



Town & Parish Briefing

Edition 11 | 21 March 2023



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

Host of world class sport this summer

Cllr Adam Brown, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure

West Northamptonshire will showcase itself as a world-class sporting venue this summer when it welcomes back the prestigious Women's Tour.

The international cycling race will take place from 7-11 June, with Northampton hosting a stage start on Thursday 8 June. The route is set to run through West Northants, taking in parts of the Daventry and South Northants areas, with further details due to be announced in the coming months.

The Tour, which is televised globally, will form part of a wider programme of sport and wellbeing events and activities this summer, with residents, businesses, schools and community groups encouraged to get involved as plans take shape in the coming months.

Our Council is working with race organisers SweetSpot on bringing the world-famous cycling tour into the area as part of our ongoing work to improve health and wellbeing of residents, drive economic investment and raise the profile of West Northants as a leading destination for national sporting excellence.

Events like this play an important role in bringing communities together and inspiring people to take up sport and live a more active and healthier lifestyle. They also provide a significant boost to our local economy. Alongside a programme of community events and activities there will also be opportunities for local businesses, including potential sponsorship of the event.

There will be lots of opportunities for Town and Parish Councils to get involved too, and we look forward to working with you on these as the route is confirmed and the planning progresses.

Our Council is also committed to doing everything possible to encourage and promote increased participation in sport by women and girls. By hosting an international event showcasing incredible female athletes we hope to continue breaking down barriers in the way that England's Lionesses and women's rugby team have in recent years.

In previous Women's Tours we have seen a record number of spectators visiting the area and lining the route to show their support – which we very much hope to witness again this year as we showcase our fantastic area to a worldwide audience.

[Read more about the Women's Tour on our website](#)



Have a say on council boundary proposals

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

The number of West Northamptonshire councillors and voter areas are set to change the next local elections in 2025 under proposals by The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

The LGBCE has published its proposals for changes to West Northants, which would see the number of wards increased from 31 to 34. Seven of those would be one councillor wards, 15 would be two councillor wards, and the remaining 13 would each be served by three councillors – amounting to 76 councillors in total.

A public consultation on the proposals has been launched, and people have until 15 May to [have their say by visiting the LGBCE website](#)

People can also submit their views by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or in writing to the following address: West Northamptonshire Review Officer, LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE.

Following the first stage of consultation, we welcome the recommendations from the Commission and the outline proposals.

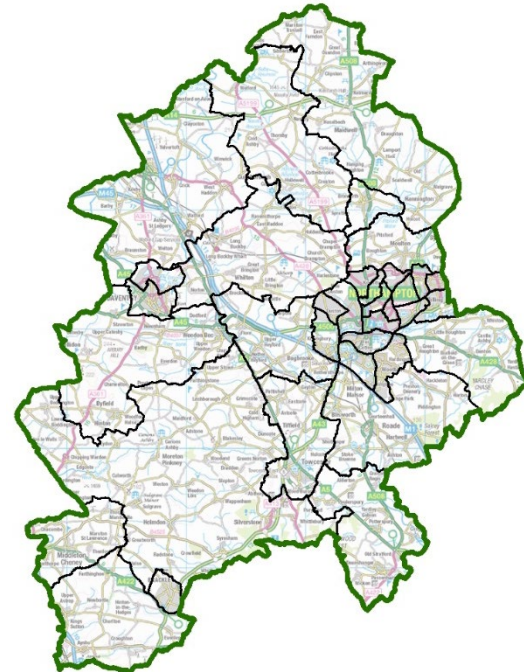
This next stage provides a great opportunity for everyone to have their say and help shape our future electoral landscape.

We want the best outcome possible for West Northamptonshire, so I would everyone to look at the plans and ensure their views help to shape the best outcome for our area.

The review is expected to end in late 2023, once the LGBCE has made its recommendations to government and an Order is laid in Parliament to change the legislation and make the new electoral arrangements.

