



# Town & Parish Briefing

Edition 7 | 7 November 2022



**Welcome to the latest Town and Parish Briefing, bringing you a round-up of news, activities and information about West Northamptonshire Council.**

**We hope you'll find this briefing informative, and we encourage you to share it widely within your organisations. If you have ideas and suggestions for future content, please email us at [communications@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westnorthants.gov.uk)**

## New PSPO comes into force this month

***Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement & Regulatory Services***

**[New rules which encourage responsible dog ownership](#)** and ban smoking in specific public open spaces came into force across the Daventry and South Northants areas this month (November).

The new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) gives our Council the ability to ensure that the public can use and enjoy these public spaces, and aims to help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live and work.

It will last for a period of three years, and means dog owners could be fined £100 if they fail to:

- Pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly
- Carry the means to pick up after their dog
- Prevent their dog from entering public places from which dogs are excluded, including children's play areas, schools, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas and bowling greens
- Keep their dog on a lead when in cemeteries, graveyards, memorial gardens, allotments, car parks, sports grounds, fields and pitches - when in use for authorised sporting activity
- Put their dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer

It also:

- Restricts a person from walking more than four dogs at any one time
- Prohibits smoking in: children's play areas, schools, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas, and bowling greens.

Signage to remind people of the rules will be put place across the Daventry and South Northants areas in the coming months and we are currently compiling a list of hot spots for targeted enforcement work.

Enforcement of the PSPO will be carried out by our officers and there is no requirement or expectation for parish and town councils to enforce the new rules.

Find out **[more information about PSPOs that are in force across West Northants](#)**



# New e-newsletter launched to inform residents

Our Council has launched a new e-newsletter with the aim of keeping residents informed of news and updates about our Council.

People are urged to [sign-up via our online subscription portal](#), so they can receive regular information straight to their inbox.

We recognise that clear, transparent communication is vital to us achieving our ambitions as a council, and a cross-party Task and Finish group identified the need to create this newsletter. We want to tell people about what we're doing on their behalf, and of course how we're spending their money - and that's why we're constantly trying to improve the way we communicate.

Issued fortnightly, the newsletter will sit alongside our other key communications channels to keep people informed about the services we provide, from bin collections to highways, environmental health to housing, schools and education, to health and wellbeing.

There will be regular updates on the support we are offering to help soften the ongoing impact of the current cost of living crisis, as well as on the grants that are available to support community and voluntary groups to deliver important services.

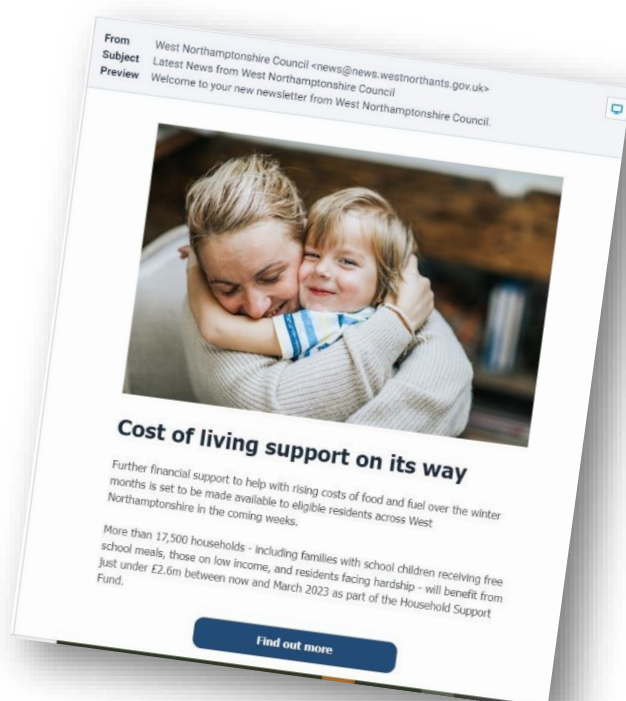
It will keep people updated on the regeneration projects our Council is leading on across West Northants, and promote opportunities for residents to have their say on the important issues that affect us all.

