

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

1

## MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JUNE 2024



### **E-Newsletter Issue 06/2024**

Anne Marrum, John Ford and  
Cllr Stephen Clarke at  
Rev Kris Seward's 'Meet the Vicar' event  
Cogenhoe  
12 May 2024

Contents

<b>NEWS REPORT JUNE 2024 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Monthly Highlights .....	4
<b>PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Speed Limit Proposal for Bedford Road, Little Houghton, WNC Reference P2023.....	6
Update on Drainage Issues in Hartwell.....	6
Potholes Lodge Road, Little Houghton.....	6
Environment Agency cut Large Area of Wildflowers Yardley Hastings 3 May 2024 .....	7
Gullies Issuing Water in Yardley Hastings .....	7
Rededication of Hartwell War Memorial 7 May 2024.....	8
Great Houghton Coffee Morning 10 May 2024 .....	9
Denton Coffee Morning 10 May 2024.....	10
Meet the Vicar 12 May 2024 .....	10
Grange Park Footpath 16 May 2024 .....	10
Knife Angel Service 17 May 2024.....	11
Community Lunch Cogenhoe 20 May 2024.....	11
Oak Tree Planting Cogenhoe 20 May 2024.....	11
The Importance of Being Earnest Denton 26 May 2024 .....	11
DSPG At Coffee@Carey 28 May 2024 .....	12
Denton Coffee Morning 31 May 2024.....	12
Quinton Coffee Morning 1 June 2024 .....	12
Fix My Street Cogenhoe 358915 .....	13
Fix My Street Little Houghton 5869001.....	13
Fix My Street 5866225 Cogenhoe .....	13
Hackleton Road Closure Main Road, 17-21 June 2024 .....	13
Denton Road Closure 7-9 August 2024 .....	13
TTO 2425 W101 Preston Deanery Quinton 19-21 August 2024 .....	14
Fly Tipping Whiston Rad, Denton .....	14
Predisposition, predetermination or bias .....	14
<b>CONSULTATIONS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Have your say on Towcester Town Centre revitalisation .....	15
Help Shape the Vision for Daventry Town Centre.....	15
Amplifying Greyfriars.....	16
<b>FINANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSFORMATION .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Cost of Living Support.....	16
Are you Eligible for Childcare Help? .....	17
<b>REGULATORY SERVICES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Stage Two Community Governance Review .....	18
General Election Key Dates.....	19
Crackdown on Blue Badge Misuse .....	19
<b>RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN).....</b>	<b>20</b>
RSN 2024 seminar programme.....	20
RSN Launches Efforts to Secure Fairer Funding.....	20
<b>PLANNING MATTERS .....</b>	<b>20</b>
Planning Appeals.....	20
Determined or Cancelled:.....	20

<b>HOUSING .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Banning Order Against Landlord for 3 Years .....	21
<b>ENVIRONMENT.....</b>	<b>22</b>
West Northants Approach to Managing Flood Risk .....	22
New Grants Scheme to Help Businesses Reach Net Zero.....	22
Climate Change Summit.....	23
<b>HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE .....</b>	<b>23</b>
West Northamptonshire Local Area Partnerships.....	23
Local Area Partnership Rural East.....	24
Dementia Support.....	24
Men’s Wellbeing Group .....	24
Repair Café@Renew 169 Towcester .....	25
Youth Enterprise Scheme.....	25
Welcoming Spaces .....	25
Social Isolation.....	25
Family Hub .....	25
LAP Website.....	25
Gro Health.....	26
Community Connect.....	26
<b>EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN’S SERVICES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Term Dates for West Northamptonshire Schools.....	27
Spring term 2024 .....	27
Summer term 2024 .....	27
Autumn term 2024.....	27
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &amp; GRANT FUNDING .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Support for Local Business to Innovate .....	27
Grant Funding Available for West Northants Voluntary and Community Sector .....	28
New Scheme to Help People Get into Work.....	29
WNC Arts & Culture Grants Scheme.....	29
Grant Scheme for Community Organisations .....	30
<b>TRANSPORT &amp; HIGHWAYS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
New Safety Features for Northampton’s E-Scooter Scheme.....	30
NIC Infrastructure Progress Review 2024.....	31
Electric Scooter Users Warned Over Illegal Misuse .....	31
<b>POLICE FIRE &amp; CRIME COMMISSIONER .....</b>	<b>31</b>
Avoid Investment Scams.....	31
WNC Taxi Marshal Service.....	32
<b>CULTURE, HERITAGE &amp; SPORT .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Celebrate D-Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Armed Forces Week.....	32
Return of the Big Help Out.....	33
The King Appoints Amy Crawford as High Sheriff.....	33
Four Athletes named as part of Paralympics GB Squad .....	34
Abington Park Museum Historic Transport Day 2024 .....	34
Northants Sings Out Semi Finalists .....	34

## NEWS REPORT JUNE 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 Consultation has now closed and WNC will formally advertise their intention to make the relevant Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

I have advised Sam Simons, WNC, Highways Service Manager that residents are concerned that they have not been communicated with effectively regarding drainage concerns at Blacksmiths Way. During April work was completed in Ashton Road. However, outstanding works are to be undertaken in Amberley Road and Blacksmiths Way to Swyncombe Green and we do not have a date for any of these works. There is still some debate as to whether the 'vegetation cutbacks' works were completed as agreed. As a result, I have agreed with Sam Simons that we should have another site visit to address the matters raised by residents. Once I have an agreed time and date, I will let you know.

The e-petition for WNC to prioritise the 'allocation of budget and resources for the resurfacing of Lodge Road, Little Houghton' has finished. 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.

A Yardley Hastings resident wrote to me about a large area of wildflowers in Yardley Hastings that was mowed during the month of May by the Environment Agency (EA). EA is a public body with the same Biodiversity Duties as WNC, however WNC is not a regulator, so we can't enforce others to uphold their duties. WNC Environment officers have said that "it is likely that there's no actual harm done or case to uphold from the photos". "It might not be an ideal time to mow, and therefore this has understandably disappointed the resident. However, it could be that the EA had limited choice of when to mow, as it was so wet in March and April and for safety reasons, they need to keep this area free from trees and scrub development." WNC are awaiting a response from the EA and once I have further news I shall be in touch.

Sam Simons, WNC Service Manager Commissioning & Contract, Highways and Transport has agreed to meet myself and Geoffrey Gill, Clerk Yardley Hastings Parish Council on site in Yardley Hastings in order to consider two longstanding drainage issues.

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

Part of Denton Road will be closed between 7-9th August to allow Anglian Water to undertake works to the main.

Preston Deanery Road, will be closed between 19-21st August to allow Anglian Water to complete works to the water main.

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. Eligible projects will be invited to complete a full application. Projects must be approved before spending, with all expenses claimed by February 28, 2025. See my Monthly Report.

The deadline for responding to the consultation on the Towcester Centre Revitalisation is midnight Sunday 9 June 2024 and for Daventry Town Centre is 13 June 2024.

The Consultation on the regeneration of Greyfriars closes on 9 June 2024.

WNC will administer the election for the Parliamentary Constituencies of Daventry, South Northamptonshire, Northampton North, and Northampton South, on Thursday 4 July. This election will use new constituency boundaries, after they were redrawn in 2023 to reflect population changes and to try to even out voter numbers in each area. This means some voters will be voting in a different constituency to previous elections. The new boundaries can be found by visiting the Boundary Commission for England. See my Monthly Report for Key Election dates.

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.

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.

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.

