

MONTHLY NEWS REPORT JULY 2024



E-Newsletter Issue 07/2024
Pat Terry, Sheila Underwood and
Cllr Stephen Clarke
Choosing the Winning Entries
At the Children's D-Day Poster Competition
6 June 2024

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NEWS REPORT JULY 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 Public consultation has now closed and WNC will proceed to final design, pricing and scheduling. Once we reach scheduling, we will be able to inform you of an estimated installation date.

Work has been completed in Ashton Road, Hartwell. However, outstanding works are to be undertaken in Amberley Road and Blacksmiths Way to Swyncombe Green. I have arranged a meeting at the Brixworth Depot with Paul McGrath, Sam Simons and Amy Holt, Clerk Hartwell Parish Council on 8th July 2024 at 10.00 am to determine the remaining works schedule.

On 19 June 2024, I gave you an update on the meeting with Martin Jenkins, Assistant Delivery Manager, Kier on site in Lodge Road, Little Houghton to consider what options might be available to improve the surface of the road. Following the site visit, Martin raised a number of works instructions to address a number of issues. On 28 June 2024, I visited Lodge Road with Martin and another engineer to carry out the detailed measurements for the subsequent works to be carried out. I still understand that the area in Lodge Road running the length of one side from approx. No 5 to the turning head will be priced up for surfacing and subsequent approval to have this completed within the Summer School break this year.

On 7 June 2024, I met with Sam Simons and Geoffrey Gill, Clerk Yardley Hastings Parish Council on site to investigate a list of drainage issues. The first section of drainage we looked at (outside Pudding parlour and flowing through several gullies into the Brook), has a confirmed collapse in the pipe. There is a small scheme planned to replace the pipe. Some work has been done to address the surface water run off down Church Lane. The maintenance team have cleaned out the Aco channel and are confident it still works. The site manager thinks the Aco channel needs to be extended and potentially another gully added. He's working on a scheme with the sub-contractor. The next issue we investigated was the flooding on the A428, the maintenance team will be clearing the gullies and potentially putting a camera down to ensure they are free of blockages, roots and collapses. I will keep you updated as things progress.

Part of Denton Road will be closed between 7-9 August 2024 to allow Anglian Water to undertake works to the main.

Help WNC Commission good quality Supported Living for those who are 18 years old or over with certain care and support needs and have a physical disability, learning disability, autism or mental health problems. Please complete this survey before midnight on Sunday 7 July 2024.

The Stage Two Community Governance Review consultation will run until Sunday, 28 July. See my Monthly Report.

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. Don't forget that anyone voting in person on Thursday will also need to present a valid form of photo ID.

Adult Social Care will be at Welcoming Spaces, Towcester Library on 9 July 2024 from 10am – 12pm, no appointment is needed.

From 1 October, new requirements for all bird keepers who keep their poultry outdoors - regardless of the size of their flock – will come in which will require anyone who owns captive birds or poultry must officially register their birds. The new rules cover owners of backyard flocks, birds of prey and pigeon fanciers, but do not affect caged pet birds (excluding any poultry species) kept entirely inside a domestic dwelling, such as a parrot, canary or budgie, which never leaves the property other than to visit a vet or another short-term period.

WNC is in the process of developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area. The Strategy will identify where the best places are to recover nature and deliver wider environmental benefits in the authority area.

WNC has appointed Melanie Barnett as its new Director of Children's Services. Melanie is currently the Director for the All-age Disability Service at Worcestershire Children First, the organisation which provides children's services countywide for the local authority. Her current role as Worcestershire County Council's lead for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities means she will bring with her a proven track record towards delivering and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Come along to Towcester Library on 10th July (1pm - 3pm) & get free help to find your dream job in West Northants.

On 11 June 2024, Cabinet recommended to Full Council an increase in the capital programme of £10 million additional funding/borrowing to deliver additional Highways Maintenance.

Hundreds of thousands of people are set to visit West Northants for the British F1 GP at Silverstone from Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 July.

The Northampton Balloon Festival takes place at Northampton Racecourse on Friday 16 to Sunday 18 August 2024.

Franklin's Gardens stadium has been announced as a venue for one of England's matches during the pool phase of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 tournament. It will host a Red Roses match during the 10th edition of the women's rugby event taking place across six weekends from 22 August to 27 September next year.

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.

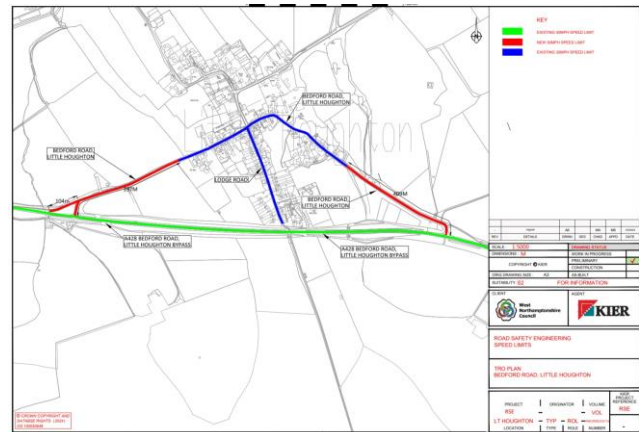
I hope that you enjoy this edition of my Monthly Report. Don't forget you can follow me on www.facebook.com/stephen.clarke.31924

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 proceed to final design, pricing and scheduling. Once we reach scheduling, we will be able to inform you of an estimated



installation date.

Update on Drainage Issues in Hartwell

On 19 June 2024, I finally received an update on the repairs needed to address the drainage issues in Hartwell.

There are no further actions required to the mainline which has been the cause of the flooding. The recent works in Hartwell have been taking place on Ashton Road, as through previous investigation works it was found that the water was coming from Ashton Road and overwhelming the drainage system in Amberley Road and Blacksmiths Way.



Works that have been completed here are:

- Nov 23 – Ashton Road – Outfall cleared of all debris and fully operational on completion of works
- April 24 - Ashton Road – Pipe across road installed and connected to 3 gullies
- April 24 - Ashton Road – Headwall installed by the allotments
- April 24 – Ashton Road - Catchpit installed to allow for excess water highway water to be temporarily held within the catchpit at times of heavy rainfall and allow it to drain away through a natural process over a period of time so as not to overwhelm the drainage system.

Outstanding works to be undertaken as general maintenance and betterment are:

- Amberley Road Replacement of 2 or 3 gully gratings to allow water to flow directly into the gully pot as the water is currently being diverted due to the style of grate have been completed:
- Amberley Road Hartwell Asset number 460130486 – completed 22/05/24
- Amberley Road Hartwell Asset number 460130485 – completed 22/05/24
- Amberley Road Hartwell Asset Number 460130484 – completed 21/05/24

Limescale removal Amberley Road on to Blacksmiths way, no plans to replace the pipework in this area, we now need to manage the spring water now that it is a known problem.

- Works still to be programmed

Blacksmiths Way to Swyncombe Green, a small section of damaged pipe to be repaired

- Works still to be programmed

I have arranged a meeting with Paul McGrath, Sam Simons and Amy Holt at the Brixworth Depot on 8 July at 10.00am.

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.



Denton D Day Commemoration 6 June 2024

On 6 June 2024, I was fortunate enough to attend the Denton D Day Commemoration at St Margaret's Church, Denton. It was the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings and the 'Crafty Sew and Sews Group' had worked hard to set up a wonderful D Day exhibition with lots of memorabilia from 6 June



1944. There were medals, papers, uniforms, photographs, flags, war time recipes, examples of war rations, home-made cakes and much more. Tea, scones and wartime recipe cakes were served from 3pm.

At about 4pm, I spent my time looking at all of the lovely posters which had been created by YR5 students from Denton and Yardley Hastings Primary Schools. Sheila Underwood and Pat Terry had asked me to judge the winners which was a real privilege. There were 19 entries, and it was very difficult to choose from all of them. The top three winning entries were going to get a prize and all those who participated were to receive 2oz of sweets which was the weekly ration during war time! If you

missed the wonderful display, then you could visit it when the Church was open 3pm-7pm on Friday and Saturday 7/8 June 2024. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to bring this event together. Congratulations to all who took part in the Poster Competition and in particular to the prize-winners.

It was a heartfelt exhibition with many personal stories from those who live in Denton. You couldn't fail to be touched by all of the memories. Indeed, "We will remember them. We will always remember them."