The newsletter will also highlight some of the fantastic days out that West Northamptonshire offers, our many wonderful heritage and tourist attractions, as well as our parks and open spaces.

The newsletter is in its infancy at the moment, but we will continue to drive subscriber numbers via a range of communication methods, and I would like to call on your support in getting the message out.

Please encourage residents in your town and parish areas to subscribe to the newsletter so we can reach as many people as possible.

[People can subscribe via the link on our website](#)



# Update on our parish engagement framework

Earlier this year we asked clerks for feedback on their experiences of interacting with our services.

We received responses from 85 of the 165 local councils, had over 25 follow-up conversations and several clerks also joined workshops hosted by Northants CALC to share their thoughts.

Since then we've been reviewing that feedback in detail and considering the most effective means to address the priorities that were identified.

Earlier this month our Executive Leadership Team considered a series of recommendations aimed at establishing a more consistent approach across the council.

More information will be provided in future editions of Parish Briefing but we'd also like to invite you to **hear more about it on Wednesday 23 November between 10-11am**, where you'll also have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Look out for an invitation from [Northants CALC](#) who have kindly offered to organise the session.

# Rural Prosperity Fund on Cabinet agenda

Our Council has been allocated £1.3m from the Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities.

The fund, which replaces the former EU LEADER programme, must be used to support projects in rural areas, including towns and villages with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside, and market towns with populations of up to 30,000 that serve as centres of employment.

It can be used to help support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy, such as farm businesses looking to diversify.

The fund can also support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

Our Council must submit information to the Government outlining how the funding will be used across West Northants by 30 November.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the matter at their meeting on Tuesday, and more information can be found on the [Rural England Prosperity Fund agenda item](#)



## Also coming up at Cabinet this week

The [Cabinet meeting takes place at The Forum in Towcester \(NN12 6AF\) from 6pm on Tuesday 8 November](#) and will also be [broadcast live on our YouTube channel](#)

### Other items on the agenda for the meeting include:

- Proposals to develop a [Tree Policy and Strategy for West Northamptonshire](#)
- An [update on services for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities \(SEND\)](#) and proposals to develop a strategic approach to improve outcomes for SEND children.
- A [review of proposals to fund £1.2 million of improvements](#) to facilities on the east side of Abington Park in Northampton.
- The [Annual Report by the Director of Public Health](#)
- The [Annual Report by the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- Proposals to [renegotiate the council's mobile phone contract](#) in order to make significant revenue savings

# Publishing details of our Monitoring Officer

Parish and town clerks are asked to ensure they are promoting the correct email address in relation to the councillor complaints process.

Please ensure that any complaints or questions about the Code of Conduct are directed to [monitoringofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk) rather than any of our officers' individual email addresses.

This is a shared inbox, monitored by a team of people, meaning emails can be replied to more quickly. Emails to individual officers will not always be picked up - during periods of absence for instance - potentially resulting in delays

Please check the email address you have published on your websites or publications and amend it if required. Thank you for your co-operation. Find out [more information about the councillor complaints process](#)

Our Democratic Services team can be reached at [democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk) and our Elections Services team at [electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk)



# Christmas waste and recycling arrangements

## ***Cllr Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste***

With the festive season fast approaching, our Council is advising residents of the arrangements for waste and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period.

Waste and recycling collection crews will be working throughout the festive season to make sure services are delivered on time and with no delays.

Here are some of the **key messages for residents:**

- Waste and recycling collection days in the South Northamptonshire and Northampton areas will not change over Christmas and New Year.
- Collections in the Daventry area which are due to take place on Monday 26 December, will be collected on Saturday 24 December instead.
- Garden waste collections will be suspended from 24 December until 6 January across West Northants.

### **Real tree collections**

Crews will collect real Christmas trees on the weeks beginning 9 and 20 January.

