uk/> will need to download it from their app store and complete a short sign-in process in order to use this payment option. The app offers motorists flexibility in their parking stay, allowing people to set up reminders of when their parking time is due to expire, and giving them the ability to remotely top-up their parking stay.



## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Neighbourhood Watch Annual Insights Survey



It's that time of year, when Neighbourhood Watch asks for your time to fill in their annual Insights Survey 2024 and share your anonymous feedback with them. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete, and will be invaluable in helping them understand what our supporters, members and volunteers enjoy about being part of Neighbourhood Watch, and how we can continue to improve the way they support their members and volunteers. This survey is anonymous, and so they encourage your honest and constructive feedback. At the end, you can opt-in to a prize draw to win one of four £25 Amazon vouchers, if you wish.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GT3FXV>

The Insights Survey will close on Friday 3rd May 2024. Thank you in advance for your helpful feedback!

### Ticket Fraud Awareness Campaign

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events. Last year more than 8,700 people reported they had been a victim of ticket fraud, with a total of £6.7 million lost. This is an average loss of £772 per victim.

How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.



- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password and enable 2-step verification (2SV).
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit [star.org.uk/buy safe](http://star.org.uk/buy safe).

If you feel at all suspicious, report the email to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). For more advice on how to stay secure online, please visit [cyberaware.gov.uk](http://cyberaware.gov.uk).

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

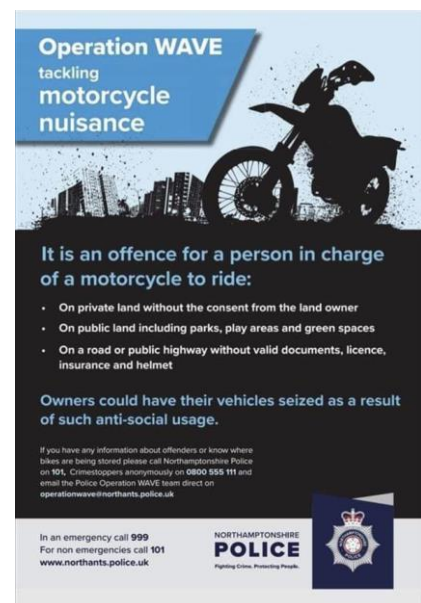
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/ticketfraud>

### Vehicle Nuisance involving Cars, Bikes and Mopeds

Antisocial use of a vehicle, such as street racing, street cruising or off-road use is more than a matter of noise pollution – though this can be the most noticeable problem. Find out below about the different kinds of vehicle nuisance, their long-term effect on a neighbourhood and what you can do about it.

Common types of vehicle nuisance:

- 1) Street racing is the illegal racing of any kind of vehicle on a public road. It is extremely dangerous as it can involve high speeds, weaving through traffic and ignoring traffic signals like red lights. This obviously puts other road users and members of the public in an extremely dangerous position. The only time street racing is permitted is when the organiser has obtained prior permission from the police as part of an organised event.
- 2) Street cruising is when a group of vehicle owners form a convoy and drive up and down a street or around a neighbourhood – usually to show off their cars or bikes. They'll often drive slowly and may even take up both sides of the road. This can hold up traffic behind and make things really difficult for other road users.
- 3) Riding unlicensed powered vehicles. It is against the law to ride hoverboards, minibikes (or 'mini motos'), motorised scooters such as GoPeds on both public roads and pavements. The same applies to 'trail' bikes, three-wheeled bikes and quads unless they are displaying valid number plates. These kind of vehicles may only be used on private roads or land with the road or land-owner's permission.
- 4) Misusing vehicles off-road. While quad bikes, three-wheeled bikes, trail bikes and some other two-wheeled vehicles are built for off-road use, it is against the law to ride them in public parks or on publicly-owned land without permission from the local authority.  
As with unlicensed powered vehicles, these can only be used on private roads or land with the road or land-owner's permission.
- 5) Performing stunts and tricks such as doughnuts and wheelies, whether on public roads or in car parks, can be dangerous to both the driver or rider and bystanders. It can also cause noise nuisance, especially if taking place at night in residential areas. For this reason, this kind of behaviour is not permitted unless as part of an organised event with prior permission from the local authority.



Some people regard this kind of vehicle use as harmless fun. However, regular antisocial vehicle use can have a wider impact on a neighbourhood or community than simply nuisance noise.

The effect of dangerous or reckless use of a vehicle can lead to criminal damage of roads, other vehicles and surrounding property.

Drivers and riders also risk injuring themselves, other road users, cyclists and pedestrians as they do not have full control of their vehicle and their full attention on their surroundings.