Yardley Hastings Site Visit 7 June 2024

I organised a site visit in Yardley Hastings with Sam Simons, WNC Service Manager, Commissioning & Contracts, Leon Jolly, Kier, Senior Operations Manager and Geoffrey Gill, Clerk, Yardley Hastings Parish Council on 7 June 2024. The purpose of this visit was to start to work on a number of longstanding issues that have been raised directly with Highways. With the Engineers on site, we were able to discuss how best to resolve matters. There are a number of longstanding problems with flooding and blocked drains across West Northamptonshire. Despite reporting the incidents on numerous occasions via Fix My Street, many

remain unresolved. Clearly surface water is not soaking away adequately, and we need to investigate a more permanent solution.

Traditionally the design of drainage systems has been to remove rainwater as quickly as possible from where it falls. Surface water is predominantly directed into public (highway and public surface water) sewers. In rural areas it also involves directing surface water into ditches in the open countryside. The expansion of impermeable surfaces increases the surface water flows in sewers, and climate change is likely to exacerbate this problem. This increases the risk of systems overloading in sustained rainfall events. By transferring water rapidly away from where it falls there is also the possibility of a receiving watercourse being overwhelmed and causing flooding. Traditional sewer systems were not designed with sustainability in mind, and most were not designed to take into account the scale of surface water being generated today.



Many of the problems on Fix My Street are not because a particular drain doesn't function its very likely to be a series of problems elsewhere in the network. In summary surface water problems are not easy to resolve but they can be solved if the problem is properly analysed and a plan is made to carry out all of the repairs needed.

For our site visit, we met outside the Pudding Parlour, which was a good place to start as it was immediately adjacent to the first gully which had recurring issues over the years. We then walked to the other gully in Castle Ashby Road which also had recurring issues. We followed the line of the High Street and Castle Ashby Road which both run parallel to the Grendon Brook, and there were a number of features relating to highway drainage which Geoff was able to comment on at various points on our journey.

Since our visit, I have heard that:

- The first section of drainage we looked at (outside Pudding parlour and flowing through several gullies into the Brook), has a confirmed collapse in the pipe. There is a small scheme planned to replace the pipe.
- Some work has been done to address the surface water run off down Church Lane. The maintenance team have cleaned out the Aco channel and are confident it still works. The site manager thinks the Aco channel needs to be extended and potentially another gully added. He's working on a scheme with the sub-contractor.
- The next issue we investigated was the flooding on the A428, the maintenance team will be clearing the gullies and potentially putting a camera down to ensure they are free of blockages, roots and collapses.

I will keep you updated as things progress.

Green Machine Coffee Carey, Hackleton 7 June 2024

On 7 June 2024, we went along to the Green Machine, mobile zero-waste refill service van, which was situated outside Coffee@Carey, Baptist Church, Hackleton. It gave us the opportunity to top up with dried foods and cleaning/toiletry products without the packaging waste. This was a great initiative organised by Roy Hawkesford and the Hackleton Wildlife, Environment and Biodiversity (WEB) Group.



You can find out more about them on:

<https://www.hackletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wildlife...>

And the Green Machine on:

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

Poetry in Quinton 7 June 2024

During the evening of 7 June 2024, we joined others in the Old Rectory Garden, a quiet haven surrounding the 18th century English rectory adjacent to the church in Quinton. This three-acre garden was redesigned and recreated over 2014-2015 into a truly special 21st century garden open to the public for events and open days. You cannot fail to be impressed by the wealth of scent and colour no matter what the season. But this was a special moment as Martin Johns launched his Twelve Poems about the Old Rectory Garden, Quinton "A journey through the seasons." As dusk descended on a cool evening in June, we heard how Martin had become a Poet in Residence and how over the course of the last year he had been inspired to write poems about the Garden. The Twelve Poems covered an entire year and all seasons. What a lovely way to spend a Friday evening early Summer 2024. Profits from standalone workshops and events are always shared with relevant charities. Over the past 12 months, they've been able to support charities including Beyond the Streets, Advantage Africa, War Child and Peace Direct.



Jennie Lee Mikron Theatre Great Houghton 11 June 2024

On 11 June 2024, I watched Mikron Theatre perform 'Jennie Lee' at Great Houghton Village Hall. You may not know the history of Jennie Lee but in 1929, she left her coal-mining family in Scotland to become



Westminster's youngest MP. She was just 24 years old, so young that, as a woman, she couldn't even vote for herself. However, Jennie Lee, who married Aneurin Bevan earned her own greatness. She was Britain's first arts minister and established the Open University and the Arts Council, as well as backing the building of the National Theatre itself.

I first saw Mikron Theatre Company perform in 1978. They were formed in 1972 and 2024 marks their 52nd year. They tour on their narrowboat, Tyseley, in the summer and by road in spring and autumn, to every conceivable type of venue, reaching audiences that other companies cannot. So it was fitting that they

chose to perform a play about Jennie Lee who established the Open University in 1969 in order to change the world, giving anyone, anywhere the power to learn. It was established by the Royal Charter and globally recognised. The Open University has pioneered distance learning for over 50 years, delivering exceptional teaching and outstanding support to students across the UK and the world.

Cogenhoe Community Support Desk 13 June 2024

On Thursday 13 June 2024, I went to Cogenhoe & Village Hall for the Parish Help Desk. Deborah was handing out lots of prescriptions this week and after she finished, we caught up on recent and future events.

I heard about the Community Outing on Monday 29 July 2024 to Chester House. There will be a short talk on the works which are taking place and a tour of the exhibition. This will be followed by



Afternoon Tea at Grendon Hall. The coach will leave the village at 10.45am and return at approximately 3.45pm. The Cost is £22 per person with a £10 deposit by 28 June 2024. Please contact the Clerk to book, 07512 045418 Email clerk@cogenhoeandwhiston-pc.gov.uk

There is a new 'Tea Tots and Chatter' group at Comunita Café on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 11.15am until 12.30pm. It started on 12 June 2024.

The next Beat Bus visit is 17 July 2024 from 8.30-9.30am.

Don't miss the next Community Lunch Club, which is on 1 July 2024 when there will be a talk from Silvertime Services. They will cover essential topics such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney and managing care fees.

Great Houghton Coffee Morning 14 June 2024

On Friday 14 June 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 an OPEN GARDEN in Great Houghton (see below) on 22-23 June 2024 from 11am to 4pm. Admission will be free, but they would appreciate donations, the monies from which will be divided, and go directly to three charities:

- AA
- The Samaritans
- MIND



Additionally, it will be possible to purchase raffle tickets on the day for a prize draw to take place on the Sunday afternoon. They had a marvellous response from local organisations to donate the prizes; they included:

- Frosts at Woburn Sands
- Beckworth Emporium, Sywell
- Cramden Nursery, Kingsthorpe
- Haddenstone Ltd., East Haddon
- Tesco Extra, Mereway

The next meeting of this friendly and welcoming group in Great Houghton will be 12 July 2024, when I look forward to catching up with everyone again.

Strawberry Cream Tea Yardley Hastings 16 June 2024



If you are interested in Neighbours scheme, 01604 696382
debs.yh62@gmail.com

We enjoyed a Summer Cream Tea on Sunday 16th June from 2-5.30pm at Yardley Hastings Memorial Hall. It was in support of the wonderful Good Neighbours who help many in the village to get to appointments and carry out tasks for them. It was great to catch up with Susan, Fiona and others whilst we enjoyed some delicious scones with strawberries and cream.

finding out more about Yardley Hastings Good then please contact the Co-ordinator, Debbie Smith,

Little Houghton Open Gardens 15-16 June 2024

We visited Little Houghton, Open Gardens on 15 & 16 June 2024. We hadn't intended to go on both days, but it's been a weekend of two halves. We had lots of rain throughout Saturday and at one stage it was torrential rain. So, we dashed into the church to enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea and avoid the awful weather. Then just as we emerged from the Church to go across to the Village Hall to collect our maps it



started to rain again. However, we used that time to look at the exhibits and make purchases in the Village Hall. By contrast, we had a lovely sunny afternoon on Sunday which meant that we could visit the Open Gardens at our leisure.

In Little Houghton we saw walled gardens, cottage borders and a historic estate. In some gardens the planting created a sense of peace with shrubs and flowers tumbling over each other, a calm space for whiling away the hours under a tree or a canopy.

A visit to a number of beautiful gardens with green-fingered friends has become a great British weekend tradition. This weekend will have provided creative

inspiration for many visitors, it will have involved tea and cakes and a trip to the plant stall.

