




Keeping you updated on all our latest activities



Dear Town and Parish Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of our new Town and Parish Briefing, which aims to provide you with a monthly round-up of the latest news, activities and information about West Northamptonshire Council.

We hope you'll find these regular briefings useful and informative and encourage you to share them widely within your organisations. We want to support the important role you play within our local communities by keeping you regularly updated and engaged on the services and issues that matter to you and your council.

 We're keen to ensure this briefing is both timely and relevant to you, so would welcome all your ideas, input and suggestions you may have on future content – please email us at communications@westnorthants.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

Moving forward we'll also be looking at further ways to develop how we communicate directly with your communities, including the launch of a new monthly enewsletter plus a six-monthly residents magazine which will be delivered to all homes across West Northants from later this year.

Cllr Jonathan Nunn, Leader of West Northamptonshire Council

Join our Big Conversation and let's work together to make West Northants thrive

Town and parish communities across West Northants are being encouraged to get involved in the biggest conversation yet about shaping local services and improving our community.

This week West Northamptonshire Council launched the *Thrive West Northants Big Conversation* – an online forum where residents and businesses can have their say on anything and everything to help develop future plans to make our area thrive.

With our Corporate Plan in place setting out our bold vision and objectives, we have a clear view on what we need to deliver across West Northants and it's really important to us that we understand what this means to town and parish councils in your locality and what your priorities are.

Together we will agree what we need to improve and focus on, thinking about the future sustainability of West Northants, the shaping of good local services for your area and setting out what we expect from each other. We will use your feedback to help shape how we, at West Northamptonshire Council engage, involve and interact with local communities.



The conversation forum is anonymous and open 24/7 over the next three weeks, enabling people to comment, discuss and suggest ideas. Residents who are unable to access the internet can join in the conversation by visiting their local library. The conversation runs until 21 March when the comments will be analysed. Please join in the big conversation at thrive.westnorthyorks.gov.uk

Subscriptions open for garden waste service

With residents in your area currently signing up to the forthcoming year of garden waste collections, we'd really appreciate your help in providing residents with key information about the service and how they can subscribe.

The optional, chargeable subscription service is already in place for homes in the former Daventry District and Northampton Borough areas, but from April 4 will also be introduced to all households in the former South Northants area too. Everyone who wishes to use the service for the year ahead will need to sign up, including those who wish to renew. Here's a round-up of how households can sign up.

How to subscribe

The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service from April 2022 to the end of March 2023 is £42 per bin, and people have a range of options for how to subscribe.

Online: The quickest and most popular way to subscribe is via the website using a debit or credit card at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/gardenwaste

As most people are subscribing online, this can create a large demand which may occasionally cause issues with the payment portal. If this happens, please try again later – residents can sign up at any time before the new service starts on 4 April, and there's no deadline before then, so they won't miss out. We would encourage anyone who can sign up online to do so, as it's the quickest and easiest way to sign up.

Over the phone: People can also sign up by calling us on our main number 0300 126 7000, where a customer advisor will take their payment. Sometimes our lines can be extremely busy, but if this happens please try again later.

In person: Residents who do not have the internet, or who are not confident going online, can use the PCs in the reception areas of our offices in Towcester, Daventry or Northampton, where a customer advisor will be happy to guide them through the process.

Credit and debit card payments: Please be aware that banks have recently changed the way online and over the phone credit card payments are authenticated. Under this new process users are sent a code - via email, text or via an app - to verify payment.

Alternatives to signing up

Residents who do not wish to sign up can easily compost garden waste at home, in a compost heap, or in a compost bin. The council is offering a limited number of 220-litre home composting bins are available for only £10. To receive this offer type in your postcode at [Get Composting](#) or call [0844 571 4444](tel:0844 571 4444).

If you do not wish to home compost, you can also take your garden waste for recycling at your nearest [household waste recycling centre](#).

To find out more about the service, including a comprehensive list of FAQs, can be found on our website at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Join us in our pledge to cut carbon emissions

Ambitious plans to improve the sustainability of West Northants were boosted recently with the Council making a national pledge to beat climate change targets.

Following a Motion at Full Council, WNC has signed up to the UK100 NetZero pledge, focusing on tackling the climate emergency and reducing emissions.

UK100's Net Zero Pledge commits councils to cutting their own emissions to Net Zero by 2030 and those of their residents and businesses by 2045 - five years ahead of the UK government's 2050 target.