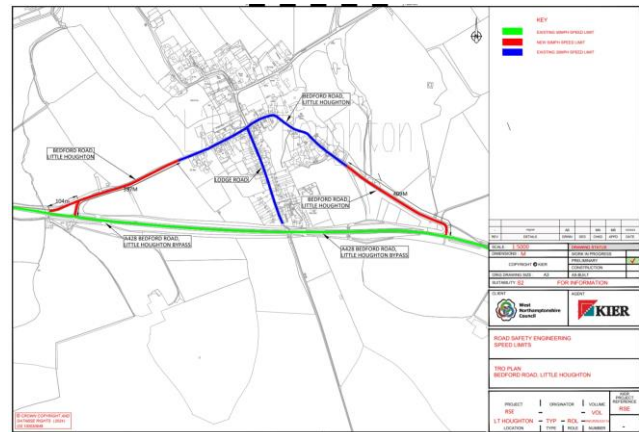
I hope that you enjoy this edition of my Monthly Report. Don't forget you can follow me on [www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924](https://www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924)

*All the Best, Steve*

## PARISH MEETINGS, VISITS AND CASEWORK

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

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 Consultation has now closed and WNC will formally advertise their intention to make the relevant Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).



### Update on Drainage Issues in Hartwell

I have advised Sam Simons, WNC, Highways Service Manager that residents are concerned that they have not been communicated with effectively regarding drainage concerns at Blacksmiths Way. During April work was completed in Ashton Road. However, outstanding works are to be undertaken in Amberley Road and Blacksmiths Way to Swyncombe Green and we do not have a date for any of these works. There is still some debate as to whether the 'vegetation cutbacks' works were completed as agreed. As a result, I have agreed with Sam Simons that we should have another site visit to address the matters raised by residents. Once I have an agreed time and date, I will let you know.



### 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. The e-petition for WNC to prioritise the 'allocation of budget and resources for the resurfacing of Lodge Road' has finished. 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.



### **Environment Agency cut Large Area of Wildflowers Yardley Hastings 3 May 2024**

A Yardley Hastings resident wrote to me about a large area of wildflowers in Yardley Hastings that was mowed during the month of May. I was surprised to hear about this as West Northamptonshire Council had just issued a press release about their intentions to promote environmental awareness in the natural environment. WNC was seeking to 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. They have said that they are doing their bit by allowing some of the green spaces they look after to grow wildly for May, where safe and reasonable to do so.



West Northamptonshire residents were being asked 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. The results from this very short survey will help WNC understand 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. This survey closed on 19 May 2024.

The land in question, is entirely owned by the Environment Agency (EA) as a public body with the same Biodiversity Duties as WNC - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>. A lot of this will depend on if it's deemed a priority habitat or contains priority species. However, WNC is not a regulator, so we can't enforce others to uphold their duties. WNC Environment officers have said that "it is likely that there's no actual harm done or case to uphold from the photos". "It might not be an ideal time to mow, and therefore this has understandably disappointed the resident. However, it could be that the EA had limited choice of when to mow, as it was so wet in March and April and for safety reasons, they need to keep this area free from trees and scrub development." WNC are awaiting a response from the EA and once I have further news I shall be in touch.

### **Gullies Issuing Water in Yardley Hastings**

Sam Simons, WNC Service Manager Commissioning & Contract, Highways and Transport has agreed to meet myself and Geoffrey Gill, Clerk Yardley Hastings Parish Council on site in Yardley Hastings in order to consider the two issues raised directly with Highways.

1. Drain by the Old Rectory
2. Drain by 95 The High Street

We have agreed to meet at 10.00am on 7 June 2024 outside the Pudding Parlour, 97 High Street, Yardley Hastings, NN7 1ER. We can then walk to the two locations.



### Rededication of Hartwell War Memorial 7 May 2024

On 7 May 2024, at 11.00am, I attended the re-dedication and Remembrance Ceremony at the War Memorial, Forest Road, Hartwell. Revd. Mark Donnelly, St John the Baptist Church, Hartwell, led the Act of Remembrance for those who laid down their lives to bring freedom and peace, especially those from Hartwell and parishes whose names are recorded on the Hartwell memorials.

Before the epitaph was read, an extract of a poem by Robert Laurence Binyon was recited. Taken from 'For the Fallen', it reads:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old."  
"Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."  
"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,"  
"We will remember them."



We all said "We will remember them" before the Last Post was sounded and two minutes silence was observed in the centre of Hartwell. Then, the Reveille was sounded, and wreaths were laid before the Kohima was recited:

"When you go home, Tell them of us and say,"  
"For your tomorrow, We gave our today."

The famous words are attributed to Stroud classicist John Maxwell Edmonds, who put them together among a collection of 12 epitaphs for the First World War in 1916. It is thought to have been inspired by the Greek poet Simonides of Ceos, who penned it after the Battle of Thermopylae in 480BC. His read:

"Go tell the Spartans, thou that passest by"  
"That faithful to their precepts here we lie."

Edmonds' verse is now carved onto numerous veteran memorials and monuments across the world - from Britain, India, the United States and other parts of the Commonwealth. It is repeated across social media on Remembrance Day, a reminder of the men who died in the wars. But it was one specific battle in the Second World War which gave the famous epitaph its name.



The Battle of Kohima, was the turning point of the Japanese offensive into India, which claimed the lives of thousands of men on both sides, and was fought around the town of Kohima in Nagaland between April 1944 and June 1944.

Then Revd. Mark Donnelly said the Prayer of Dedication of the Hartwell Memorial asking that those who pass by pause to remember those they never knew but who gave everything for them.

Hartwell has two war memorials, arising from a difference of opinion within the village about the most appropriate form of



remembrance. Some wanted a wooden cenotaph near the centre of the village to represent the close proximity of Salcey Forest to Hartwell, and the influence it had on it. This was unveiled on Forest Road in 1921 and is listed at Grade II. Another faction wanted a stone memorial in the churchyard of the church of St John the Baptist. The stone memorial was unveiled on Saturday 4 December 1920 by Lt. Colonel Sir Hereward Wake, with the dedication by the Bishop of Leicester.

In December 2022, the War Memorial Restoration Co was commissioned by Hartwell Parish Council to restore and conserve the wooden War Memorial. Once dismantled a hidden archive niche discovered on the underside of the Base-Section confirmed that the timber memorial was originally erected as a replacement to a previous construction back on 5th November 1965. At the bottom of the original structure was a penny dated 1917. This penny was replaced within the hidden archive niche along with another penny dated 1965 (the year the memorial was replaced) with two typed notes providing some history and background information. Part of this information confirms that the timber used is oak and that this came from the Salcey Forest and was donated by the Forestry Commission. Research shows that the original supply company was E Whatton & Sons Ltd of Hartwell, Northampton. Two further notes and a Euro-96 commemorative coin, bound in PTFE plumbers-tape were then added to the archive when the memorial was dismantled for restoration works and re-erected on 5th July 1996. One of the 1996 notes states that even then (27 years ago) the timber was in a deteriorating state and attempts were made to acquire the same oak from the same source but there was no suitable wood available. However, it does go on to suggest that some new oak was sourced via Mr Anthony Whatton (presumed to be of the original suppliers E Whatton & Sons Ltd) and used when it was re-erected although it does not specify which sections.

I was delighted to attend this memorable event, particularly as the WNC Planning and Heritage department had supported Hartwell Parish Council during the restoration of the memorial. I was able to join others for light refreshments at the Hartwell Club afterwards. A special thank you to Amy Holt, Clerk to Hartwell Parish Council for project managing the restoration and arranging the event. Do pause and reflect next time you pass this unique war memorial in Hartwell.