You can [access the consultation](#) and see more [information and timescales](#) about the review on the LGBCE website.

West Northamptonshire Draft Recommendation wards



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Shining a spotlight on rural community needs

Industry Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF) have launched a campaign to help shine a spotlight on rural community needs.

Nearly a third of the county live within rural communities and a recent report from the Rural Services Network reveals how the cost of living crisis is hitting people living in rural areas harder than those in towns and cities, with people living in the countryside having to pay far more on essentials such as heating, housing and transport.

The Shining a Spotlight on Rural Community Needs campaign aims to develop a focus on rural philanthropy to ensure these communities get their fair share of funding, helping tackle urgent needs such as poverty and access to services.

Throughout 2023, NCF will be holding a series of Community Conversations to look at local need and community solutions. Members are invited to get involved and help to tackle food and fuel poverty during the current energy crisis in rural communities.

If you would like to support this work, please contact Rachel McGrath: rachel@ncf.uk.com or Dean Jones: dean@ncf.uk.com Find out more information on the [Northamptonshire Community Foundation website](#)



Lots of ways to get involved with Coronation

Cllr Adam Brown, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure

The Coronation weekend from 6-8 May offers a wonderful opportunity for communities to come together and celebrate a significant occasion in our nation's history.

There are lots of different ways to get involved, including street parties and Coronation Big Lunches or volunteering during The Big Help Out to support local good causes, and I know many Town and Parish Councils will be putting on events too.

I hope to see many of our residents across West Northants taking this opportunity and encourage anyone looking to bring the Coronation celebrations into the heart of their own communities by getting involved.

Coronation events digital map

Parish councils and community organisations have been invited by the Government to [share how they will celebrate the Coronation on a digital map](#) which will be promoted in the months and weeks leading up to the Coronation.

Street parties and Coronation events

Those planning street parties with friends and neighbours over the Coronation weekend need to [apply for a temporary road closure here](#). There is no charge for making an application for an event taking place between 6-8 May. If you are planning a larger event in your town or parish area, you are urged to [let our Council know about the event](#) so we can check issues such as licensing, safety and traffic management.

Communities urged to get involved

Community groups, schools, artists and traders across West Northamptonshire are also being invited to support the local Coronation celebrations.

Our Council and Northampton Town Council are inviting local producers, schools, bands, creative makers, artists and traders to showcase their unique offer, including food, drink, arts and crafts, live music and performances as part of the Celebrations that will take place over the Coronation weekend from 6 to 8 May.

The weekend of celebrations will include street party-style activities and big screens in Northampton town centre on the Saturday between 11am- 5pm and a Coronation Big Lunch and Afterparty at Delapre Abbey on the Sunday from 12pm – 10.30pm, ending with the Big Help Out on 8 May, which will highlight the impact of volunteering.

More information about how to get involved will be published on the [Coronation page on our website](#)

Businesses can benefit from sponsorship opportunities

Businesses are also being encouraged to get involved through a range of fantastic sponsorship opportunities.

There are a range of packages to help businesses wishing to promote their product or brand, network with potential customers, or secure high-quality product placement opportunities at the event.

More information about the opportunities available will be published on the [Coronation page on our website](#)

Coronation Champions Awards

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire is also urging people to nominate local volunteers for the Coronation Champions Awards – a chance to recognise local heroes and the vital roles they play in our communities.

Coronation Champions will be invited to attend one of the official Coronation celebrations, such as the Windsor Castle Coronation Concert or a Coronation Garden Party. Please [Nominate a Coronation Champion here](#)



Planning systems are due to be migrated

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

The planning systems for the former Daventry and South Northants areas will be migrated into one new planning system on 3 April.

In order to enable the migration of hundreds of thousands of files, the old systems will be turned off on Friday 24 March, and reopened on the new system on Monday 3 April.

During this period, people will still be able to view and comment on planning applications and put in new planning applications in the Daventry and South areas via the Council's website. However the applications will not be processed until the week beginning 3 April.