Thank you to everyone who opened their gardens and made so many budding gardeners welcome. A special thank you to the organisers of the Afternoon Tea and the stalls in the Village Hall and for the ice cream and fizz at Stone Court which was most welcome.

Coffee@Carey, Hackleton 19 June 2024

On Wednesday, 19 June 2024, I spent some time with Mike, Roy, Sheila, Wendy, Bob, Tyrone and others at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton. This week they had some beautiful scarves and bags from Zuche Boutique on display. Two WNC Customer Service Advisors were at Coffee@Carey today and if you wanted to apply for a blue badge, a grant to allow for disabled adaptations to your home or had a question about council tax, highways or environmental health, then you could have raised them today. Well done to Hackleton Parish Council for making the necessary arrangements and a special thank you to Sheila and Tyrone for manning the outreach desk.



Site Visit to Lodge Road, Little Houghton 19 June 2024



On 19 June 2024, we met with Martin Jenkins, Assistant Delivery Manager, Kier in Lodge Road, Little Houghton to consider what options might be available to improve the surface of the road.

Two residents of Lodge Road, Thomas Winkler and Jack Sumaray had submitted e-petitions on 16/17 March 2024, which closed on 17 April 2024 for WNC to prioritise the 'allocation of budget and resources for the resurfacing of Lodge Road, Little Houghton'.

On 15 March 2024, I was alerted to the problems with the ongoing road maintenance of Lodge Road, Little Houghton. However, when I visited later that day to inspect the condition of the road, and spoke to a resident, who confirmed that the potholes were proving to be difficult for motorists, I was able to support the need for the resurfacing of Lodge Road rather than pot-hole repairs so I escalated this matter to Highways for their consideration.

This road was not included in the Annual Plan for surfacing, but operationally WNC does have a small budget to undertake extensive patching during the course of the financial year, to undertake works on areas that have failed or continue to fail. Therefore, I suggested a site visit for us to understand the best way forward and address the concern of residents and users of this section of road, which provides essential access to the Little Houghton Primary School.

Following the site visit yesterday, Martin Jenkins, has raised the following works instructions to address some of the issues as follows:

- Repair Rocking Kerbs o/s 48 Job Number 487123
- Thermal repair areas in Lodge Close Job Number 487128, to be completed in school holiday period
- Roadmender c/way fretting o/s 61 Lodge Road Job Number 487124 to be completed in school holiday period
- Roadmender c/way fretting around the junctions Bedford Road and Lodge Road Job Number 487125 to be completed in school holiday period.

The area in Lodge Road running the length of one side from approx. No 5 to the turning head will be priced up for surfacing and subsequent approval to have this completed within the Summer School break this year.

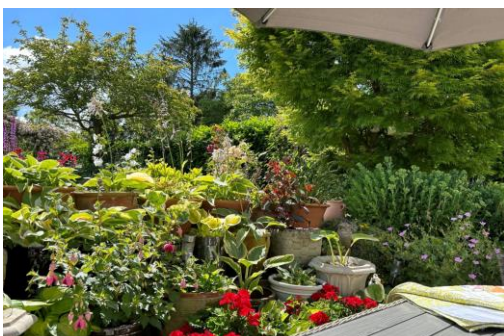
Little Houghton Parish Lunch 20 June 2024

On 20 June 2024, I attended the Little Houghton Parish Lunch that takes place at St Mary's Church from 12-2pm on the third Thursday each month. I enjoyed delicious food and great company in a welcoming environment. The Little Houghton Community Lunch caters to the needs of the village, helping you stay connected and social. The food is prepared and served by dedicated volunteers who care about your wellbeing.

If you would like to come along and make new friends, share your stories, and have a good time with other people in your local community then contact Joy Mayhew on 01604 890498. A special thank you to all those who make the lunch and the short service possible. The next lunch is 18 July 2024 and then on 19 September 2024 as they don't meet during August.



Great Houghton Open Garden 22 & 23 June 2024



On 22 June 2024 we joined others at Peggy and Bill's Open Garden in Great Houghton. They were raising funds for three charities: AA, The Samaritans and MIND. Unlike last weekend the weather was glorious, and like us their roses and hostas basked in the sunshine as we wandered around their garden in Great Houghton. Roses and hostas are beautiful additions to any garden, but they have different growing conditions that lead people to ask, can you plant hostas with roses?

Well, you can plant hostas with roses in the same garden. The key is to find roses that do well with less sunlight and hostas

that can tolerate a bit more sunshine than others. Once you've found the perfect mix, you can grow them side by side as was the case in the beautiful garden we saw yesterday. As we visited each of the little nooks and crannies, we were entertained by the various notices providing a description of each location. Thank you to Peggy and Bill for opening their garden to others. Your warm welcome, participation and hard work keeping the gardens beautiful throughout the year gave so much pleasure to those who visited yesterday. We hope you had a fabulous weekend.

Cogenhoe Fete in Aid of Cystic Fibrosis Trust 22 June 2024

Some time ago, Barbara and her granddaughter had told me about their plans to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Trust. They were planning a Fete in Cogenhoe, which took place at the Village Hall on Saturday 22 June 2024. As I arrived, I could hear the sound of excited children in the hall. They had a number of stalls and a bouncy castle as well as homemade cakes and refreshments. Based on the noise and excitement, everyone was having a great time and fund raising for a wonderful cause at the same time. Well done to those who worked so hard to organise this event.



There are more than 10,500 people living with cystic fibrosis (CF) in the UK, and each week four people are diagnosed with the condition. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust supports people affected by CF and their helpline is available on 0300 373 1000 and helpline@cysticfibrosis.org.uk.

Denton Surgery Patients Group (DSPG) Talk about Alexa

On 25 June 2024 at 10.30am-12.00pm, Denton Surgery Patients Group (DSPG) met at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton. It is one of their fortnightly meetings, and they had Connect4Healthcare and WNC talking about the benefits of voice assistants like Alexa to combat social isolation and loneliness.

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. If you are interested in finding out more about the group and its meetings at Coffee@Carey then you can e-mail Sue Hayton: coordinator@dspg.me or telephone 07506 866298.

Clare Weller - Connect4Healthcare and Richard Beards -WNC, will be attending Coffee@Carey 25th June. 10.30 - 12.00pm

To introduce the benefits of voice assistants like ALEXA to combat social isolation and loneliness. It will certainly be an interesting talk.

A previous study has shown the following.

Loneliness and Isolation:

- Older people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation.
- Factors contributing to this include aging, loss of family or friends, retirement, and health issues.
- Loneliness can lead to depression and negatively impact physical health.



Previous Study Participants and Voice Assistants:

- Study participants were contacted more regularly by volunteers, which likely influenced their feelings of isolation.
- The voice assistant (like ALEXA) played a promising role in combating loneliness by providing access to information and entertainment.

Positive Impact:

- Despite potential confounding factors, the study results showed statistically significant improvements over time.
- A digital companion like ALEXA can help older people feel connected and alive.

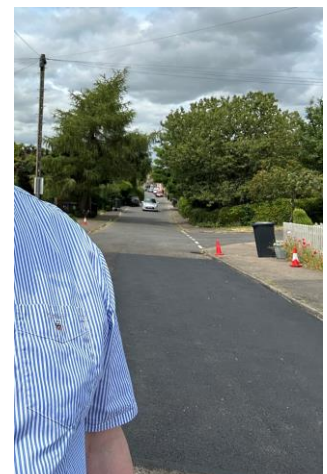
PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US



Site Visit to Lodge Road, Little Houghton 28 June 2024

On 19 June 2024, I gave you an update on the meeting with Martin Jenkins, Assistant Delivery Manager, Kier on site in Lodge Road, Little Houghton to consider what options might be available to improve the surface of the road. Following the site visit, Martin raised a number of works instructions to address some of the issues as follows:

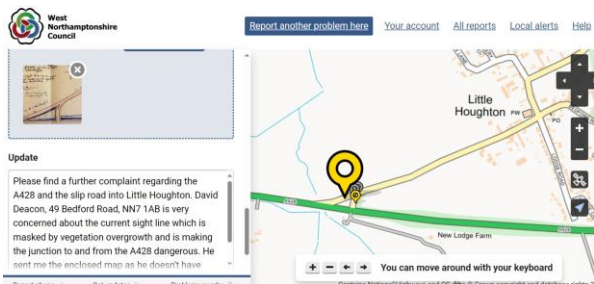
- Repair Rocking Kerbs o/s 48 Job Number 487123
- Thermal repair areas in Lodge Close Job Number 487128, to be completed in school holiday period
- Roadmender c/way fretting o/s 61 Lodge Road Job Number 487124 to be completed in school holiday period



- Roadmender c/way fretting around the junctions Bedford Road and Lodge Road Job Number 487125 to be completed in school holiday period.