Residents in the Daventry and South Northants areas should put real Christmas trees on day that garden waste is due to be collected in their area. You do not need a garden waste subscription.

In the Northampton area real trees should be put out next to recycling bins, and those on sack collections can present trees beside their recycling boxes and green sacks on their collection day.

Please ensure any trees over 6ft tall are cut in a half, so they will fit into our lorries safely.

### **Additional recycling**

Additional recycling can be put out in clear or plastic bags alongside recycling bins and boxes, or can also be taken to the nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

These are open as usual throughout the festive period except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, when they will be closed. Centres will also close early on Christmas Eve, at 2pm.

### **Find out more**

People can [find out more information about waste and recycling collections here](#)

# Highways gearing up for winter conditions

West Northamptonshire is getting ready for harsher weather conditions as Kier Highways deploys its fleet of gritters.

The contractor activated winter working protocols last month, with the season to run through to April.

The gritters, which are powered by sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), will cover 1102 miles of our road network.

We have 5,500 tonnes of salt in reserve, and nearly 900 grit bins across the area are filled, ready for use on public roads and footpaths.

Enhanced weather forecasting and temperature readings will be taken via weather stations and sensors set out along West Northamptonshire's roads, with updates sent every 15 minutes. Through route-based forecasting, roads will be treated if the temperatures are forecasted to drop below 0.5C.

If a salt bin in your area needs refilling please [contact the Street Doctor service](#) You can also keep up to date with highways and travel news on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



# New measures introduced to prevent bird flu

***Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, & Regulatory Services***

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds have been introduced to all areas of England today (Monday 7 November), following a decision by the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer.

The housing measures legally require all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size.

Over the last year, the UK has faced its largest ever outbreak of avian influenza, with over 200 cases confirmed since late October 2021. The introduction of the housing measures comes after the disease was detected at over 70 premises since the beginning of this October.

There have also been multiple reports in wild birds, including three wild birds that were found dead near Towcester last month, and a fourth found near Rushden.

## Advice for bird owners

The new rules mean bird keepers across England must:

- House or net all poultry and captive birds
- Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds
- Reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
- Keep records of mortality, movement of poultry and poultry products and any changes in production
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- Keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- Minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- Prevent access by poultry to ponds and watercourses and ensure that birds are kept in fenced or enclosed areas



Local bird owners are also being [encouraged to register their flocks](#) in order to keep up to date with the latest developments and help them protect their flocks quickly should there be a disease outbreak.

It is compulsory for anyone who keeps 50 or more birds to register their flock, however anyone with fewer than 50 can register voluntarily.

Bird flu poses a low risk to human health, however it can be devastating to flocks and wild bird populations, so we would like to remind bird keepers that it is imperative they follow the rules to protect their animals and livelihoods.

People are urged to report all suspected cases of bird flu by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

[More information about bird flu is available on the Government website](#)

# New cost of living support hub is launched

***Cllr Matt Golby, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health***

Our Council has launched new online support hub and phonenumber to help residents find help during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

The webpage is designed to be easy to navigate and contains lots of information on accessing grants, money and debt advice, government funding, wellbeing tips and links to local community organisations.

The drop-down options are tailored to specific users and aim to make the information quick to find and easily accessible, without the need to scroll for a long period of time.

Residents can also find tips to help keep daily costs down, and a directory of Warm Welcoming Spaces – community buildings offering people in need a comforting place to keep warm and enjoy a little company.

For those who prefer to talk to someone on the phone, our customer services team is available between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday to offer support and advice.

We understand it can be difficult for people to find out what support is available, so we have worked closely with partners to create a central hub of information to help with this.

If you aware of someone who is struggling - we are here to help. Please ask them to pick up the phone or get in touch so we can help them through this.

Visit the [Cost of Living Support Hub online](#) or phone 0300 126 7000.

## Community food larders in the spotlight

Community Larders run across West Northants by the Northampton Hope Centre have been highlighted in a new video produced by our Communications Team.