Driving or riding in this way can also be used as a form of intimidation, either to other road users or the community. Loud noise from engines and music, and deliberately creating large amounts of exhaust or tyre smoke can also be seen as an aggressive act.

Finally, the use of motorbikes and mopeds to rob (or 'snatch') mobile phones and valuables from pedestrians on pavements is a key concern to the police. So anyone acting recklessly on this kind of vehicle is likely to draw police attention.

If you know the people involved, or they seem approachable, our first advice would be to talk to them calmly or leave them a polite note. You might find it hard to believe, but they may not be aware they're causing a problem. However, don't take the law into your own hands by intervening, such as turning off their music, making physical threats or attempting to confiscate items. You may make the situation worse and even risk committing an offence yourself.

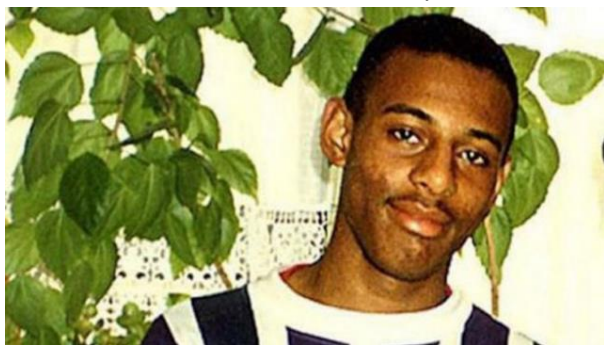
If talking hasn't worked, or you would prefer not to talk to them, there are two ways you can get in touch:

- Report vehicle nuisance including bikes, mopeds or other vehicles
- Report a collision or road traffic offence.

## CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

### WNC to Commemorate the Life of Stephen Lawrence

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) marked Stephen Lawrence Day on Monday, 22 April to commemorate the life of the 18-year-old who was killed in an unprovoked racist attack 31 years ago.



Following a memorial service marking the 25th anniversary of his death in 2018, it was announced that there would be a national day to remember Stephen's life with the aim to also focus on young people and the communities they live in, enabling them to make positive choices and live to their full potential.

A ceremony took place at the Guildhall, Northampton, from midday to 1.30pm and will be attended by local organisations and community representatives including Northamptonshire Police, the University of

Northampton (UON) and local Town and Parish Councils. Speeches on the day will be provided by WNC's Chairman Cllr John Shephard, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire Hassan Shah, WNC's Diverse Forum Co-Chair Councillor James Hill, Local Policing Commander Superintendent Rachael Handford, and Co-Chair for the Global Ethnic Majority (GEM) Network Marcella Daye. The ceremony will conclude with the lighting of candles and time for reflection followed by refreshments in the Guildhall court room.

### Armed Forces Day 24 June 2024

In the week leading up to Armed Forces Day Saturday, 24 June 2024 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will be organising a series of events aimed

  
**ARMED FORCES DAY**  
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

*Flag Raising*  
**Monday 24th June 2024**  
**Towcester**

You are duly invited to attend one of our three flag-raising events and join us in showing your support for the serving troops, veterans, cadets and family members who make up West Northamptonshire's Armed Forces Community.

09:50| Attendees to assemble outside  
The Forum for Introductory Speeches

10:00| **Armed Forces Flag to be raised**

10:02| Closing Speeches

10:10| Refreshments served in The  
Committee Room at The Forum.

To confirm your attendance at one of our events, we  
would be grateful if you could RSVP to  
Governor: MCC@westnorthants.gov.uk by  
**Friday 14th June.**



at celebrating and supporting the local Armed Forces Community including veterans, serving personnel, reserve forces, cadets, and their families.

### **Museum & Art Gallery to Mark D-Day**

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery is collecting D-Day stories and would love your help. The 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and Operation Overlord on the Normandy coast falls on 6 June 2024. To mark the occasion, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery is creating a commemorative exhibition in libraries at Brackley, Daventry, Towcester and Weston Favell. Each library will host exhibition cabinets filled with Northamptonshire stories, objects and memories of D-Day and its immediate aftermath.

The project will emphasise the Northamptonshire connection to D-Day, looking at those serving in the theatre of war as well as the impact on the home front. They are looking for information on the following themes:

- 1) Northamptonshire Yeomanry at Normandy and their families on the home front
- 2) Northamptonshire airfields, the RAF and the Jedburgh teams and their families on the home front
- 3) Northamptonshire people in the armed forces at Normandy and their families on the home front
- 4) Northamptonshire Regiment soldiers seconded and active in D-Day
- 5) The impact of D-Day on families and civilian life
- 6) A snapshot of what was happening in Northamptonshire on D-Day



How you can help: The project wants to connect with local people and their family stories of D-Day.