### Great Houghton Coffee Morning 10 May 2024



On Friday 10 May 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.



Whilst there, we heard about Mikron Theatre Company who will be performing 'Jennie Lee' at Great Houghton Village Hall on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 7.00pm. The story is about Jennie Lee who in 1929, left her coal-mining family in Scotland to become Westminster's youngest MP-so young that, as a woman, she couldn't even vote for herself. 2024 marks Mikron's 52nd year of bringing exceptional theatre to extraordinary places. They are the UK's most prolific theatre company, touring to over 130 venues per year. They tour on the narrowboat, Tyseley, in the summer and by road in spring and autumn, to every conceivable type of venue, reaching audiences that other companies cannot. They are one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations and officially one of the country's leading arts organisations for the Arts Council's 2023-26 funding period. I first saw them in 1976 and have supported them over the years since. No reserved seating or tickets are

required, a 'pay what you feel' collection will be taken after the show. The next meeting of this friendly and welcoming group in Great Houghton will be 14 June 2024, when I look forward to catching up with everyone again.

### **Denton Coffee Morning 10 May 2024**

On 10 May 2024, after visiting Great Houghton, I attended the Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church, Denton, one of West Northants Welcoming Spaces. The church is in the centre of the village, and it is open every day and provides a community space for everyone in the village. They hold coffee mornings, weekly craft sessions, quizzes, and many other general community events. Welcoming Space opening times are Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

It was great to catch up with Pat, Sheila, Alison, John, Russell and others. Thank you, Alison for telling us about the Pantaloons outdoor performance of the Importance of Being Earnest at Denton Village Hall on 26 May 2024. The gates open for a picnic at 4pm and the show starts at 5pm. You just need to bring your own food/drink and chairs. The Pantaloons are a touring company dedicated to making theatre accessible. Their ethos is one of collaboration, both with their audiences and within the group itself. They maintain an emphasis on physicality and on audience interaction, and their aim is always to produce performance, which is experimental, eye-catching, moving and fun.

<https://thepantaloons.co.uk/>

The proceeds from this event are in aid of Denton Village Hall.

Then I was able to hear more about Denton's D Day event from [Sheila Underwood](#). Thursday 6 June 2024 is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings and Denton intend to commemorate this historic event. There will be an exhibition with amazing facts about D Day and items of interest from the war years. The Exhibition will be open from 3-7pm on 6, 7 and 8 June 2024 with afternoon tea on 6 June including wartime recipes. All of this will be taking place at St Margaret's Church, Denton. Well done to everyone working on this event.



### **Meet the Vicar 12 May 2024**

On 12 May 2024, I was fortunate to attend Kris and Karen's 'Meet the Vicar' event in their open garden.



The weather was glorious, the refreshments delicious and all the guests welcomed by Revd Kris Seward and Karen with warmth and enthusiasm. Everyone felt welcome and appreciated. It was a delightful informal gathering with a number of guests going above and beyond to make the event possible. Getting involved in an event requires time and effort. So, a special thank you to Kris and Karen for being such great hosts, Jackie, Joy, Sue and many others who helped source and serve the drinks and refreshments during the afternoon. It was great to see so many people from the Wymersley Benefice

come together to wish Kris and Karen all the very best in their new role.

### **Grange Park Footpath 16 May 2024**

I have been working on obtaining a resolution for the residents of Richmond Villages, Grange Park to the problem with the footpath which runs from the roundabout at Saxon Avenue / Williams Way northwards to Bridge Meadow Way. Prior to Grange Park being built, a Public Footpath ran north – south in this general area,



crossing privately owned land. As part of the redevelopment of the area that footpath (known as LF3) was legally diverted onto the footpath in question. The surface of a public right of way should be safe to use, however, it is not unusual for multiple surfaces and conditions to be present. The Right of Way (ROW) in question, that Highways maintains is LF3. This is a metaled ROW (tarmac), which is inspected to the intervention level of a normal footway. This stipulates a 20mm trip defect criteria intervention level. In this case, the area has been inspected recently, and there are no safety defects present that meet this criteria for repair. The users of this footpath who live at Richmond Villages, Grange Park and who are lacking in mobility are seeking improvements on safety grounds. On 16 May 2024, I arranged to meet Highways on site with Dennis Stanbridge, one of Richmond Villages residents to look at this issue in more detail. Once I have further news I shall be in touch.

### **Knife Angel Service 17 May 2024**

On 17 May 2024, I attended the 2nd annual Knife Angel Legacy service at All Saints Church organised by Revd Oliver Coss, Rector of Northampton and West Northamptonshire Council & Partners. We heard a number of touching speeches from Cheri Curran and Clive and Dimz from Springs Family Centre followed by a poem from Quinton Green who read 'Where Angels Walk'. Overall, it was a stirring and thought-provoking evening.



### **Community Lunch Cogenhoe 20 May 2024**

On 20 May 2024, I attended the Community Lunch at the Village Hall, Cogenhoe. It is a very well attended event which runs every 2 weeks and is the perfect opportunity to chat with others whilst having something



to eat. Lunch clubs can help you forge new friendships, share good food and enjoy a selection of interesting activities. A special thank you to Deborah and helpers who are giving so much back to their local community.

After lunch we had a Fire Safety talk from Norm James, Community Safety Officer in the Northamptonshire Fire Service's Prevention Team. Norm gained 82,000 hours of experience from battling fires in Daventry over the course of more than 40 years. Now, he is out and about

offering education and vital tips on how to stay safe from fires in our own homes.

### **Oak Tree Planting Cogenhoe 20 May 2024**

On 20 May 2024, I joined Robert and Jane Vaughn together with Deborah Rush to plant an Oak Tree on the



York Avenue boundary of the Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall, Playing Field. This Oak Tree was planted to commemorate the King's Coronation. The tree was grown by Robert and given to the Parish Council for the enjoyment of the village. It is a fantastic way to increase biodiversity in the district. From a sapling and even long after its death, the oak tree is home, shelter and nourishment for around 2,300 species. Of these, over 200 rely on oak trees completely to ensure their survival.

### **The Importance of Being Earnest Denton 26 May 2024**

On 26 May 2024, I attended the Pantaloons version of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at the Village Hall, Denton. It had been planned as an outside event, but at about 4pm it was transferred inside as the sky

darkened, thunderstorms loomed, and heavy rain fell persistently. Such is the joy of outside events in England during the Summer. So, picnics were had inside the village hall whilst the crew rearranged the stage and set.

The Pantaloons are a touring company dedicated to making theatre accessible. They gave an energetic performance based on Oscar Wilde's play supplemented with live music, audience participation and physical comedy. We had a great evening with a fine musical interpretation of Wilde's witty words. All the proceeds were in aid of Denton Village Hall.

The Pantaloons are back at Denton Village Hall on 6 October 2024 for 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. <https://thepantaloons.co.uk/>



### **DSPG At Coffee@Carey 28 May 2024**

On 28 May 2024, I joined the Denton Surgery Patients Group (DSPG) at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton. It was their fortnightly meeting, and they had a quiz prepared by Jenny Monk. It was John's 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday the next day and he had brought a delicious Chocolate cake for everyone. Happy Birthday, John!

The DSPG Volunteer drivers bring those who are unable to drive or use public transport, due to limited mobility or health conditions. If you are interested in supporting the Driver scheme, then do make contact with Kevin Hewitson at [secretary@dspg.me](mailto:secretary@dspg.me). 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.