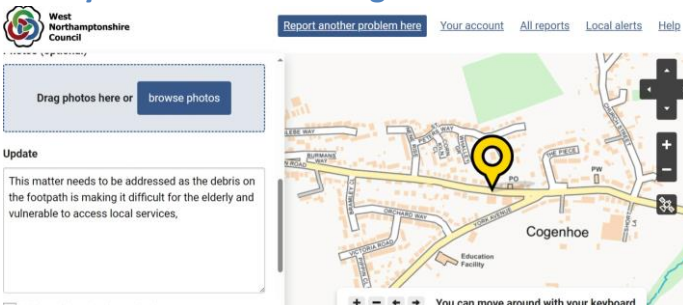
On 28 June 2024, I visited Lodge Road with Martin and another engineer to carry out the detailed measurements for the subsequent works to be carried out. I still understand that the area in Lodge Road running the length of one side from approx. No 5 to the turning head will be priced up for surfacing and subsequent approval to have this completed within the Summer School break this year. We made good progress at each of the site visits, but we will need to remain focussed on this project if we are to achieve the results needed. In the meantime, thank you to all who have played a part in getting us to this stage.

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

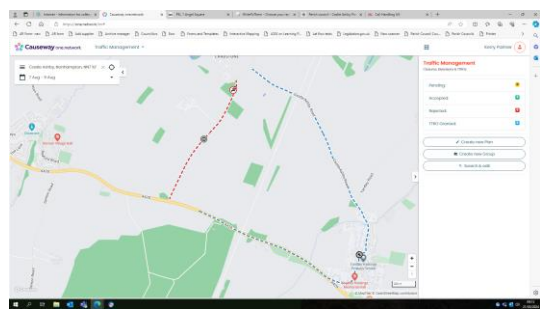


This matter needs to be addressed as the debris on the footpath is making it difficult for the elderly and vulnerable to access local services,

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

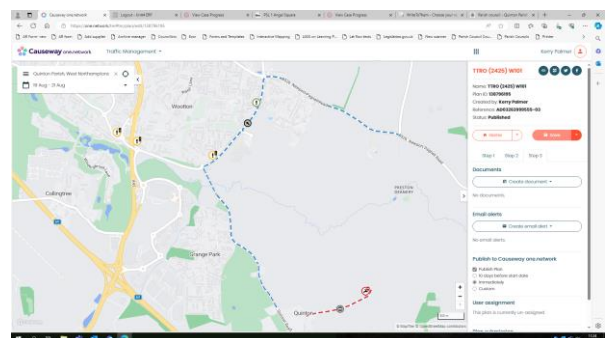
Denton Road Closure 7-9 August 2024



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



TTRO(24/25) W172 Park Road, Hartwell

National Grid are intending on carrying out an upgrade to service along a section of the above road. To undertake this work safely will require that the road will be closed for up to 3 days and it is expected that

the works will commence on the 29th July 2024. This closure is dependent on approval being obtained by National Grid from Milton Keynes to use their network.

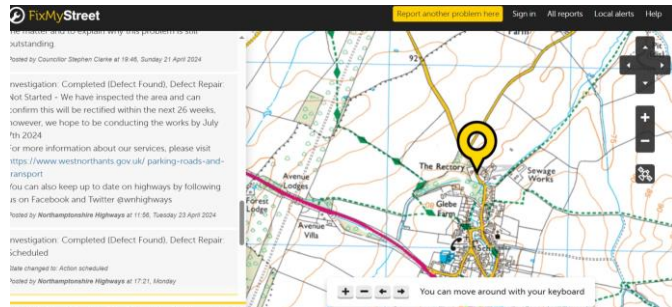
The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=139329330>

If you require more information about the works please contact

Gary Thorp

Tel: 01604 651072 | 07815 426844 |

www.westnorthants.gov.uk



Yardley Hastings, Outside Old Rectory

The works were scheduled yesterday and are to be delivered by 7 July 2024. 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.

Help WNC Commission Good quality Supported Living

Do you or a family member receive help through health or social care funded supported living? If yes, then



we want to hear from you. Who is it for? Supported living is suitable for those who are 18 years old or over with certain care and support needs and have a physical disability, learning disability, autism or mental health problems. Please complete this survey before midnight on Sunday 7 July 2024.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/supported-living-framework/>

Community Governance Review Stage Two

The Stage Two consultation will run until Sunday, 28 July. See Monthly Report, Regulatory Services.

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...>

Year End Results within its £383.5m Revenue Budget

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has completed its latest financial year on budget, despite facing ongoing financial pressures and increased demand for services. Provisional year-end figures for 2023/24 show the Council managed to deliver services within its £383.5m revenue budget, the money it spends on the day-to-day running of services, with an underspend of £220,000.



In the past 12 months WNC also continued its strong commitment towards making services more efficient whilst protecting and maintaining them for residents, by achieving its savings target of £32m. Cumulatively over the past 3 years £90m of savings have been released, despite making no cuts to services and work continues into 2024-25 to further modernise and use technology to improve services and productivity.

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

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 was published on Tuesday 4 June, and potential candidates had until 4pm on Friday, 7 June to submit their nomination papers and pay their deposit. Anyone who was not yet registered to vote needed to do so by Tuesday, 18 June in order to take part in this election. You needed to register to vote on: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> The last date to apply for a new postal vote was 5pm on Wednesday 19 June. This was 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) was 5pm on Wednesday 26 June. Postal and proxy votes could 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 started on 25 May 2024.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

RSN 2024 seminar programme

- 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.

Adult Social Care at Towcester Library

Adult Social Care will be at Towcester Library and The Welcoming Spaces please see links below:-
From 10am – 12pm and you do not need an appointment.

- 09/07/2024
- 13/08/2024
- 10/09/2024
- 08/10/2024
- 12/11/2024
- 10/12/2024

For further information on Adult Social Care, Towcester Library and The Welcoming Spaces please see links below:-

- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and...>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/list.../towcester-library>
- <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost.../welcoming-spaces>

What's on at your Welcoming Space at Towcester Library
The Forum, Moat Lane, NN12 6AD
Open: Monday-Friday, 9am to 6pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm

Timetable of activities

Chatter and Natter
Every Thursday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Look for the yellow 'Chatter & Natter' table signs each Thursday afternoon and drop in for a chat. For more information contact Nikki Hambley on 01933 216 7000 or email Towcester.Library@westnorthants.gov.uk

Employment support
Every second Wednesday of the month, from 1-3pm
Free help from our Employment Support Service, and a range of partners, including support with job searching, CVs, training, money advice and more.

Help with your wellbeing
Every second Tuesday of the month, from 10am-midday
Members of West Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care team are on hand to help you connect with your community, and access resources so you can achieve a positive sense of wellbeing.

Talking Therapies
Every third Monday of the month, from 10am-midday
Are you feeling lethargic, unmotivated, or just not your usual self? West Northamptonshire Talking Therapies support people who may be feeling stressed, low or anxious, to help them get back on track.

About our Welcoming Spaces
Welcoming Spaces are run by local people from the voluntary, community and faith sectors across West Northamptonshire.
Reservations are offered a week in advance for people to receive and access services lacking social isolation and cost of living challenges.
Non-judgemental and safe, all guests are treated equally, with dignity and respect.

West Northamptonshire Council | COST YOUTH | #welcomingspacesWN

Rural Concerns about Royal Mail



ACRE, Plunkett UK, and the Rural Services Network (RSN) have jointly signed an open letter addressing significant concerns regarding Royal Mail. The letter is directed to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, emphasising the importance of postal and related services for rural communities. Here is the full text of the letter:

The Rt Honourable Kemi Badenoch
Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building, Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2DY
United Kingdom
See full text of the letter attached.