The short film highlights the larder at Woodford Halse and features interviews with volunteers as well as people who make use of the service.

The larders are run by volunteers, providing an invaluable service for anyone facing hardship by providing donated and surplus food at discounted rates. They also support people by signposting them to other support services.

You can [find out more information about the larder in Woodford Halse by watching our video](#)



Find out information about [other food larders run by the Northampton Hope Centre](#)

## Could you offer a warm space to residents?

Do you have a community building that could be used as a warm space to support people this winter?

Our Council are making buildings available, such as some of our libraries, but as part of our Anti-Poverty Strategy we are looking to provide a network of warm spaces to support anyone struggling with the cost of living this winter and are keen to work with community groups and organisations that would be able to provide warm welcoming spaces within their community.

If you have a community space that could be used as a warm space for local residents who need it, please let us know by [registering your interest here](#)

# Driving improvements to our planning service

## ***Cllr Rebecca Breese, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs***

Work is underway to harmonise the planning service at our Council.

Bringing together the teams across the previous local authority areas is one of the key priorities for the transformation project. With several teams working in different ways, there is a lot of ongoing work to align processes and bring practices together.

We acknowledge this public facing service requires transparency and consistency, and a 'one team vision' to deliver a much-improved service for customers.

In order to deliver this work, six workstreams have been set up which will focus on:

1. Process
2. System
3. Customer service
4. People, structure, performance and culture
5. S106 and CIL
6. Local plan



## **1. The Process Workstream**

- Process mapping workshops will be delivered to develop new harmonised processes for the planning service. Best practice will be incorporated into the new processes. The workshops will inform the system workstream of the business requirements.
- New harmonised processes will include:
  - planning applications
  - enforcement
  - appeals
  - consultations
  - listed buildings/heritage

## **2. The System Workstream**

- A new harmonised planning system is being developed and implemented for WNC.
- The system will be safe, secure, and fully tested prior to going live in July 2023. Once delivered the new system will provide the basis of a consistent 'one team approach'.
- Updates on planning applications and public comments will be viewable online.
- The new system will provide one new style and layout of report for Planning Committees to enable consistency.

## **3. The Customer Service Workstream**

- Create one harmonised website for WNC, ensuring that it is easily navigable with content that supports customer self-service. Planning applications and comments will be viewable online.
- Improved external communications with audiences and stakeholders.
- Review and deliver one telephone service in order to make it easier for people to contact the service.



## 4. People, Structure, Performance & Culture

- Consistent training plans, and one approach to recruitment and posts
- Refresh of statutory timescales within the service alongside a reduction of complaints.
- A communications strategy that will deliver improved interaction with members and external stakeholders.

## 5. S106 / CIL

- A future robust way of working for WNC will be developed and incorporated into the new planning system
- Knowledge and data will be brought up to date and reporting via the system will be embedded within the service ensuring queries can be dealt with in a timely manner.



## 6. Local Plan

- Resources will be collated across teams to inform a new one team strategic approach for WNC.
- There will be alignment with Government thinking around place shaping and economic growth.
- A collaboration with other strategies eg housing, health, transport, regeneration and economic investment will deliver one single Local Plan for WNC.

As a service, we are working hard to process planning applications. We recognise that there are continued improvements to be made to bring our response time to the standard we strive for, and our officers are continuing to prioritise this work. We will continue to share updates on the work of the six workstreams, including key milestones and updates across the planning service.

## New reserve offers five star resort for newts

A new reserve for great crested newts has been created on farmland in West Northamptonshire under a scheme which addresses the impact of development on wildlife.



The Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme addresses the impact of development on wildlife and minimises cost and construction delays for developers.

The licence is held by our Council, with [Naturespace UK](#) assessing the impact of developments on great crested newt aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Developers then pay into a fund which is used to create or restore high quality habitats in strategic locations throughout West Northamptonshire, benefiting great crested newts.