The DSPG Volunteer drivers bring those who are unable to drive or use public transport, due to limited mobility or health conditions. If you are interested in supporting the Driver scheme, then do make contact with Kevin Hewitson at [secretary@dspg.me](mailto:secretary@dspg.me). 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.



### **Denton Coffee Morning 31 May 2024**

On Friday 31 May 2024, I attended the Coffee Morning at St Margaret's Church Denton. It is a WNC Welcoming Space that is growing each time I visit. There were at least 22 members visiting today. I was able to catch up with Russel, Carole, John, Mary, Jane, Sheila, Alison, Margaret and others. Sheila and I talked about their plans for the Denton D Day commemoration on 6 June 2024 at 3.00pm.

It is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings and Denton intend to commemorate this historic event. There will be an exhibition with amazing facts about D Day and items of interest from the war years. The Exhibition will be open from 3-7pm on 6, 7 and 8 June 2024 with afternoon tea on 6 June including wartime recipes. All of this will be taking place at St Margaret's Church, Denton. Well done to everyone working on this event. I have been asked to judge the Children's D Day Poster competition where all children will receive a prize of 2 oz of sweets as per the war time sweet ration! I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

### **Quinton Coffee Morning 1 June 2024**

On Saturday 1 June 2024, I attended the Quinton Coffee morning at St John the Baptist Church, Quinton and caught up with Barbara, Julia, Rev Mark, Andy and others. Open to all, the monthly first Saturday 10.30-12.00 coffee mornings provide an opportunity to relax and catch up with folks from the local community. The coffee and homemade cakes were most enjoyable, especially the coffee and walnut cake.



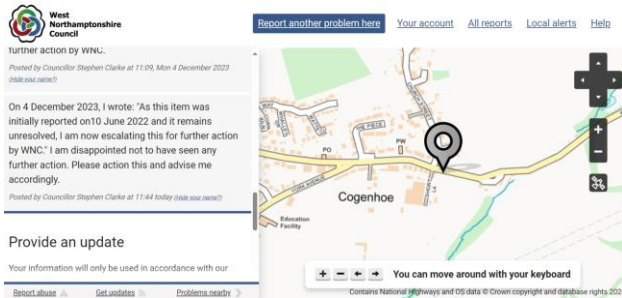
As always, everyone is always pleased to see you and offer a warm welcome, friendship and conversation to regulars and newcomers alike. It was a very busy session. Well done to those who make it happen.

### Fix My Street Cogenhoe 358915

On 4 December 2023, I wrote:

"As this item was initially reported on 10 June 2022 and it remains unresolved, I am now escalating this for further action by WNC." I am disappointed not to have seen any further action and I have escalated this again with a view to gaining action by return.

As there has been no action despite escalating this on 13 May 2024, I have chased this yet again on 2 June 2024. Once I have further news, I shall be in touch.

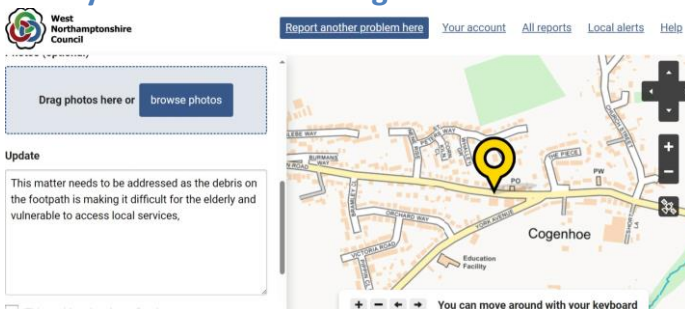


### Fix My Street Little Houghton 5869001



On 12 May 2024, I received a further complaint regarding the A428 and the slip road into Little Houghton. Residents are concerned about the current sight line which is masked by vegetation overgrowth and is making the junction to and from the A428 dangerous. I was sent the enclosed map as the resident didn't have access to Fix My Street. As it is a Highway Safety issue, I have escalated the matter to Highways and as soon as I have further news, I shall be in touch.

### Fix My Street 5866225 Cogenhoe



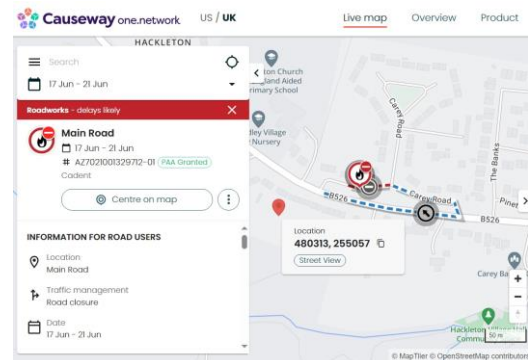
This matter needs to be addressed as the debris on the footpath is making it difficult for the elderly and vulnerable to access local services,

### 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

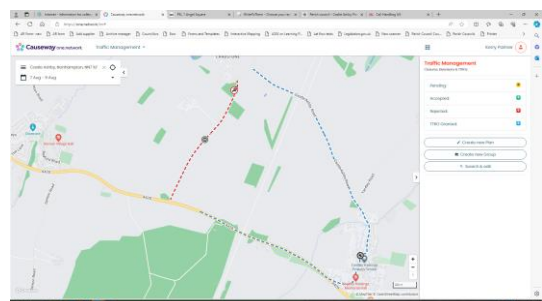
The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=138560734>

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



### Denton Road Closure 7-9 August 2024

I have received a request for a closure at the above location. Part of Denton Road will be closed between 7-9th

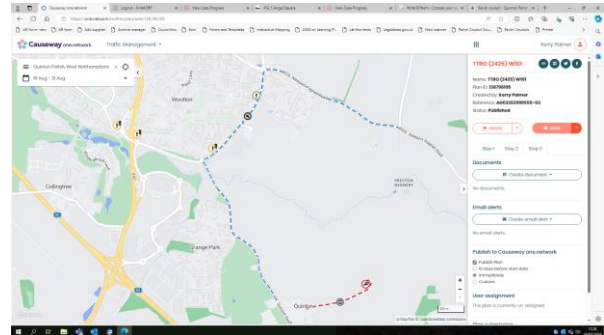


August to allow Anglian Water to undertake works to the main. Please find below the plan. Should you need any further detail, please contact Michelle Budd on 03457 145145

### **TTO 2425 W101 Preston Deanery Quinton 19-21 August 2024**

I have received a closure for part of Preston Deanery Road, which will be closed between 19-21st August to allow Anglian Water to complete works to the water main. Please find below the plan.

Should you need any further detail, please contact Michelle Budd on 03457 145145



### **Fly Tipping Whiston Rad, Denton**

The dumped garden rubbish on Whiston Road has been cleared by a motorist and it is now just on the grass verge with some still on the road. However, Whiston Road has been a magnet for fly-tipping-See the other entries on Fix My Street. I have asked WNC to investigate whether the rubbish contains any evidence of the culprit so that action can be taken. Once I have further news, I shall be in touch.