Following the General Election, we look forward to your Department working with Royal Mail, the PCA, CMA, the Post Office and Ofcom to 'rural proof' the way in which the collection of services are provided to rural communities to ensure both to avoid 'circuit' access and credit-rate businesses to thrive throughout the UK. Our three organisations stand ready to work with the Department in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely
Caroline Mackinnon
Chief Executive, ACRE
Kerry Booth
Chief Executive, Rural Services Network
James Atcock
Chief Executive, Plunkett UK

CC:
Jonathan Reynolds, Labour Party
Sarah Overy, Liberal Democrat Party
Nolly Scott-Capps, Green Party
Mehdi Ruffin, Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority
Sarah Campbell, Chief Executive of the Competition and Markets Authority
Diana Helena Henrietta Davies, Chief Executive of Ofcom

Scottish Rural Action
Northern Ireland Rural Community Network
PLANED - Wales
National Council of Voluntary Organisations

Contacts:
k.booth@acres.org.uk
Chris.Campbell@plunkett.co.uk
kerry.booth@rsn.acre.gov.uk

Registered Charity No. 1051108 - RSP No. 01722000 - Companies Limited by Guarantee (224165)

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**
- APP/W2845/W/23/3327830 Hall Farm, Main Street, East Haddon, West Northamptonshire NN6 8BU. Appeal **Allowed**

HOUSING

Housing Allocation Scheme

On 1 April 2024, a new housing allocation scheme came into place across West Northamptonshire replacing the 3 legacy schemes which operated in the Daventry, South Northamptonshire and Northampton areas. The new scheme sets out who is eligible to be considered for social housing within West Northamptonshire, how their housing needs will be assessed, and what priority their application will be given. It also determines how West Northamptonshire's housing register will work and how social housing will be allocated across the West Northamptonshire area to make our housing provision fairer, clearer and more consistent. Alongside implementing the new scheme we are transferring to a new computer system and online portal which will provide improved services for residents and applicants. As we move to the new system, we will be getting in touch with all existing applicants as part of a phased process, to invite you to re-apply to the new housing allocation scheme using the new online portal. If you wish to be on the housing register, you must apply or re-apply, even if you were previously verified and had a live application before 19 February 2024. It is important to make sure you do re-apply; if you don't, your application will be automatically deleted. Teams working in locality hubs are on hand to support and guide you through the application process.

Housing portal - high volume of traffic

We are currently experiencing a high volume of traffic to our housing portal.

Once your application and supporting documentation is submitted, we will review your application and contact you if we need any further information.

We aim to complete the assessment within 33 working days, however this can take longer when demand is high. Please do not call us to chase on the progress of your application as this may delay the process further.

Once you have reapplied there will be a period where you will not be able to bid for properties. This will enable all applicants time to re-apply and will ensure nobody is unfairly disadvantaged during the bidding process. You may also wish to view a copy of the new scheme for further details about the changes. If you are a new applicant and wish to join the West Northamptonshire housing allocations scheme, you will have the opportunity to apply using the new online portal as part of a phased process. Please keep an eye on this website <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/finding-home/housing-register>

How to contact us if you need support

If you have an urgent housing need during this time, support is still available.

Please contact our Housing Team on [0300 126 7000](tel:03001267000) who will be able to help.

If you are in an emergency housing situation or become homeless at any time, please contact our Homelessness Team <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/housing-advice-and-support/homelessness> by calling [0300 126 7000](tel:03001267000) or, visit our offices in Northampton, Daventry or Towcester between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/communicating-us/visiting-us>

ENVIRONMENT

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.



Bird Keepers Urged to Register their Flock

West Northamptonshire Trading Standards Team are urging everyone who keeps poultry or captive birds to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Currently, anyone who keeps 50 or more birds it is compulsory to register their flock, however, those with fewer birds can voluntarily register. From 1



October, new requirements for all bird keepers who keep their poultry outdoors - regardless of the size of their flock – will come in which will require any who owns captive birds or poultry must officially register their birds. The new rules cover owners of backyard flocks, birds of prey and pigeon fanciers, but do not affect caged pet birds (excluding any poultry species) kept entirely inside a domestic dwelling, such as a parrot, canary or budgie, which never leaves the property other than to visit a vet or another short-term period.

By registering their birds, keepers will ensure they receive important updates relevant to them, such as on any local avian disease outbreaks and information on

biosecurity rules to help protect their flocks. This will help to manage potential disease outbreaks, such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease, and limit any spread. It also enables them to keep up to date with the latest national and regional guidance.

For all the latest information in relation to the spread of Avian Flu and information on how you can help to protect your birds please see this guidance on Avian influenza (bird flu).
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Keepers can register their bird and poultry at Poultry and other captive birds: registration rules and forms - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
<https://www.gov.uk/.../poultry-including-game-birds...>

Net Zero West Northants

Net Zero West Northants is a programme specifically tailored to help small and medium-sized businesses in West Northamptonshire make the transition to Net Zero. This scheme can help your business in multiple ways, saving you money, boosting your energy efficiency, and calculating your emissions.



Once Ngage solutions advisers have helped you understand your carbon footprint, you may be eligible to apply for a match-funded grant of between £1,000 - £20,000 to cover 50% of the costs of an energy-saving project. Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the

programme is delivered by Ngage Solutions on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council. Learn more about how to apply by visiting the Net Zero West Northants webpage where you can express your interest.

<https://www.ngagesolutions.co.uk/west-northamptonshire...>

Discounted Liners to Boost Food Waste Recycling

Discounted food caddy liners are available from council-run libraries across West Northamptonshire as part of a drive to encourage food waste recycling.



People can buy a roll of 30 bags for just £1 - significantly cheaper than in supermarkets or from online retailers. The liners are sized for the kitchen caddies, making them easy to use. But we are also reminding people that when it comes to using the food waste recycling service - virtually any bag will do!

Food waste from West Northamptonshire is currently taken to an anaerobic digester facility at either Cassington in Oxfordshire or Coleshill near Birmingham. The food is then broken down by bacteria, as it would be in our stomachs - producing fertiliser and methane gas which is burned to generate electricity. Any bags are removed as part of this recycling process, so people can use any old plastic bag to line their caddy, so long as its not black. Newspaper can also be used as a liner.

You can find out more about our kerbside food waste recycling service on our website

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../what-goes.../food-waste>

Heat Health Alert as Urgent Weather Warning Issued

A Yellow Heat-Health Alert was issued across the East Midlands on Monday, 24 June 2024 by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Met Office. After a very warm and dry weekend, the hot weather was expected to continue across West Northants until Thursday with temperatures predicted to reach the high 20Cs.

The warmer weather poses a much greater risk to the most vulnerable in our community, such as the very young and older people. Residents are advised to remain cautious and seek advice from 111 if non-emergency health advice is required. 999 services should be used in emergencies only.



The top ways for staying safe in the heat are to:

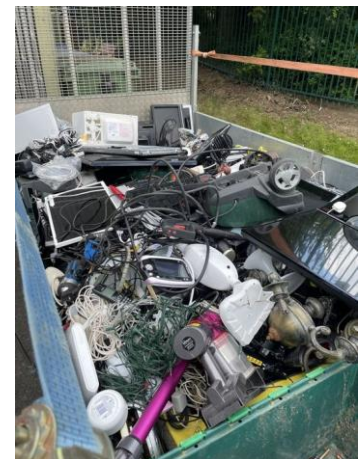
- Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated; older people, those with underlying conditions and those who live alone are particularly at risk.
- Close curtains on rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler and remember it may be cooler outdoors than indoors.
- Use cool spaces if going outdoors.
- Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol.
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children, vulnerable adults, or animals.
- Try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm, when the UV rays are strongest.
- If you have to go outside in the heat, walk in the shade, apply sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Avoid physical exertion during the hottest parts of the day.
- Make sure you take water with you if you are travelling.

Stay up to date with by visiting our hot weather web pages.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../keeping-cool-hot...>

Community Event Boosts Recycling

More than half a tonne of electrical items were collected at a community recycling event organised by Helmdon Parish Council. The event earlier this month offered residents an opportunity to recycle any old electrical items they had lurking in drawers, cupboard and garages. And parish residents certainly seized on the opportunity for a clear-out, bringing in a range of items from vacuum cleaners to TVs, mobile phones and old remote controls. Around 600kg of items were collected in a trailer supplied by Helmdon-based waste management firm Dial A Bin, <https://www.dialabin.co.uk/> and each resident was handed some free electrical recycling bags and a pasta measuring cup provided by WNC's Waste Reduction and Recycling Team.



Parish and town councils can also support efforts to recycle electrical items by helping to promote our kerbside service. The service allows people to recycle used household batteries and small electrical or battery-powered items like kettles, toasters and toys that can fit into a standard size carrier bag.