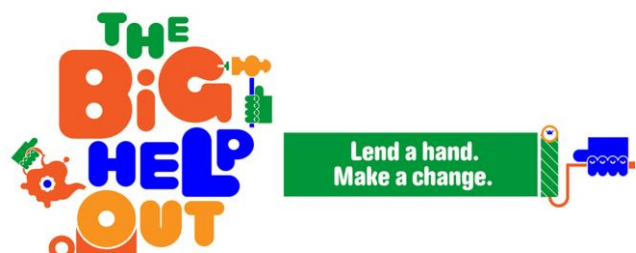
If you or anyone you know has a D-Day story or memorabilia, please email [museums@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:museums@westnorthants.gov.uk)

We also want to know about any D-Day events happening in your area. Please email details to [communications@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westnorthants.gov.uk)

### **Return of the Big Help Out**

Last year, Northamptonshire Community Foundation joined the Lord Lieutenant's Office to support The Big Help Out, in celebration of King Charles III's Coronation and to highlight the vital importance of volunteering in our local communities. In 2024, they are once again supporting this cause and will be working with charities and community groups across the county to give residents the chance to discover volunteering opportunities in their local area. This summer, between 7 and 9 June, there will be another opportunity to join dedicated volunteers in giving time to a worthy cause of your choosing, whether that is supporting a local food bank, tending a community garden, spending time with a vulnerable person or teaching a skill to young people. Those who are aware of any volunteer-led organisations looking to get involved in The Big Help Out 2024, should direct them to talk to the NCF's Grants Team.

Email [enquiries@ncf.uk.com](mailto:enquiries@ncf.uk.com) or call 01604 230033.



## 500 Days to Women's Rugby World Cup 2025

9 April 2024 marked 500 days to go until the start of the Women's Rugby World Cup, the biggest-ever celebration of women's international rugby, which will see matches take place in front of a worldwide audience at Northampton's cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens.



To mark this momentous day, local women and girls joined members of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Northampton Saints and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens for the launch of Impact '25, the RFU's transformational legacy programme which aims to grow rugby throughout the country, delivered in partnership with UK Government, Sport England and UK Sport. The multi-million-pound programme will provide substantial improvements in facilities and greater opportunities for females at all levels of the game and has already seen £12.13m of Government

funding committed to women and girls' grassroots rugby.

Attendees at the event, hosted by Northampton Saints and Loughborough Lightning, were able to take part in women's 'Our Parks' Rugby fit exercise sessions and girls' non-contact Rugby, led by Lightning players and Saints community coaches, as well as watch the 'Heart of the Game' Rugby World Cup trailer produced by local sixth form students from the Bee Hive SEND vocational college for Northampton Film Festival.

## Crick Boat Show

The 2024 Crick Boat Show, set to grace the picturesque Crick Marina near Daventry, across the late May Bank Holiday Weekend from the 25 to 27 May, promises to be an unforgettable experience for families and waterway enthusiasts alike. Organized by Waterways World in collaboration with the Canal & River Trust and Crick Waterside & Marina, this annual



extravaganza anticipates welcoming over 26,000 visitors. Kicking off with an exclusive Trade & Preview Day on Friday 24 May, sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston and exclusively for advance ticket holders, the event sets the stage for a weekend of exploration and enjoyment.

From indulging in the vibrant marketplace featuring over 200 exhibitors to enjoying the activities on offer, including free boat trips, live music, children's entertainment, and a tantalizing array of food and drink stalls, the Crick Boat Show promises an unparalleled day out. Families can relish in the free entry for children aged 16 and under on Saturday 25, Sunday 26, and Monday 27 May, ensuring an accessible and inclusive experience for all attendees. With something for everyone, this year's show guarantees to be an immersive celebration of the UK's inland waterways.

The event offers a plethora of experiences to engage visitors. From taking leisurely boat trips along the Grand Union Canal to immersing oneself in live music performances sponsored by Aquavista, the show's

line-up is brimming with excitement. Young Elton will headline on the Saturday evening 25 May, and Fleetwood Bac will headline on the Sunday night 26 May. Evening entertainment, which is included in the price of the same day ticket to the show, runs from 7.30pm to 11.30pm.

Attendees can also savour the delights of the Real Ale & Cider Festival, explore luxury boats featuring the latest innovations, and delve into the rich history of canal life with historic boat displays. With opportunities for retail therapy, educational talks by the Canal & River Trust, boat handling lessons, expert advice sessions, and even a chance to vote for favourite boats, the Crick Boat Show promises an unforgettable weekend of discovery and enjoyment.

For more information and to book tickets, camping pitches and moorings, visit [www.crickboatshow.com](http://www.crickboatshow.com) or call 01283 742970, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.