### **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.

### 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.

### Help Shape the Vision for Daventry Town Centre

People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to get involved in shaping new plans for Daventry town centre, which seek to boost economic growth and quality of life for local residents. The Daventry Masterplan is being developed by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) upon the principles established in the Daventry Vision 2035 which was previously adopted in March 2021

Building upon this work, the new Masterplan aims to reinvent the market town experience in Daventry, prioritising wellbeing and enjoyment, improving connections and providing a more welcoming location that will increase footfall and increase investment into the town. Proposals set out in the draft Masterplan include:

1. Turning Market Square into a flexible events space, which could also be used as a market space
2. Creating a new destination play park and café at New Street Rec
3. Opening up the High Street entrance to the Arc Cinema, creating a new Mulberry Square
4. Making High Street a shared surface street, with more seating and planting



5. Enhancing Sheaf Street with better lighting, seating and public art
6. Exploring opportunities to modernise retail units, to meet 21st century demands
7. Newer homes and urban greenery alongside a village green space in Eastern Way, supporting the vibrancy of the town centre with improved doorstep amenities.

Residents, businesses and other community groups and organisations are being encouraged to view the draft masterplan and give their comments on the outline plans beginning 13 May and running until 13 June 2024. They can do so by viewing the proposals and completing a survey seeking their views at West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/.../davenry-town.../> There is also the opportunity to view the proposals in person and speak with WNC teams involved in the work outside Waitrose in Bowen Square, Daventry on Saturday 18 May between 9am and 4.30pm.

### Amplifying Greyfriars

Greyfriars in Northampton has been identified as a site to benefit from significant regeneration and showcase the town's deep history. There is an opportunity to bring the area to life by reinventing existing structures and the general ground area to highlight the towns historic links to shoemaking, leathercraft, brewing, art and music to name a few. West Northamptonshire Council is working with consultation experts, Deetu and lead architects, Studio Egret West, to reimagine this area for today and tomorrow.



### Amplifying Greyfriars in Northampton

Towards the end of 2023, we shared our emerging vision to transform Greyfriars and asked for feedback on this. We have taken all feedback into consideration, which helped us understand your ideas for how we might revamp this part of Northampton's town centre and from this we have developed a refreshed vision for the area. We are now carrying out a second round of engagement which will complete this stage of the visioning work. Using these plans, we will seek to secure funding and begin the phased delivery of the site. There will be more opportunities after this to have your say on our plans. This will be as the project progresses and as we move into more detailed design of certain elements of the vision.

For more information and how to provide your views please use the link below:  
<https://ampnorthampton.com/#home>. This survey closes Sunday 9 June 2024.

## 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.

### 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)

### General Election Key Dates

WNC will administer the election for the Parliamentary Constituencies of Daventry, South Northamptonshire, Northampton North, and Northampton South, on Thursday 4 July. This election will use new constituency boundaries, after they were redrawn in 2023 to reflect population changes and to try to even out voter numbers in each area. This means some voters will be voting in a different constituency to previous elections. The new boundaries can be found by visiting the Boundary Commission for England.



<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

A Notice of Election will be published on Tuesday 4 June, and potential candidates will have until 4pm on Friday, 7 June to submit their nomination papers and pay their deposit. Anyone who is not yet registered to vote must do so by Tuesday, 18 June in order to take part in this election. You can register to vote on: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> The last date to apply for a new postal vote is 5pm on Wednesday 19 June. This is also the deadline for those wishing to apply for a postal-proxy vote, and for those wishing to make changes to an existing postal or proxy vote.

The deadline for submitting an application for a new proxy vote (when someone votes on your behalf) is 5pm on Wednesday 26 June. Postal and proxy votes can be arranged online here:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../apply-postal-vote-or...>

Anyone voting in person on Thursday 4 July will also need to present a valid form of photo ID. People are urged to check the list of acceptable forms of photo ID now to ensure they can vote. Those without an acceptable form of ID have until 5pm on Wednesday, 26 June to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. More information about the General Election can be found on the elections pages of the West Northamptonshire Council website: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services>

The start of the pre-election period starts on 25 May 2024.

### Crackdown on Blue Badge Misuse

West Northants Council's Counter Fraud team in collaboration with Northants Police and NSL Parking



Enforcement, took part in the national campaign for the second year running which targeted the misuse of the Blue Badge scheme. The aims of the initiative were to crack down on individuals in our community who abuse the Blue Badge system, ensuring it remains accessible for those who genuinely need it. The Blue Badge scheme plays a vital role in supporting residents with disabilities or mobility issues to access essential services in our town centres.

On Friday, 24 May West Northants council joined 115 other councils nationwide, to tackle Blue Badge misuse head-on. Our team checked 80 Blue Badges throughout the day looking for counterfeits, lost or stolen badges. We will continue to carry out regular routine checks throughout the year in order to try and reduce the levels of misuse taking place. For further information on the Blue Badge scheme and its guidelines, please visit the West Northamptonshire Council website.

## RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

### RSN 2024 seminar programme

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

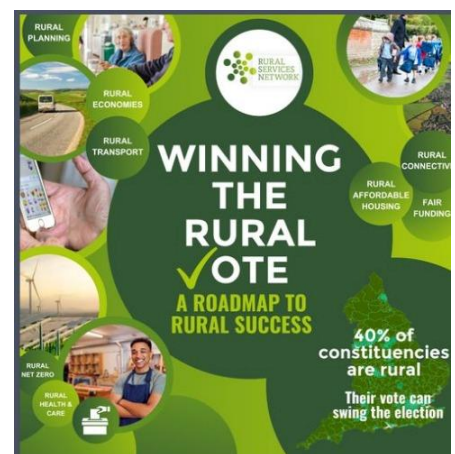
### RSN Launches Efforts to Secure Fairer Funding

On 22 May 2024, The Rural Services Network (RSN) acknowledged the Prime Minister's announcement of a general election to be held on 4 July 2024 by launching their 'Winning the Rural Vote' campaign. With 40% of constituencies classified as rural, their influence is undeniable, and their needs must be met to secure the prosperity of the nation as a whole.

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-services-network-responds...>

Key Points of the Winning the Rural Vote Campaign:

- **Fair Funding for Public Services:**  
Urban residents receive 36% more in government-funded spending power per head compared to rural residents. Rural voters pay, on average, 20% more per head in Council Tax due to lower government grants to rural councils.
- **Support for Rural Economies:**  
The rural economy encompasses over half a million businesses, 90% of which are micro or small businesses. There is a need for tailored support programmes that reflect the diverse nature of the rural economy, beyond agriculture and tourism.
- **Accessible and Quality Healthcare:**  
Rural residents face longer wait times for ambulances and have fewer healthcare resources. There is an urgent need for better public and mental health services, especially given the higher proportion of elderly residents in rural areas.
- **Affordable Housing:**  
High housing costs and the lack of affordable rental options hinder the ability of rural residents to live and work in their communities. Policies must address the specific housing needs of rural areas to ensure sustainable community growth.
- **Improved Transport and Connectivity:**  
Rural public transport services are infrequent, and digital connectivity lags behind urban areas. Investing in transport and digital infrastructure is essential to reduce social isolation and open economic opportunities.



## 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**

## HOUSING

### Banning Order Against Landlord for 3 Years

West Northamptonshire Council has obtained a Banning Order against a landlord preventing him from letting houses in England for 3 years. A First Tier Tribunal granted the Order against Stephen Cunningham



of Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire, in May 2024, following a 3-year investigation which included convictions for 21 offences under the Housing Act 2004 as well as a fine of £115,181. Cunningham was found guilty of offences including failure to licence properties as houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and failure to maintain standards of safety in accordance with the Management Regulations.

In progressing the case, WNC issued an Emergency Prohibition Order regarding a collapsed floor in one of the rented properties; undertook Emergency

Remedial Action due to the lack of fire detection and alarm systems; and prohibited the use of a room that was being used as sleeping accommodation but had planning approval for a bin or bike store. As a result of the convictions in the Magistrates Court, the Council applied for a Banning Order which will remain in place from 17 June 2024 to 16 May 2027.