The Council joins around 100 other local authorities in the UK100 network enabling us to work directly with other councils facing the same climate challenges as well as having wider access to a range of new resources including climate research, campaigns, publications, innovative funding models and private sector expertise.

West Northamptonshire Council Leader Cllr Jonathan Nunn said: "We're delighted to be signing up to the UK100, and will be taking our NetZero pledge really, really seriously. We need to make the future of West Northants sustainable, not just environmentally but economically and socially too. We're setting bold, climate change-related goals, and we look forward to working with all town and parish colleagues across West Northants to achieve these important goals."



Have your say on new measures for dog owners

Residents have the opportunity to give their views on proposals for a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to encourage responsible dog ownership in the Daventry and South Northants areas.

Under the proposed new PSPO, 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 to enter public places from which dogs are excluded, such as play areas and some leisure facilities
- Keep their dog on a lead when required to do so, such as in cemeteries, car parks and outside schools on school days
- Put their dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer.

**New regulations
to promote
responsible
dog ownership**

**Have your say at
westnorthants.citizenspace.com**



Other proposals for the PSPO include limiting the number of dogs that anyone can walk at one time to four, and prohibiting people from smoking in children's play areas, skate parks, and certain other leisure settings.

The six-week consultation period started on 21 February and runs until Monday 4 April. You can have your say on the [Council's Consultation Hub](#)

If introduced, the PSPO would apply across both the former Daventry District and South Northants authority areas until September 2023. An existing PSPO covering parts of the former Northampton Borough also runs until then, offering the potential for a single set of regulations to be introduced across the whole of West Northants from that date.

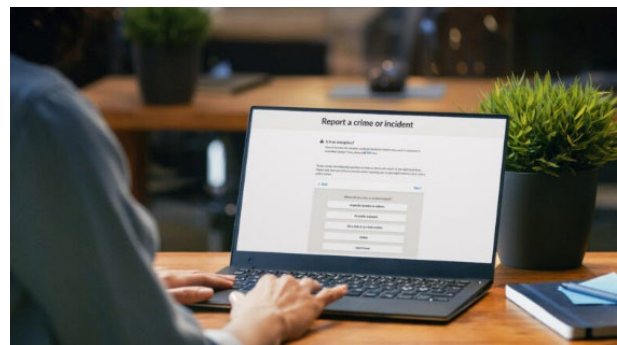
StreetSafe tool to improve community safety

An online mapping tool is allowing residents to flag areas in their communities where they feel unsafe – and even more people to use the map to help them identify areas that can be helped.

The StreetSafe map was launched in September by the Home Office, and the National Police Chiefs' Council collects data allowing police forces to understand the specific concerns raised and use the information to make informed decisions on safety.

After a successful first phase trial, the StreetSafe map is now continuing to be available for use by the public for the 2022/23 financial year.

[Use the StreetSafe map here](#)



Reminder over latest bird flu restrictions

Bird keepers across West Northants are reminded of the restrictions that remain in place to minimise the risk of avian flu.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone came into force across the country in November, making it a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to keep their birds indoors and follow strict measures.

Cases of bird flu have been identified across the country, including the neighbouring counties of Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

While the risk to people is very low, the disease is highly contagious among birds and often proves fatal.

Wild birds migrating to the UK from mainland Europe during the winter months help spread the disease, so our Trading Standards officers are reminding all bird keepers to follow the biosecurity measures needed to keep their birds safe and help stop the spread.



Poultry keepers must:

- House or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
- Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- 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
- 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.

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77. Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

More information can be [found on the Government website](#) #

Are you getting involved in jubilee celebrations?

Plans are under way to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a Bank Holiday bonanza of special events across West Northants – with towns and parishes set to be right at the heart of our community celebrations.

A packed weekend of activities are being organised from 2 to 5 June, including official beacon-lighting ceremonies on Bank Holiday Thursday, a countywide jubilee pageant through Northampton on the Saturday and a Big Lunch at Delapre Abbey on the Sunday.

Communities are being encouraged to get involved in a range of activities, from lighting beacons and hosting street parties and big lunches.

If your town or parish is currently organising events and activities for the jubilee, please contact us and WNC will help to promote and share your activities more widely – email queensjubilee@westnorthants.gov.uk

You can find more information about organising street parties and big lunches, including how to apply for road closures, on our website at www.westnorthants.gov.uk/queensjubilee

Local community and voluntary groups can apply for a series of grants to help fund arts and sport projects commemorating the jubilee, including Arts Council [England's Let's Create Jubilee Fund](#) and [Sport England's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund](#)



Plant trees for the jubilee

It's great to see your growing support for the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, with now more than 50 town and parish councils in our area joining in the initiative pledging to plant a total of 2260 trees as a lasting legacy to Her Majesty the Queen.