A notice will be added to our website to notify people in advance, and we are working with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure they are aware of these works.

The Northampton area planning system will be moved onto the new central system in a second phase, expected to take place in mid to late June.

Teams have been working hard over the last two years in order to ensure we are able to move to one new centralised system which will help to provide a more seamless process for staff and our customers.



Success for intensive planning clearance week

An intensive clearance week in the planning team resulted in 125 applications being determined – around twice the average number of decisions usually made in a week.

A very high proportion of the applications were delegated cases with complex issues. The extra time and focus spent on them meant they could be approved, so not only were there twice as many decisions, but a lot of positive and proactive decision making was achieved.

The focus week was held from Monday 20 to Friday 24 February, when officers worked closely together to prioritise the processing of applications over other aspects of their work.

It was held as part of the service's ongoing proactive approach toward significantly reducing the time it takes to determine applications and provide responses.

Town and Parish Councils are reminded that [information about planning services can be accessed on our website](#)

Building Control services are changing

Plans are progressing to bring Building Control services back in-house to West Northants Council from 1 April 2023.

Back in 2015 the Building Control function for the former Daventry District Council was transferred to a shared service with Warwick and Rugby Councils.

Following the establishment of West Northants Council, work has been ongoing with partners, officers and stakeholders to bring this service back in house to enable a single consistent service to be provided across the whole of West Northants.

Work is nearing completion with the building control service for the Daventry area to be provided by WNC from 1 April. The contact details for West Northamptonshire Building Control Service from 1 April 2023 are buildingcontrol@westnorthants.gov.uk, telephone 01604 838920

Subscribe to our garden waste service

As you will be aware, residents are currently being invited to sign-up for our optional, chargeable garden waste subscription service.

The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service from April 2023 to the end of March 2024 is £55 per bin and [people can subscribe via the link on our website](#)

Residents also now have the option to sign up for an annual Direct Debit to save having to remember to renew every year. Residents who are unable to access the internet can subscribe to the service by phoning the council on 0300 126 7000.

Once households are signed up to the service, they will receive their new 2023/24 garden waste permit which they will be asked to stick on their garden waste bin. Any bins that have not subscribed will not be emptied after 4 April.



Alternative options

People who do not wish to sign up to the service have the option of composting their garden waste at home, either in a traditional compost heap or by purchasing a compost bin by visiting www.getcomposting.com and typing in their postcode to see offers available.

People can also recycle garden waste for free at any of our [household waste recycling centres](#)

A [comprehensive list of FAQs are also available on our website](#) and more information can be found on our [Garden Waste page](#)

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 over the next month include:

- **Brackley Library** (Manor Road, NN13 6AJ): Fri 31 March from 10am to midday.
- **Crick Old School** (Church Street, NN6 7TP) Thurs 23 March from 3-5pm.
- **Southbrook Community Centre** (Hood Rd, Daventry, NN11 4JS) Weds 22 Mar 12.30-2.30pm.
- **Moulton Library Plus** (Moulton Reedings, NN3 7AX): Fri 24 March from 10am to midday.
- **Spencer Club** (Tennyson Close, Dallington NN5 7HJ): Weds 29 March from 10am to 11am.



[View listings for all of the drop-in sessions on our website](#)

Have your say via our Consultation Hub

A range of consultation and engagement activities are currently taking place across West Northants. We 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](#)

Public Spaces Protection Order for Northampton area

Deadline for comments: Monday 17 April

People are being invited to have their say on proposals to extend to Northampton an order which encourages responsible dog ownership and prohibits smoking in certain public spaces.

Our Council is proposing to vary the Public Spaces Protection Order introduced in the Daventry and South Northants areas last year so that it also covers the Northampton area, with the additional requirement that dogs should be kept on leads in Northampton town centre and at Upton Country Park.