During the sentencing, which took place on Thursday 20 April 2023 at Northampton Magistrates Court, the District Judge remarked that the tenants were vulnerable and had a reasonable expectation that the

landlord would provide a safe home, and in this case, nothing would have been done to improve their living conditions without the intervention of the Council.

## 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-net-zero-grant-carbon-footprint.html>

Grant amount is subject to panel decision. Eligible projects will be invited to complete a full application. Projects must be approved before spending, with all expenses claimed by February 28, 2025.

### Climate Change Summit

Plans are under way to deliver a climate change summit in the autumn which seeks to provide businesses and residents across West Northamptonshire with the tools they need to reduce their carbon footprint. Representatives from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), Climate Action-West Northants (CA-WN), Northampton Town Council and parish councils across the area have joined forces to work in collaboration to consider how they can provide people with the tools they need to meet the target of becoming net zero in West Northamptonshire by 2045.



Sustainability is high on the agenda for WNC with work already underway to make West Northants a sustainable place to live. WNC has committed to:

- Achieve Net Zero on all council operations by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants
- Ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the UN SDGs

As part of these ambitious targets, WNC is working in collaboration with Northampton Town Council to host a summit which will provide residents and businesses with tangible tools to help them to become more sustainable in their day to day lives.

Plans are being developed for the content for the summit, and more information will be shared on WNC's website and social media channels soon.

## 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.

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 on the LAP website. 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 28 May 2024 at 1.00pm and the next meeting is due to take place on 18th of June at 1.00pm.

### **Dementia Support**

17 robopets have been allocated. We will do an evaluation about how it has been useful for carers and get feedback. An elderly lady about the age of 90 had been given one of the cats and she loved it. She was not just stroking the cat, she started to talk to the cat, and she then became dexterous again in her fingers and her hands and she has now started to feed herself again.

The Integrated Care Board in Milton Keynes have been given £1million to test out robopets on a bigger scale. We have been told to wait for that study to finish to get clinical evidence. We will continue with what we are doing and hopefully get businesses interested in some investment to be able to buy more and give more. We know that there is a waiting time between people with dementia that are referred to the medical clinic for the assessment. The wait is six months, and we are trying to identify things that can be available in the community for people that might have dementia and help and support them before they get to the medical assessment. Full assessment helps to unlock funding from areas.

### **Men's Wellbeing Group**

They now have their slab; the shed is on the way. Mental health is a priority for everybody. This links with veterans' group and repair cafes.



### Repair Café@Renew 169 Towcester

Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together). Visitors bring their broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job.

### Youth Enterprise Scheme

Funding has been agreed for 90 students from 3 schools to take part in the event. The aim is to grow workplace skills, confidence, finance, presenting, problem solving. They will be given a project or business to set up and produce or manufacture something then they will present it to a panel of people and funding will be made available.

### Welcoming Spaces

This LAP still has the most welcoming spaces. Across the West we have 105 altogether. The LAP leads have been getting new community organisations on board. We've got 19 in the Rural East and funded 14 of those welcoming spaces. Since then, we have had 182 referrals when it started in December 2022 and over 8,235 total attendances in those 14 welcoming spaces. They were referred on to organisations such as housing, money & debt, the highest being mental health and the second highest being the employment support service. We've got a timetable in place now in Towcester library. Comms is currently doing a flyer. We now have employment support and an adult social care team on a monthly basis, NHFT talking therapies are starting in May. Once it has been finalised, we will get promotions out to help promote the communities that are there. Adult social care drop-in sessions are going to be available, and transport will be arranged to Towcester library. It is a pilot, and it needs to be tested on how frequently people will use it. There will be drop-in sessions at Brackley Library as well. We'll try to arrange transport from Brackley to Towcester.

### Social Isolation

We need to make the action for happiness reach far and wide. We are trying to engage with people and change behaviours around mindfulness using the tools that are on the action for happiness. How we can get our volunteers and people that work in businesses to be trained on it, downloading the app etc. The evidence base is huge. We will encourage people to use it, promoting it and getting champions and communities, giving the cards out. There is the wellbeing aspect of people being well and there is the physical side which is the active lives that individual LAPs will have.

### Family Hub

There was a network event for service providers and there will be a rollout of family hubs across communities. One will be located around Central Library and the museum in Northampton. The Family Hub will be in the Forum in Towcester.

We are considering whether there can be some mini hubs that might be able to provide some services within the larger villages. Beforehand we will need to see the services that work and where the gaps are. It is important that we keep an eye on what the family hub implements, we understand who is accessing it and we are getting data to ensure that we know what the usage is.

### LAP Website

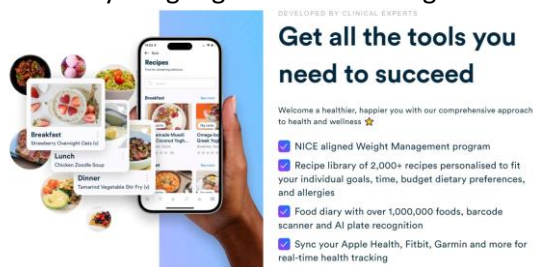
The website is live. It was launched on the 9th of April. It is in soft launch mode for 90 days. We are working on phase 2 now to make it more interactive and get a search function. It has been seen by people



and the main feedback is that they like it because it is very local and simple. It has local photos on it and local things to go to. We need to update the photos, so any photos the LAP members have of the area can be sent to Rachael Byrne. It will be uploaded on the LAP website. There are 3 local news stories, 3 local case studies and each of the LAP project leads are tasked with having three news stories every month to keep the website updated and fresh. The news page is on the 3rd page of the website, you will see the news from all the LAPs. So, 27 different pieces of news. Every month they are new and different so we can know what is going on in other areas as well as our own. Julie Curtis is working with our DTI colleagues.

## Gro Health

Eligible residents can access a new service which provides personalised support to help people achieve their healthy weight goals. WNC is delighted to announce Gro Health as the new provider for residents to



access a free, weight management service. The 12-week weight management programme, with additional support for 12 months, offers either digital or in-person services. Making the new service as easy to access as possible, eligible residents can access this support directly via the website:

<https://grohealth.com/west-northants> or through a referral from their healthcare professional. Details on

eligibility can be found on the website.

## Community Connect

The launch of SNVB's new welfare and wellbeing project Community Connect is a project specifically focused on rural communities and will offer a range of services for the benefit of the most isolated and vulnerable people in our rural areas. In 2023/2024, our experienced Welfare Team has had a remarkable impact in the communities in which they were active:

- 351 Household Support Fund supermarket vouchers issued
- 197 Refugee families supported (including SIM cards)
- 68 Debt advice
- 327 Support with successful benefits claims
- 9 Homelessness signposting and support
- 32 Domestic violence signposting and support

In order to reach as many West Northants residents as possible, we will be running the project both as a mobile service (via our Rural Information Centre vehicle) and as a pop up service through our presence at Welcoming Spaces, community cafes and other open groups. Focused on improving the quality of life of West Northants residents, we will be specifically targeting rural communities and those who often find welfare and wellbeing support hard to access, whether due to lack of public transport, health and/or mobility issues, or a lack of awareness of local services.



We will be supporting people by acting as a 'Solutions Hub' for the following:

- Energy advice or energy saving tips.
- Access to affordable food or food support, whether that is either referrals to Food banks or signposting to Community Food Larders.