The arrangements are slightly different depending on where in West Northamptonshire you are:

- 1) Former Daventry area: place them on top of your general waste bin
- 2) Former Northampton area: place them on top of your recycling bin
- 3) Former South Northants area: place them on top of either your general waste or recycling bin

Electrical items do not need to be bagged, but household batteries should be placed inside a small clear bag. More information about the service can be found on our small electrical or battery-powered items

recycling page <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../small-electrical-or...> Larger electrical items can be taken to any of our Household Waste and Recycling Centres for recycling. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/household-waste...>

New Strategy for Nature Recovery

WNC is in the process of developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area. This is one of many tools coming out of The Environment Bill 2021 to deliver the government's Environment



Improvement Plan (EIP). The Strategy will identify where the best places are to recover nature and deliver wider environmental benefits in the authority area. It will guide and focus funding on these areas through other EIP tools such as Biodiversity Net Gain and government grants.

Since March, Nene Rivers Trust has been working on our behalf to engage stakeholders including landowners and the public.

From mid-July onwards, now that the evidence and mapping data has been compiled, and the priorities and potential measures have been collected from stakeholders, the strategy will start taking shape. Following approval from Natural England and the Council ELT, a draft strategy will be due for public consultation in mid-October for a 6-week period. For more information visit the Local Nature Recovery Strategy website

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../local-nature...>
or contact nature@westnorthamptonshire.gov.uk

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 18 June 2024 at 1.00pm and the next meeting is due to take place on 30 July at 1.00pm.

Family Hub

The consultation closed at the end of April. They have started to analyse the responses and they will be building the learning into their development plans. There was a soft launch of the website at the beginning of May, further testing and development of the website is over the next 6 weeks.

Dementia Support

This is the area that we have been working on because of the level of older people in our LAP. There is a man called Pete Middleton who has been linking up, he is five years into a dementia diagnosis but he's amazing. He is a pro activity speaker; he has been conversing with a lot of the dementia groups around the villages that are looking to set up and he wants to find out how they can run it and what they can do differently.

Robopets

We are involved in the merged futures event on the 14th of June and the presentation to the ICB. Rachael Byrne will present to Northampton General Hospital. The various case studies are coming back, the impact the robopets are having on people's lives is impressive. We've got a lady who was having to be hoisted up now walking, feeding herself and communicating, this was not happening before and now it is because she has had something to focus on. She has been brushing the cat, gotten improved dexterity in her hands which has enabled her to feed herself and stand up. Because she has been talking to the cat all the time, she has added communication skills. The other case studies are also coming in. We have allocated some to the Group in Cogenhoe, the Forget me not group.

Feedback suggests that robopets have an impact on non-dementia patients as well, as they help to de-stress patients. There is a dog version, a Labrador and a Spaniel. We've got some of the dogs out in a care home in Brackley.

Youth provision

We have funding from a youth provider for schools to take part in entrepreneurial project. Sponne and Elizabeth Woodville have agreed to participate. We will firm up with the youth enterprise people. They are looking to take a whole year out and spend a day on this project which will be teaching them basic business skills and entrepreneurial skills, to give them something else to focus on other than their academic studies. It would be things like basic profit and loss, 60 seconds elevator pitch. They will choose a business, work out how to do a business plan and ask for funding from a panel. One of our priorities in the LAP is provision for children in the rural areas, as they get older, we'll give them new projects to think about.

Children's MH and Parents

There is an initiative focussed on improving mental health in young people. This includes the GPs, VCSE sector, public health, and the LAP to address the growing amount of mental health referrals. There is a project that is underway with Northampton Saints and Public Health and it's in its early stage. They are looking to develop a program that takes children off the CAMHS referral list. It will be purely for children on the CAMHS referral list. We are coproducing a youth service directory with SNYE. It will be like a calendar of events so that every day, we will see at a glance what is going on in each area. We have had input from the churches and all the parish councils within the LAP.

Welcoming Spaces

There are 101 welcoming spaces. As part of the wrap around support development in our welcoming spaces, we have the new drop-in sessions from adult social care at Towcester library. We have arranged for the Ability Bus to come and take day trips from Brackley to Towcester. We are still working on different routes. Emma Parry and Rachael Byrne are looking into it to get more Ability Buses out to the rural villages. SNVB have come up with a new initiative to address social isolation which is the Community Connect project. Rachel Page updated the LAP about the project. SNVB launched its Community Connect project in April. The project utilises the use of rural information centre which is also available to hire. The ambition of the project is to make access to affordable food and food support easier. It will assist people in making a return to work, there will also be energy saving tips. Discuss caring issues and relevant support that is widely available. Also, important wellbeing and self-care advice. It is available at various locations throughout West Northamptonshire. It is best to check the SNVB website or the Community Connect Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Volunteers

Kevin Hewitson from Denton Surgery Patient Group spoke to the LAP on 18 June 2024. The patient group is part of a small rural practice covering 35 square miles and 6000 patients. It faces the usual challenges that a rural location faces in terms of communication, transport, infrastructure, etc. Kevin Hewitson responded to a request from the surgery when they pointed out that some patients were not able to make appointments at the surgery or hospital.

After 12 months of researching about setting up a voluntary patient transport scheme which has been called the VPTS, they now offer patients the transport scheme which will take them to and from their homes to any medical appointments. The needs go way beyond getting patient to and from the practice. One thing that became evident very quickly was the struggle to get patients out of the car after bringing them home. Sometimes it takes 20 minutes, because that might be the only time they see someone to speak to. Sue (Denton Surgery Patient Group) worked with the local church in Hackleton. They now have a wellbeing coffee morning which is once every fortnight and it is responding to that need. It is also presented with opportunities to find out further needs from the community and try to meet them. This is a voluntary organisation that relies on the voluntary efforts of so many people to meet local needs. They have been successful in approaching West Northants for a small grant to assist in the launch of a

recruitment campaign. Sue (Denton Surgery Patient Group) updated the LAP about the lack of bus routes and transport and social isolation. Sue came up with an idea and spoke to the social prescriber at the surgery about it and she agreed. A venue at Coffee@Carey, Hackleton was found, however they need to identify other locations as well. They need to have things in different villages at different times. The possibilities are endless for events, but the support of volunteers is needed. On average, they do five runs a day to the GPs or hospitals.

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.

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. Anyone with any news to upload on the LAP website should send them through the online form. We need three pieces of news each month or week preferably.

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@solv.org.uk

Cervical Cancer Screening Appointments

Public Health in West Northants is urging those eligible to have their Cervical Cancer Screening to help identify those at risk of developing cervical cancer and to avoid a delay in diagnosis and treatment. This call comes after latest figures show 31% of those eligible in West Northants have yet to have had their cervical screening which is vital in helping to prevent the development of cancer.



With local data showing a percentage of people not taking up a cervical screening test, the local Public Health team is advising residents between the age of 25 to 64, who are eligible for cervical cancer screening to make sure they attend their screening appointment and remain up to date with their screening. If you have not yet had your routine

appointment or have missed your last appointment, please contact your GP to discuss further.

New Wellbeing Service

The Council's Supporting Independence Programme and the Stop Smoking Service have been combined into a new Wellbeing Service.

The new Adult Social Care service aims to:

- Deliver interventions in the community which will prevent or delay declines in people's independence, reducing the need for them to access local health and Adult Social Care services.
- Provide integrated Public Health and Social Care services at Local Area Partnership level, working



out of community hubs.

- Assist in meeting our statutory duties in relation to the Care Act

It is aligned to the existing three conversations model in Adult Social Care

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../adult-care-needs...>

and our 'Live Your Best Life Strategy', <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/.../new-countywide...>

which was developed in partnership with our Integrated Care System partners and launched early last year.

You can find out more about the new Wellbeing Service her

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/health.../wellbeing-service>

Community Catalysts Revolutionise Care through the Care Act

Community Catalysts, led by Pip Cannons and Helen Allen, are revolutionising health and social care in hard-to-reach areas through community micro-enterprises. This ground breaking initiative, highlighted by The Local Government Association, aligns closely with the Care Act's principles, promoting personalised, community-focused care. Their strategic development of these micro-enterprises transforms care delivery, making it more inclusive and responsive to individual needs, particularly in rural and isolated communities.



Since its inception, Community Catalysts has made remarkable strides:

- **Geographic Reach:** The initiative operates in over 75 areas across the UK.
- **Support and Engagement:** They have supported 34,188 people, demonstrating the widespread impact of their work.
- **Economic Contributions:** Created 5,662 jobs and facilitated 3,000 volunteer opportunities, significantly boosting local economies and community engagement.
- **Person-Centred Care:** By fostering micro-enterprises, they provide care options that are deeply personalised and adaptable to individual needs, especially crucial in rural settings.