There's still lots of time to get your community involved – if you would like to find out more information about how to arrange tree planting in your town or parish, please contact us – email mark.beddow@westnorthants.gov.uk

You can also find out more info about how to get involved on our [website](#) and on the [Queen's Green Canopy website](#).

Council Tax and budget setting update

Budgets and Council Tax for the year ahead have now been set and approved by WNC, with annual billing due to start shortly.

At their meeting on Thursday, 24 February, Members agreed the Council's revenue budget of £342.203m (£753.375m with the Dedicated Schools Grant) for 2022/23, which takes into account an average Council Tax increase of 2.99%, including 1% towards funding adult social care. Households in Council Tax bands A-D will receive a £150 rebate in line with the Government's recent announcement and a further discretionary amount of funding for properties in Bands E-H. Further details on this process are due to be confirmed soon.

They also considered and approved Council Tax calculations for the forthcoming year and the annual billing process is due to start soon, with letters expected to be posted out to all households on 10 and 11 March. For more information visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/counciltax

Farthinghoe and Daventry recycling update

- ✓ Farthinghoe Recycling and Reuse Centre is set to reopen on 19 March with a new contractor appointed to run the site. The popular centre, off the A422 Banbury Road, between Brackley and Middleton Cheney, has been closed since the start of February to appoint a new operator and refurbish parts of the site before the busier spring months.
- ✓ Towns and parishes in the former Daventry District should also look out for improvements to kerbside recycling collections next month. From April, crews will be collecting small electrical items for recycling.

Householders will be asked to put any small electrical item (anything with a plug or a battery) into any standard sized carrier bag for collection. The bag must be put on top of the black bin on collection day (not in it, or it won't be recycled). Examples include hairdryers, kettles, toasters, hair straighteners, power tools, electrical toys, phones, remote controls, radios etc, clippers and shavers. The items are separated into different components for reuse, recycling and safe disposal.

A promotional campaign is currently being planned to publicise the new service, including households receiving stickers on their bins from the middle of March.

This month's news releases from WNC

Here's a monthly round-up of the news releases and updates published by WNC in recent weeks – don't forget can keep up to date with these and search our news archive on our website at

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/news

- [Safer Internet Day to offer advice on keeping children safe online](#)
- [Bike recycling and coaching project receives funding boost](#)
- [March 4 opening date for new cinema is confirmed](#)
- ['Don't get Covid-complacent' says Public Health Director](#)
- [Cabinet to consider final 2022-23 budget and medium-term financial plan](#)
- [West Northamptonshire celebrates National Apprenticeship Week](#)
- [West Northamptonshire Council publishes a balanced 2022-23 Housing Revenue Account final budget and medium-term financial plan](#)
- [West Northamptonshire Council's latest Revenue Monitoring Report continues to show balanced position](#)
- [Hopes high for a summer of double celebrations over city status bid and Queen's jubilee](#)
- [Mental health themed mural unveiled at football club](#)
- [Work begins on extending visitors centre at iconic Northampton house](#)
- [Well Northants Programme underway to address health inequalities](#)
- [Young people's views on mental health gathered in survey](#)
- [Let's continue to be Covid-kind and bear others in mind](#)
- [Warning to fly-tippers over illegal waste dumping](#)
- [Sixfields land sale to be discussed this month](#)
- [West Northamptonshire Council wins £6 million to make homes more energy efficient](#)
- [Storm Eunice warning for West Northamptonshire](#)
- [Vaccine offers protection against long Covid, study shows](#)
- [Have your say on measures to promote responsible dog ownership](#)
- [Exhibitors invited to participate in museum's Transport Day](#)
- [Northampton Market temporary relocation](#)
- [New electric vehicle chargepoints installed across county](#)
- [Inspirational Women's Award shortlist](#)
- [Archaeology of Medieval Northampton marked with book launch](#)
- [Jubilee funding available for sports and arts projects](#)
- [Local groups come together to celebrate International Women's Day](#)
- [Litterers pay the price for ignoring fixed penalty notices](#)
- [New restaurants confirmed for Daventry's Mulberry Place cinema complex](#)
- [Learning to live safely with coronavirus](#)
- [West Northamptonshire Council signs up to the UK100 NetZero Pledge in fight against climate change](#)