This compensations site – which we are not revealing the location of in order to help protect the newts - has been created by experts at the Newt Conservation Partnership.

It has clean water ponds and a high-quality terrestrial habitat packed with its own diversity. It's a five-star resort for newts! Find out more information about the [Newt Conservation Partnership](#)



# Latest update on ward boundaries review

## ***Cllr Suresh Patel, Chairman of the Council's Democracy Standards Committee and the Local Boundary Review Working Group***

Our Council will be putting forward a suggested pattern of ward boundaries for the council area following a meeting last week (Thursday, 3 November).

As town and parish councils will be aware, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently carrying out a ward boundary review ahead of the authority's next elections in 2025.

LGBCE carries out the review in two stages. The first stage determined the electorate for 2028 which is 325,511 and the number of councillors required to serve the population, which the LGBCE have suggested should be 77. These figures provide an average number of electors per councillor.

During the second stage the Commission consult on the pattern of wards and also the number and names of wards. We sent out a survey to all members and set up a working group to help prepare our suggested proposals as part of the consultation.

At the Council meeting last week, councillors decided to submit a 77 proposal as suggested by the Commission, but also agreed a preferred proposal of 78 members, which enabled a greater balance of representation between rural and urban areas in West Northamptonshire.

The criteria require a balance between ensuring there is an equal level of electors per councillor, and the need to ensure that the ward pattern reflects local communities.

The pattern of wards we have proposed is supported by evidence assembled from across the Council about the communities in the area and the way in which they can be most effectively represented from the next local election in May 2025.

The review is expected to end in July 2023, when the LGBCE will make firm recommendations to Parliament through an Order which will give effect to the new electoral arrangements.

Following this, the Council will begin the process of undertaking community governance reviews and parishes will be provided with further details nearer the time.

There will be a further opportunity for people to have their say on the ward patterns between February and April next year. More [information about the process can be found on the LGBCE website](#)

# Book your nuptials online with new service

## ***Cllr Mike Hallam, Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services***

A new online one-stop booking service for civil wedding ceremonies has been launched.



The facility, which we have developed with colleagues at North Northamptonshire Council, allows people to book marriage ceremonies, civil partnerships, and marriage registrations [online via an easy-to-use web link](#)

The new streamlined system is simple and seamless and removes the need for manual cross checking and communication between council staff and customers, which can take considerable time.

It makes it easier for everyone to book or change wedding arrangements, cutting down significantly the time taken to book a wedding, and helping those who want to do so out of working hours.

Customers will need to register an account, allowing them to easily check available ceremony dates and instantly book a time that suits. If they choose to, they will also be able to submit their bespoke wedding vows, together with their music and readings of choice ahead of the ceremony and request any further requirements to meet their needs. Services are also still offered to those who do not have access to digital devices.

# Chance to show support for our Armed Forces

***Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, & Regulatory Services***

With Remembrance at the forefront of our minds this week, we wanted to take this opportunity to draw attention to the Armed Forces Covenant and encourage all Town and Parish Councils to make this voluntary pledge in support of our Armed Forces Community in Northamptonshire.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated fairly and should not face disadvantages when seeking to access public or private goods and services in the UK. Signing the Covenant would demonstrate your organisation's support for this.



Our [Armed Forces Covenant in Northamptonshire](#) is made up of local organisations from both the public and private sector who have all signed the Covenant and are working in collaboration to support the Armed Forces Community in our local area.

This covers every aspect of civilian life, including housing, health, work and pensions, and mental wellbeing - the more organisations that sign the Covenant, the more we can do to support people.

By signing up, you would pledge to uphold the basic principles of the Covenant, but you are free to tailor your pledges to suit your individual organisations. You can access some example Covenant pledges and find out more about how to sign the Covenant on the [Armed Forces Covenant website](#)

Our Armed Forces Covenant project team are also on hand to provide support and would be delighted to help you with your Covenant pledges. We can help to put you in touch with our regional contacts at the Ministry of Defence and can also assist with arrangements for a signing event. Please email [covenant.ncc@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:covenant.ncc@westnorthants.gov.uk) for more.