One of the primary challenges facing community-based care models is the complex regulatory environment. Community Catalysts addresses these hurdles by:

- **Regulatory Guidance:** Assisting micro-enterprises in understanding and complying with necessary regulations, ensuring safety and legal operation.
- **Integration Support:** Facilitating the integration of micro-enterprises with local health and social care systems, ensuring cohesive and comprehensive care delivery.
- **Building Networks:** Establishing connections between micro-enterprises and larger care providers to create a supportive and collaborative ecosystem.

The continued success of community-based care initiatives hinges on several key factors:

- **Leadership and Advocacy:** Strong leadership within health and social care systems to champion and support the growth of community-based care models.
- **Education and Awareness:** Increasing awareness among policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the public about the benefits of micro-enterprises in delivering high-quality, personalised care.
- **Sustainable Funding:** Securing sustainable funding mechanisms to ensure the stability and growth of micro-enterprises, exploring innovative funding models aligned with the Care Act's principles.

<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.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.

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.

Melanie Barnett New Director of Children's Services

West Northamptonshire Council has appointed Melanie Barnett as its new Director of Children's Services. Melanie, who will be taking up the position at WNC in August, is currently the Director for the All-age



Disability Service at Worcestershire Children First, the organisation which provides children's services countywide for the local authority. Her current role as Worcestershire County Council's lead for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities means she will bring with her a proven track record towards delivering and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Initially starting out on her career in children's services nearly 20 years ago as a social worker, Melanie has extensive leadership experience and expertise across all aspects of the sector and a passion for driving changes to transform and improve local area systems, and was a member of the Executive Director team of Worcestershire Children First that achieved a Good overall

Children's Services Ofsted outcome in May last year.

Melanie joins West Northamptonshire as it embarks on the next chapter of its ongoing improvement journey for children's services – with social care outcomes for youngsters continuing to make encouraging progress and receive growing positive feedback from Ofsted and where partners are working more closely together on a fresh strategy to improve outcomes for SEND families across the area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANT FUNDING

Support for Local Business to Innovate

Grants of up to £20,000 are available from the University of Bedfordshire to local businesses as part of a new programme launched by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to deliver business support, growth

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

Funded by £625k of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), a central part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, this project marks a strategic investment in local businesses operating within the West Northamptonshire region. Building upon the successful outcomes of previous partnerships, this venture is poised to deliver tangible results in business innovation and support. All businesses should take advantage of this free support as well as the range of support available on the WNC website all year around. <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/free-business-support>

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

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

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.



ACRE Reopens Grants for Village Hall Improvements

ACRE is pleased to confirm that village hall management committees can apply once again for larger grants to improve their buildings. The fund, which was originally announced to mark the Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee has reopened for new applications.

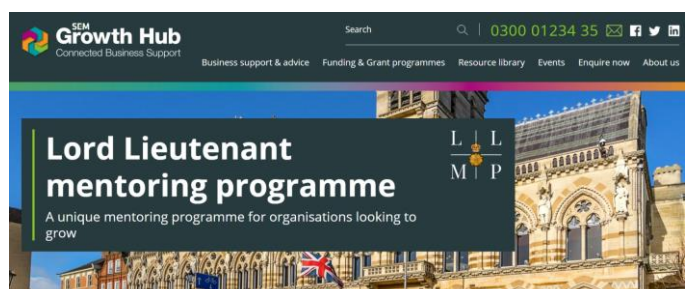


Groups can submit applications for grants of between £7,500 and £75,000 which can be used to cover up to 20% of capital costs associated with renovation and improvement projects. This latest window for new applications is expected to last until government funding has been exhausted. The process is competitive and hall committees must be able to complete the project work by the end of March 2025. Interested groups are strongly encouraged to read information and guidance about the fund available from ACRE's website before applying.

<https://acre.org.uk/main-grants-scheme-for-village-halls/>

Lord Lieutenant Mentoring Programme

Created by James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, the mentoring



programme brings together leaders from the best businesses across the county. The programme is made up of 10 mentors, including Kings Award winners, Non-Executive Directors & CEOs who've volunteered to provide support to businesses. Register your interest here:

<https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/lord-lieutenant.../>

Free Help to Find Local Job

Come along to Towcester Library on 10th July (1pm 3pm) & get free help to find your dream job in West Northants. We will be on hand with Haus of HR, Adult Learning, Key Business Skills, Daventry Volunteer Centre, Prospects & other employment support partners to help you with job searching, CV writing, training, one-to-one guidance & more. No booking required.

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



WNC Job Vacancies

WNC has a variety of fantastic job opportunities across our many sectors, including Senior Auditor, Inclusion Officer, Pensions Admin Assistant, Executive Support Personal Assistant & more.

<https://jobs.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Additional Investment into West Northants Roads

West Northamptonshire Council is set to invest up to £10 million additional investment into schemes aimed at improving roads across West Northamptonshire, subject to Cabinet approval next month.



The investment will enable West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and its highways partner Kier to carry out works such as an extension to the surface dressing programme, the preventative maintenance works, an increased road resurfacing scheme and further surfacing of key paths. It will also be used to fund bridge maintenance schemes and an opportunity to trial an innovative surfacing technique (in-situ recycling) that reuses existing material to reduce both cost and overall carbon emissions leading to more sustainable repairs.

The additional investment will follow on from the £2.8 million investment which WNC made into purchasing new machinery in 2023, which has already made a significant improvement to repairs and increased the efficiency of the road maintenance across the area, while offering value for money.

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments...>

To find out more about the Highways services across West Northamptonshire visit: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/highways or visit @WNHighways on Facebook and Twitter.

Sandy Lane Relief Road Open to Public

The first section of a new relief road which has been created to support the delivery of new housing developments has now opened to the public in Northamptonshire.

The road, which is the first section of the Sandy Lane Relief Road to be opened, has been built to connect residents at the new housing schemes and surrounding residential areas with the existing Sandy Lane road, opened to road users for the first time on Friday 28th June.

While one part of the Sandy Lane Relief Road has now opened to the public, West Northamptonshire Council hope that construction to join up the newly opened road to the southern section of the road will commence soon.



POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Crimestoppers

The current matters of priority for Northamptonshire Police are:

- Violence against women and girls
- Drug harm
- Serious and organised crime
- Serious violence

In order to address these key issues we need the support of our communities.

You can give information to us via replying to this message, or by contacting, the charity Crimestoppers.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Young people in our communities can do the same at Fearless, which is run by Crimestoppers but more suited to secondary school aged children.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless>

PCSO Matt Taylor



12 New Northamptonshire Firefighters

The latest intake of wholtime firefighters for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have completed an intense period of training with their Passing Out parade at the Fire Service College.

The 12 new apprentices had been welcomed to the Service back in April and underwent a two-week induction course in Northamptonshire before attending the College, which is in Moreton-in-Marsh.

They have since been put through a comprehensive eight-week training package that tested them on the new skills they have learned, including how to use breathing apparatus, put out different types of fires and deal with hazardous materials. This culminated in their Passing Out parade on Thursday 6 June 2024, where they were joined by family and friends to celebrate. The 12 firefighters to pass out at the College were Josh



Block, Adam Cator, Lucy Craddock, Tamas Fazekas, Harry Lee-Smith, Ross Lyons, Selina Scott, Thomas Sheppard, Robert Shipman, Mitchell Sloan, Kirsty Smith and Fiona Vaughan.

All 12 will now return to Northamptonshire where they will undergo three weeks further training before being posted to a Watch at one of the stations within the county. They will then continue to develop into competent firefighters over the next two years, following completion of their apprenticeship.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & SPORT

Celebrating Armed Forces Week

In the week leading up to Armed Forces Day Saturday, 29 June 2024, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) organised a series of events aimed at celebrating and supporting the local Armed Forces Community



including veterans, serving personnel, reserve forces, cadets, and their families. To mark Armed Forces week WNC hosted flag-raising events at Sessions House in Northampton, The Abbey in Daventry, and at the Forum in Towcester on Monday, 24 June from 10am. Each event started with the opening remarks of a Deputy-Lieutenant, followed by a speech from the Chairman or a representative.