- Help in making a return to work, whether through upskilling, free online training, or finding relevant volunteering opportunities to build confidence and CV content
- Opportunities to discuss caring roles and dispensations available to carers such as Powers of Attorney, Deputyship, Carer's Allowance, and the Blue Badge scheme
- Wellbeing and self-care advice Full benefits checks and support for Universal Credit, Council Tax advice, and other Government provisions.

We are keen to work hand in hand with other services to enable us all to reach the people in the most need. To that end, if you would like join us on the mobile service, we would be delighted to open the doors to those hard to reach communities which could benefit from your projects. Come and join us! We are excited to showcase this vital initiative so please contact us via the email address below and we look forward to meeting you soon.

[communityconnect@snyb.org.uk](mailto:communityconnect@snyb.org.uk)

## 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.

## 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

**Councillor Stephen Clarke**  
**Member for Hackleton and Grange Park**  
**West Northamptonshire Council**  
[stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk)

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>

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.



### Grant Funding Available for West Northants Voluntary and Community Sector

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) organisations who deliver important services in West Northamptonshire can now apply for grants of up to £15,000 to help West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) deliver its strategic aims and objectives. This round of the Discretionary Community Funding Grants follows last year's successful round which saw £323,374 awarded to 33 local VCSE organisations. Interest in



the grant scheme is high therefore organisations are encouraged to check the eligibility criteria and submit an application ahead of the deadline.

The grant scheme is open to local registered charities, not-for-profit and VCSE organisations that operate, or are prepared to operate, within the geographical area of West Northamptonshire.

Eligible applicants must address an identified local need, and support, enable or facilitate the achievement of one or more of the

Council's strategic aims, objectives or priorities. Details of these strategic aims, objectives or priorities can be found in WNC's:

- Corporate Plan <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/corporate-plan>
- Anti-Poverty Strategy <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../tackling-poverty...>
- Integrated Care Northamptonshire 'Live Your Best Life' ambitions Strategy 2023-33 <https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/.../integrated.../>
- Community Safety Partnership Plan <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/west-northamptonshire...>
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2023-2028 <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../health-and-wellbeing...>

Applications for this round of funding should be submitted no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 26 June 2024. Interested VCSE organisations can find out more and view the evaluation criteria on the WNC website and in the Council's Community Funding Grants Framework. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../community-funding...>

For an application form and guidance please email [communitygrants@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@westnorthants.gov.uk).

## **New Scheme to Help People Get into Work**

Our council has launched a new grant scheme which aims to support residents to develop their learning and skills and help them get into work. The Skills for Communities grant scheme is open to community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations that operate, or are prepared to operate, in the West Northamptonshire area. Funding must be used to provide support to residents aged 16+ who are no longer in full-time education and who would like to develop existing or learn new skills.



Local voluntary and community organisations including registered charities, community interest companies and social enterprises are invited to apply for the grants of between £10,000 and £300,000.

Funded using £500,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), a central part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, this grant funding will be available over the 2024/25

financial year and will be awarded to organisations who address an identified local need by supporting people to enter the world of work, including voluntary work.

Examples of how the grant can be used include:

- 1) delivering training towards qualifications or building life skills
- 2) improving communication skills and social skills
- 3) increasing confidence, work experience, coaching or other support
- 4) supporting literacy and digital skills

The Skills for Communities grant scheme compliments the councils existing Multiply programme which is already delivering numeracy skills to local people. The grants cannot be used to fund activity already supported through other funding streams such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

For more information email [economy@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:economy@westnorthants.gov.uk)

The guidance document and application forms will then be sent to you electronically. The deadline for submitting completed applications is 5pm on Friday, 24 May 2024.

## **WNC Arts & Culture Grants Scheme**

Grants of up to £5,000, are available for arts and culture projects or services that address an identified local need and support, enable or facilitate the achievement of one or more of the Council's strategic aims, objectives or priorities. The funding is available for new or existing projects and is open to all Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, however priority for funding will be given to those who work with:

- Young people aged 0-16
- Care leavers
- Carers
- Foster carers or adopters
- Older people
- People with disabilities
- People with mental health issues
- People from diverse communities



Applications for this round of funding should be submitted before 5pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024.

For an application form and guidance please email [communitygrants@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@westnorthants.gov.uk)

## Grant Scheme for Community Organisations

Several grant schemes are now available for local registered charities, not-for-profit and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE) organisations, or who are prepared to operate within the area, to apply for funding to support vulnerable households most in need with the cost of living. Using funds from the fifth tranche of the Household Support Fund for West Northants, £ 583,216.77 has been allocated for grant funding to support those in financial hardship, with funding being available until the end of September 2024.

To ensure funding can support as many residents as needed, three grant schemes are available for organisations to apply for. These include:

- 1) £200,000 available for projects or services supporting the Food Aid Network
- 2) £100,000 available for projects or services supporting identified vulnerable cohorts such as disabled people, care leavers, pensioners and those with caring responsibilities.
- 3) £283,216.77 available for projects or services supporting vulnerable households struggling to afford household and wider essentials.

All applications must demonstrate they can offer services that cater for immediate needs as well as providing support that has a long-term sustainable impact.

Closing date for this funding is 5pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024.

Further information and the full criteria for applications can be found on the WNC website

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

and in the Council's Community Funding Grants Framework. More information on the Household Support Fund (HSF) can be found on our Website. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../household-support-fund>



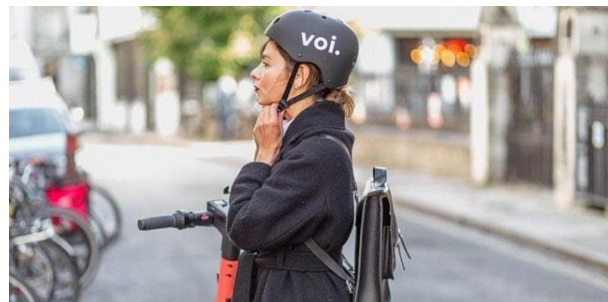
## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

### New Safety Features for Northampton's E-Scooter Scheme

New safety proposals for the Voi e-scooter trial in Northampton were agreed by West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Cabinet at their meeting on Tuesday 7 May 2024. The recommendations which will be rolled out across the town include:

1. Speed controls and restricted areas to be reviewed
2. That new and emerging technology is assessed and a timescale set for implementation in regard to eliminating twin riding & pavement riding
3. E-scooter safety is reviewed improving visibility at night
4. An improved complaints and feedback procedure

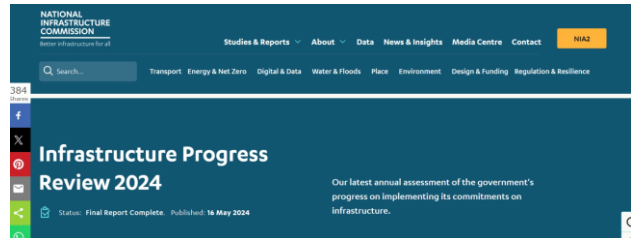
In January this year, WNC's Place Overview and Scrutiny considered feedback from a public survey which sought to find out how people use the scheme and their views on its operation. The Department for Transport (DfT) has extended the trial period for the scheme by a further two years until 2026. WNC has agreed to extend the scheme in Northampton in line with the national two-year extension.



WNC will now work with VOI and the police to roll out these recommendations and continue to review the delivery of the scheme to ensure the safety of road users, riders and pedestrians.