## Say hello to our customer service team

***Cllr Mike Hallam, Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services***

Our Customer Service Teams visit locations across West Northamptonshire on a monthly basis, offering advice and guidance to residents on a range of issues.

We are grateful for your support in promoting these events to residents, but Town and Parish Council Clerks, and your local councillors, are also very welcome to attend for help with any casework or other queries you may have.

### Sessions coming up this month include:

- **Brackley Library** (Manor Road, NN13 6AJ): Fri 25 Nov from 10am to midday.
- **Doddridge Centre** (St James Road, Northampton, NN5 5LD): Weds 7 Dec from 3pm to 5pm.
- **Hunsbury Library** (Overslade Close, Northampton, NN4 0RZ): Thurs 17 November 1pm to 4pm.
- **Moulton Community Centre** (Moulton Reedings, NN3 7AX): Fri 25 Nov from 10am to midday.
- **Weston Favell Library** (Weston Favell Centre, NN3 8JZ): Fri 11 Nov from 2.30pm to 3pm.
- **Brixworth Library** (Spratton Road, NN6 9DS) Tues 22 Nov from 10am to midday.

Visit our [monthly Drop-in Sessions webpage](#) to find out more.

# Expressions of interest for investment zones

## ***Cllr Daniel Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth***

Our Council has submitted a number of expressions of interest to the Government to set up Investment Zones in West Northants.

Areas hosting Investment Zones benefit from tax benefits, accelerated development, and wider support for local growth. The Government invited expressions of interest for new zones on 1 October, giving a deadline of 14 October for submissions.

Our Council worked quickly to put the bids together, submitting the following sites:

- Silverstone Technology Park
- University of Northampton (21b) University Drive
- Four Waterside, Marefair and Horizon House
- Railway Station MSCP and Land to North of Railway Station
- Greyfriars & Mayorhold
- 35-45 Abington Street
- Market Walk



A lot of detail is yet to be known, including what the planning rules will be, and there has been some speculation as to the priority the new Government administration will give to this initiative, but as a council we felt that we must make an initial expression of interest, allowing us to assess further when more is known. The Government is currently considering these submissions and we anticipate an outcome by end of November.

The expressions of interest do not commit the Council to anything at this stage, but if any are successful we will be able to work with Government to refine the submission with more detail

Areas hosting Investment Zones benefit from:

- Lower taxes: businesses in designated sites will benefit from time-limited tax benefits.
- Accelerated development: designated development sites will release more land for housing and commercial development, supporting accelerated development. The need for planning applications will be minimised and where planning applications remain necessary, they will be radically streamlined.
- Wider support for local growth: subject to demonstrating readiness, Councils hosting Investment Zones will receive a single local growth settlement in the next Spending Review period.

## Save the date for Disabled People's Forum

Para-Olympian Ellie Robinson will help celebrate achievements of disabled people in West Northants during International Disabled People's Day.

Alongside her coach Andy Sharp of Northampton Swimming Club, Ms Robinson will feature in a mix of live and recorded presentations between 11am and 2.15pm on Thursday, 1 December.

Organised by our Disabled Person's Forum, the information-packed virtual event will be hosted by forum member Kian Saville and will see people share their personal stories of invisible disabilities. Northants-based Born To Perform, who won the Golden Buzzer on this year's Britain's Got Talent TV show, will also be performing. People can [watch it online via our YouTube Channel](#)

Social screenings are also taking place. The Northampton event is already fully booked, but [places in Daventry can be booked online here](#), and [places for the Towcester event can be booked here](#)



# Car park expansion work is underway

A [derelict supermarket is being demolished](#) to make way for additional parking spaces in the heart of Towcester town centre.

The supermarket in the Sponne Arcade, known locally as the old Co-op or Poundstretcher, has stood empty since September 2018.