Members of the Armed Forces Community had access to free guided tours of County Hall. The tours took place on

Monday, 24 June at 4 pm and on Wednesday, 26 June at 4 pm.

Businesses showed their support to the Armed Forces by signing the Covenant, for more information visit the Armed Forces Northants website for more details.

All Set for the Grand Prix Weekend

Hundreds of thousands of people are set to visit West Northants for the British F1 GP at Silverstone from Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 July. The event promises non-stop action,



from heart-thumping races to mind-blowing live music from top acts including Stormzy, Pete Tong, Kings of Leon and Rudimental. As always, Silverstone is working with a range of agencies, including our council and local police, ambulance and fire and rescue services, to create a safe and secure event for both visitors and local communities. Arrangements include traffic management, parking restrictions, extra police patrols, noise monitoring and more. If you live in the area you can find all the information you need on the Silverstone website. Live updates will also be posted on that page throughout the Grand Prix weekend.

<https://www.silverstone.co.uk/.../local-residents...>

Heritage Buses to Showcase 30th Anniversary

Northampton Transport Heritage Buses have been selected to showcase in the national Heritage Open Days gallery to celebrate the festival's 30th anniversary. The online gallery will feature 30 stories from across the UK covering the breadth of Heritage Open Days over the years and detailing the story behind each one to serve as an important record of the event's history.

From 1 July, the public will be able to vote for their favourite entries, with the winning 10 being featured in the final gallery and being awarded a small grant from the National Trust.



The vintage bus service is a popular fixture in West Northamptonshire's Heritage Open Days festival and was selected by the National Trust out of over 100 entries following an entry submitted by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC).

The buses have been taking part in Northamptonshire's Heritage Open Days event since 1994, offering a free hop-on-hop-off service between venues and attractions across the county during the 10-day event, delivered by a great team of volunteers. Over the years, Northampton Transport Heritage has also provided classic buses representing various operators nationwide, including United Counties and on occasion buses from further afield such as London

Transport's ubiquitous Routemaster.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest community led festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Each year the event brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history with stories, traditions and histories all brought to life with free events and activities.

This year's Heritage Open Days event will take place between 6 and 15 September and will utilise the theme Routes, Networks & Connections to bring together the past and present with workshops, talks, hidden spaces, walks and activities for all the family.

West Northamptonshire Council has again been co-ordinating this year's local events programme which, for the first time, includes many offers from attractions across the whole of the county with the aim of making the heritage festival more diverse than ever before. This year's events include a film of Northampton's evolving Market Square, a student showcase of Northampton's rich heritage and fun runners getting into the heritage spirit. More details will be revealed shortly on the WNC website together with details of where and when the heritage buses will be running.

Find out more about the festival and vote for your favourite stories in the 30th anniversary gallery on <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/.../anniversary...>

Remembering Srebrenica

On 11 July 2024 from 10:45-12:30 WNC will be remembering Srebrenica at the Courtyard, the Guildhall, Northampton, followed by refreshments in the Court Room

Every year, Remembering Srebrenica selects a theme that reflects an aspect of the genocide that needs to be commemorated, but also speaks to communities here in the UK. The theme for 2024 is

'I Am Because You Are'.

Our theme for this year will underline the importance of standing up against those who try to divide us and standing up for each other against hatred, discrimination, harassment or prejudice. It will also help empower everyone in our communities to understand the importance of interconnectedness to help build a safer, stronger, and more cohesive society for all.



Talks at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

Look out for the Thursday mornings talks in July at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

Thursday 4 July 10.30am - 12pm

Sulgrave Manor & The Washington Family

Speaker - Martin Sirot-Smith

Book Tickets

<https://login.brevo.com/?target=https://editor.brevo.com/editor/newsletters/219>

Thursday 18 July 10.30am - 12pm

Mata Hari - Spy or Scapegoat

In 1917 Mata Hari was executed by the French as a German spy. Though she professed her innocence the British and French authorities thought otherwise. Who was right?

Speaker - Philomena Liggins

Book tickets

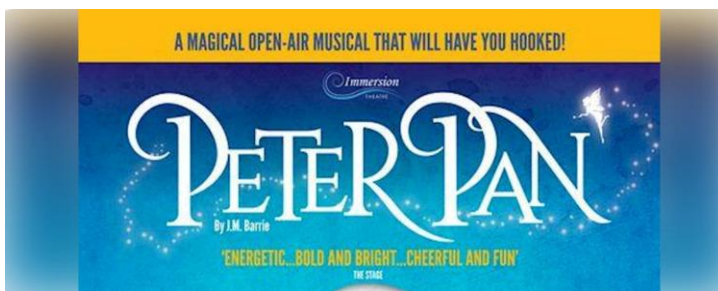
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../thursday-morning-talk...>

Venue: 4-6 Guildhall Road, Northampton, NN1 1DP



Peter Pan Open Air Musical

On Sunday 4 August 2024 at Evenley Wood Garden there is an open air musical of Peter Pan. This fast-paced, larger-than-life production contains all the ingredients Immersion's loyal audiences have come to love and expect, including a laugh out loud script, heaps of audience interaction, a host of catchy songs, unforgettable characters, and maybe even the odd water gun or two! With magic and mayhem throughout, this is one hair-raising adventure the family won't want to miss!



Age suitability: 4+, 5pm, Sunday 4 August

Booking and ticket information <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../peter-pan-tickets...>

Location: Evenley Wood Garden, Evenley, Northamptonshire, NN13 5SH

Northampton Balloon Festival

The Northampton Balloon Festival takes place at Northampton Racecourse on Friday 16 to Sunday 18 August 2024. The annual Northampton Balloon Festival promises to be a spectacular event filled with excitement and fun for the whole family. Experience the breath-taking sight of colourful balloons filling the sky, creating a mesmerising display you won't want to miss.



But that's not all – the festival offers a wide range of attractions to enjoy. Delight in the variety of inflatable attractions, perfect for kids and adults alike. Savour delicious festival food from an array of vendors, offering everything from classic fair treats to gourmet delights. Quench your thirst at the well-stocked bars, providing a selection of refreshing beverages. Birds of prey displays and so much more. A day not to be missed. Open from 12pm to 10.30pm each day. Location: Northampton Racecourse, Northampton, NN2 6JA

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

West Northants Host a Red Roses Match for World Cup

Franklin's Gardens stadium has been announced as a venue for one of England's matches during the pool phase of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 tournament. The 15,000 capacity stadium - home of course to the Premiership champions Northampton Saints - will host a Red Roses match during the 10th edition of the pinnacle women's rugby event taking place across six weekends from 22 August to 27 September next year.



The Red Roses will also play in Brighton and Hove during the pool stage, with the potential to play their quarter-final match in Bristol should they progress. The announcement was made by Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 on Tuesday, with six of the eight host locations including Northampton holding pool matches over three weekends. The full match schedule and kick-off times will be announced in October, when fans will be able to buy tickets for what promises to be the biggest-ever global celebration of women's rugby.

It will be a chance to watch the world's 16 best teams and the biggest stars of the game compete at eight locations across the length and breadth of the country, culminating in a grand finale at Twickenham Stadium. Ticket prices will range from £5 to £95 across the tournament, with over 60 per cent of tickets under £25 and children's prices available at every match. Accessible tickets will also be available for all matches.

Fans can register for free online to enter the presale on 24 September <https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2025/en/newsletter>

to ensure they are among the first to secure their place at the opening match and the final. The tournament's Worldwide Partner Mastercard is also offering its cardholders access to a priority sale on 17 September via the official Women's RWC 2025 ticketing website <https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2025/en/tickets>

Charity Received King's Award

A charity that works to alleviate hunger and provide for those in need across Northamptonshire has been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation received the award from His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson, in recognition of the support it gives to people in need across the county.



Equivalent to an MBE, the award is the highest that can be given to voluntary groups in the UK. The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation was established in 2020 in response to the pandemic and since then has provided invaluable aid

to thousands of people. It has supported more than 83,000 people through distributing food parcels and supporting school children by providing breakfast boxes, school shoes, and technology to help them with their studies. It also tackles loneliness and improves wellbeing through a range of local clubs and groups as well as via its Doorstep Buddies programme, which provides regular home visits to people who are socially isolated.

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

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The charity works with a range of organisations including local schools, Community Mental Health Teams, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service, Northamptonshire Children's Trust, Northamptonshire Social Services, and Northamptonshire HM Prisons and Probation service.

To find out more about the Foundation or how you can get involved, please visit their website on <https://mccarthydixon.org.uk/>