## NIC Infrastructure Progress Review 2024

On 19 May 2024, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) released its latest annual assessment of the government's progress on implementing infrastructure plans. The report states that local government needs increased, stable funding in areas such as flooding, transport, recycling and Net Zero. One of the key recommendations was to provide all Local Transport Authorities the same five-year funding settlements which are awarded to mayoral combined authorities, providing them with the ability to plan for the long term, and align strategies with housing, skills and economic development.



## Electric Scooter Users Warned Over Illegal Misuse

An operation is due to begin in Daventry to educate and warn electric scooter users around safety and illegal misuse following a rise in e-scooters in the area. Electric scooters are subject to the same restrictions as motorcycles and other mechanically propelled vehicles and legally can only be ridden on private land with the permission of the landowner.



Exceptions include Council and Government approved hire schemes, such as Voi in Northampton, but by law any privately owned scooter ridden in a public place must be registered with the DVLA, insured and roadworthy. The rider must also hold a driving licence entitling them to ride that category of vehicle. The law around electric scooter use and policing them is the same for motorcycles and any other mechanically propelled vehicle.

- Riders can be prosecuted for riding them without insurance, without an MOT, and otherwise in accordance with a licence on a public road, or in a public place.
- Not being DVLA registered can lead to prosecution.
- Police have powers to have e-scooters seized at the scene for no insurance under Section 165a of the Road Traffic Act.
- Police can also seize e-scooters under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act if it is suspected that a particular vehicle is being used in an anti-social manner or causing alarm harassment or annoyance to members of the public at that particular time, or any other time.

Between now and mid-June 2024, scooter users in Daventry will be stopped and spoken to about the illegal use of scooters, with 2 targeted enforcement days a month carried out by the Neighbourhood Policing Team. E-scooters will be seized either for no insurance or for riders being underage. When there is failure to stop, intel will be gathered, and information will be shared with schools and parents.

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Avoid Investment Scams

Investments are a favourite trick used by fraudsters to steal your money ... either funds you've put aside 'for a rainy day' or life savings to be used



for a dream holiday or your retirement. Between 2020 and the end of 2023, nearly 100,000 people in the UK fell victim to investment scams, totalling £2.6 billion or £13 million every week. These figures refer only to reported scams, so are likely to be considerably higher.

To learn how to invest wisely and avoid being a victim in this way read the latest tips and advice from Get Safe Online in the link below :

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/investments/>

Finally, Get Safe Online has this week launched a new 'Self Help Tool Centre' - nine free, easy-to-use tools to help keep you and your family safe, secure and confident when using the internet. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/selfhelpcentre/>

### **WNC Taxi Marshal Service**

West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) taxi marshal service will be extending its offering to cover additional busy weekends and continue keeping people safe on nights out in Northampton. As well as the usual weekends that coincide with most people's pay days, the service will cover extra dates expected to be busy during special events and holidays, including A Perfect Day Festival, Northampton Pride and Ibiza fest.

The service, which launched in December to help people travel more safely during peak Night Time Economy (NTE) periods, sees marshals positioned at the taxi rank on Mercer's Row in Northampton between 11pm and 5am on Friday and Saturday nights during pay weekends, bank holiday weekends and other busy periods.



The marshals are responsible for making sure lone females, vulnerable people and those accompanied by children are safely supervised when using taxis as well as addressing any conflicts arising on the taxi rank and reporting any incidents to the Licensing Authority and Northamptonshire Police.

The pilot scheme will run until September 2025 with the possibility to extend and has been funded using Safer Streets 5 funding led by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) and delivered by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC).

## **CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT**

### **Celebrate D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Armed Forces Week**

As we approach the significant milestone of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, we would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for the D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration event on Thursday, 6 June 2024, at 9 am, outside Sessions House in Northampton. The event will start with a flag-raising ceremony, followed by poignant words from one of our Deputy Lieutenants. Following the ceremony, we invite you to join us for refreshments at Judge's Lodgings, where we can reflect on the significance of this day together. During Armed Forces Week we invite you to join us at one of our flag-raising ceremonies across





the area. This will be held on Monday, 24 June 2024 at 10 AM at the following locations:

- The Forum, Towcester,
- The Abbey, Daventry
- Sessions House, Northampton

Each event will start with the opening remarks of a Deputy-Lieutenant, followed by a speech from the Chairman or a designated representative. After the ceremony, we will gather for refreshments at:

- Committee Room at the Forum
- Abbey Room 2F3 at the Abbey
- Judge's Lodgings, Northampton

To honour Armed Forces Week, we are offering complimentary tours of County Hall to members of the Armed Forces Community. Tours will be held on:

- Monday, 24 June 2024, at 4 pm
- Wednesday, 26 June 2024, at 4 pm

To secure your spot for one of the County Hall Tours, please RSVP by emailing [Covenant.NCC@Westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NCC@Westnorthants.gov.uk) Please note, places are limited to 25 per tour.

### 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 or call 01604 230033.

### The King Appoints Amy Crawford as High Sheriff

Amy Crawford's appointment as the 13th Lady High Sheriff marks a significant milestone in Northamptonshire's history. With a lineage dating back over 1000 years, the role of High Sheriff is the oldest secular royal appointment in the UK. The High Sheriff is supporting the judiciary, police, and emergency services, and now, in the 21st century, to extend that support to the voluntary sector.

As a longstanding member of the Northamptonshire community, Amy has played a key role as a magistrate, volunteering her time and expertise within the justice system. Through her work, she has contributed significantly to local initiatives aimed at supporting young offenders, leaving a lasting impact that resonates on a national level.

As Amy steps into her new role, she carries with her

the legacy of over 700 High Sheriffs who have shaped the course of Northamptonshire's history. From witnessing historic events to championing causes close to their hearts, each High Sheriff has left an indelible mark on the county's history.



### Four Athletes named as part of Paralympics GB Squad

Moulton Leisure Centre is set to stage a celebration event after four athletes from Northampton Swimming Club were named as part of ParalympicsGB's squad for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Attending the Paralympic Games this summer will be multiple Paralympic, world, European and Commonwealth champion Maisie Summers-Newton, European medallist Eliza Humphrey, world medallist Scarlett Humphrey and European medallist Bruce Dee. A celebration event will be held at Moulton Leisure Centre on Saturday, 15 June from 9.15am-9.45am.



### Abington Park Museum Historic Transport Day 2024

Historic Transport Day is a free to attend event, for all the family. On display in the park will be a range of vintage and modern vehicles including Volkswagen, Daimler, Porche and vintage motorcycles from all decades. There will be commercial trucks and vans, the Country Lion 1971 Bedford bus as well as firm favourite the Heinkel Kabine bubble car. The local fire service fire engine and Neighbourhood Policing teams will also put in an appearance.



Inside the museum will be the Bassett-Lowke Gauge One model railway in action, stalls, and children's activities. Northampton Transport Heritage will return this year with rides around the local area on the heritage buses.

Free event – donations welcome, suitable for all the family. Hot and cold refreshments will be available to buy from transport related stalls-Small charge for children's activities

Saturday 15 June 2024, 11am to 4pm.

### Northants Sings Out Semi Finalists

Northants Sings Out will take to the stage and screen on Thursday 30 May 2024, ready to dazzle judges Simon Cowell, Bruno Tonioli, Alesha Dixon, and Amanda Holden with their collective vocals and harmonies, along with performances from soloists.

Following their performance, the judges will give their feedback and viewers will be asked to back their favourite act of the programme, by voting at [www.itv.com/vote/bgt](http://www.itv.com/vote/bgt)