The site, which already includes 70 parking spaces, was bought by former South Northamptonshire Council in July 2020 and our Council is now completing the project.

It will result in a new expanded car park, with reconfigured parking spaces to conform with modern standards.

Additional lighting, CCTV, landscaping, and work to walkways will also make the car park safer and more accessible. New motorbike parking and a bike shelter will also be included.

During the work, the car park will be closed for public use. We will continue to work with nearby businesses and residents to keep them fully informed of the project. Public toilets managed by Towcester Town Council will also close during the work.

Work got underway last week and is expected to be complete by Spring 2023.

The new development will increase accessibility to shops and services and will help future-proof the town centre for the growing population.

Once complete the short stay parking spaces will align with short stay restrictions elsewhere in the town: three hours free parking between 8am and 6pm, no return within three hours.

The number of disabled and family parking spaces will also be increased as part of the project which also includes the potential to expand upon the existing electric charging points installed in 2021.

# Pupils learn life lessons at Young Citizen event

Primary school students from across West Northants took part in this year's Young Citizen's Scheme.

The event, held at the Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, saw more than 300 Year Six pupils learn about online safety, fire and water safety, and anti-social behaviour.

It was organised by our Council's Community Safety and Engagement Team in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

A range of fun activities and workshops focussed on the importance of being a good citizen, raising children's awareness of community responsibility and personal safety.

There were sessions on online safety, fire safety, hate crimes, reporting incidents and calling 999, as well as how to be streetwise and prevent crime.

The event enables us to proactively engage with children to explore community safety issues and encourage them to be good citizens.

[Watch our video of the Young Citizen event here](#)



# A big thank you to litter picking volunteers

Litter pickers collected more than 30 bags of rubbish from areas around Northampton during a community event recently.

Community volunteers from the Wombles, representatives from Northampton Town Football Club Community Trust staff from the McDonald's restaurant on Sixfields, and officers from our Council came together for the event focussing on the area around the football club and Duston Mill.

Our Council is committed to working with local volunteers to tackle this issue, and it is great to see the wonderful work of volunteers who take time out their days to clean up after others and care for our environment.

If we see or receive reports of people littering, we will take enforcement action in accordance with our enforcement policy, including fines where appropriate.



## Hiring litter picking equipment

If you would like to hire litter picking equipment for your town or parish council, you can do so by emailing [litter.champions@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:litter.champions@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Each kit includes litter pickers, sacks and bag hoops to assist with litter picking, as well as a step-by-step guide for holding a litter pick, to help you plan a safe, effective and well supported event.

Our Council can also pick up and dispose of sacks of litter that have been collected from public land.

Find out more information about [borrowing the equipment and booking a litter collection](#)

# Fly-tipping pilot scheme is extended

A pilot scheme which helps landowners clear and prevent fly-tipping has been extended for another 12 months in West Northamptonshire.

As town and parish councils will be aware, when fly-tipping takes place on public land, the taxpayer pays for the removal and disposal of the waste. However, if a fly-tip occurs on private land, the responsibility for the clean-up and removal falls with the landowner.



Last year our Council worked with the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner (PFFC) for Northamptonshire Stephen Mold on a scheme whereby private landowners could apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future.

The PFFC has now been able to extend this pilot and help the farmers and landowners on the frontline of this important issue.

Businesses can [apply for a grant to remove fly-tipping on private land here](#)



# Fresh funding for museum and art gallery

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery has been awarded £450k from Arts Council England.

The funding, which was announced on Friday (4 November), will be spread over a three-year period and used to fund the Museum's 'Histories of Northamptonshire' project.

The project will engage with groups and communities across Northamptonshire to develop a series of exhibitions, events, books and digital resources looking at different aspects of Northamptonshire's history through objects, architecture, landscape and personal experiences.

The three-year project will focus on working with diverse communities across West Northamptonshire to enable their creativity and provide opportunities for them to enjoy the widest possible range of arts and culture. It will conclude with a major exhibition - A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects, which will include augmented reality trails, digital resources and a series of linked exhibitions at venues across Northamptonshire.



[Royal & Derngate](#) also received a positive outcome, with [Arts Council England confirming the venue would be receiving £862,245 per year](#) from 2023 to 2026.

Find out more about the [Museum and Art Gallery](#)

# Traders wanted for this year's Frost Fair

The popular Frost Fair will be returning to Northampton's Market Square on Sunday 4 December and traders from across West Northamptonshire who would like a stand are being invited to get in touch.



Organised by our Council, the event celebrates the creative makers, artists and traders and promote their unique or seasonal offer, including food, drink, arts and crafts, Christmas gifts and stocking fillers.

Taking place between 11am and 3.30pm, the market will provide a festive showcase of our local producers and crafters during December's busy shopping period.

It is part of wider Christmas celebrations taking place that day, including on stage festive entertainment throughout the day from a variety of acts. In previous years we attracted more than 70 stalls to the market, and we look forward to welcoming even more craftspeople and traders this year.

The price for a stall is £30. Local traders and craft people can [book a stall here](#)

# Please share your news with us

Do you have a story to share with us and your fellow parish and town councils? Perhaps you would like to highlight an innovation that has proved particularly beneficial? Shine the spotlight on a new scheme you are developing? Or share news and photos from an event you have organised?

Submit your ideas for future articles by emailing us at [communications@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westnorthants.gov.uk)



# Our Council in the news

Here's a roundup of the news releases and updates published by our Council during October. Don't forget you can keep up-to-date with these and search the news archive by [visiting the News section of our website](#). You can also [sign-up to receive our newsletter](#)

## In the past month, we issued press releases on:

- [Residents' views on open spaces to be considered next week](#) – 5 October
- [Future of council offices in Daventry to be discussed](#) – 6 October
- [World Mental Health Day](#) – 7 October
- [Creative businesses invited to express an interest in Vulcan works](#) – 10 October
- [Scheme which helps victims of fly-tipping has been extended](#) – 10 October
- [Partners are coming together this Hate Crime Awareness Week](#) – 10 October
- [New strategy to improve housing for residents across West Northants](#) – 11 October
- [Rogue landlord pays heavily for unlicensed HMO](#) – 11 October
- [Over 25,000 vulnerable households have been supported by second phase of funding](#) – 11 October
- [Further cost-of-living support on its way for eligible residents](#) – 13 October
- [Residents asked to say 'I do' to online wedding ceremony bookings service](#) – 13 October
- [Community to show its inner light during this weekend's Diwali](#) – 14 October
- [Northampton resident ordered to pay £730 for storing waste on the street](#) – 14 October
- [Avian Flu – bird owners urged to register](#) – 14 October
- [Consultation on further main modifications to Northampton Local Plan](#) – 17 October
- [Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\) - Update - 17 October](#) – 17 October
- [Abington Park voted 'Local Favourite' in Fields in Trust award](#) – 18 October
- [Rogue landlord fined for appalling conditions in HMO](#) – 18 October
- [West Northamptonshire Council wins regional title for backing small businesses](#) – 18 October
- [Local businesses to profit from council design consultancy framework](#) – 20 October
- [Thumbs up for new rules on open spaces across Daventry and South Northants areas](#) – 21 October
- [Vulnerable Northamptonshire residents urged to take up their free flu vaccine](#) – 24 October
- [Council joins University to help students secure local, sustainable employment](#) – 24 October
- [West Northants students take part in annual Young Citizen's Scheme](#) – 25 October
- [Three wild birds near Towcester have tested positive for bird flu](#) – 25 October
- [Reablement West service rated 'Good' by CQC](#) – 25 October
- [New five-star home for protected species in West Northants](#) – 26 October
- [West Northamptonshire gets winter ready as gritters hit the road](#) – 27 October
- [Traders wanted for Northampton's Christmas Frost Fair](#) – 31 October
- [Work to create new parking spaces in Towcester begins today](#) – 31 October