[Find out more on the Public Spaces Protection Order and have a say on our Consultation Hub](#)

Extension to taxi licensing consultation

Deadline for comments: Sunday 23 April

Residents, businesses and professional drivers have been given more time to comment on our Council's draft Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

The draft policy sets out the driver, vehicle and operator standards for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, focussing on improving standards and public safety.

The deadline for this consultation has been extended to Sunday 23 April to allow people more time to fully review it and consider their views.

[Have a say on the taxi licensing consultation](#)

West Northamptonshire Parks Visitors Feedback Survey

Deadline for comments: Friday 31 March

Our Council manages more than 190 parks and open spaces, and this feedback survey is about 22 of these parks.

We would like to hear about the park you visit the most. The information you provide will help us to improve our parks and open spaces and to prioritise work plans.

[Have a say on the parks feedback survey](#)

Marefair Heritage Park Consultation, Northampton

Deadline for comments: Friday 7 April

Our Council has secured £1.5m from the Government's Towns Fund to transform Chalk Lane Car Park in Marefair into a Heritage Park.

This will redefine the entrance to the town centre from the train station, offer open green space for families and the local community to enjoy while celebrating the heritage of the area.

[Have your say on the Marefair Heritage Park consultation](#)

Abington Street Public Realm Improvements, Northampton

Deadline for comments: Sunday 16 April

We have secured £4.2m from the Government's Towns Fund to transform Abington Street in Northampton with improved pedestrian access, new seating, planting and outdoor dining space.

[Have your say on the Abington Street Public Realm Improvements](#)

Coming together to clean our communities

Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste



People across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to support their local environment and get involved in the Great British Spring Clean, which runs until Sunday, 2 April.

We know a lot of Town and Parish Councils are getting involved in these activities, and would like to remind you we have a number of litter picking sets available for groups and individuals to borrow.

The kits include litter pickers, sacks and bag hoops, plus a step-by-step guide to carrying out a safe and successful community clean-up event.

More information about borrowing litter picking kits, and arranging a collection of the rubbish you pick up can be found on our [Litter Charter page](#) or by emailing litter.champions@westnorthants.gov.uk

We are also encouraging volunteers to post photos of themselves and the bags of litter they collect on social media and tag in our Council [@WestNorthants](#), so we can share and celebrate their great work.

If you are posting about litter picking events in your Parish areas, please email communications@westnorthants.gov.uk to highlight these to us and we will be happy to help spread the word by sharing your posts on our feeds.

By working together and maintaining community spirit, we send a strong message that littering is not acceptable.

Inspirational women celebrated with awards

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

The winners of our Council's Inspirational Women's Awards were announced at Northampton's Guildhall earlier this month, as part of an afternoon of activities to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event aims to publicly recognise and promote those women who inspire and have a real impact on the lives of others in the community or the workplace.

There were more than 70 nominations this year, and it was incredible to hear about some of the women who are doing remarkable work in communities across West Northamptonshire.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the inspiring women who were nominated.

The winners were as follows:

- Community Award: Sally Jordan
- Business Award: Becky Bradshaw
- Special Recognition Award: Julie Bainbridge.



You can [watch a video of the event on our YouTube Channel](#) and [read more on our website](#)

New SEND advice services set to launch

Our Council and North Northamptonshire Council are [ready to launch two new separate SEND Information, Advice and Support Services](#) (IASS).

The new services will start on 1 April, and will continue to deliver the IASS remit of providing free, impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND and their families.

These services operate at arm's length from local authorities and clinical commissioning groups and are independently trained.

They provide practical, factual and impartial information advice and support to enable children and young people and their parents to participate fully in decisions about education, health and social care.

West Northants SEND IASS covers the entire West Northamptonshire Council area and from April 1 can be reached by phoning 0300 12 61039, emailing SENDIASS@westnorthants.gov.uk or visiting www.iassnorthants.co.uk

Our Council in the news

Here's a roundup of the news releases and updates published by our Council during December.

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:

- [Industries come together to learn more about workplace wellbeing](#) – 24 Feb
- [West Northamptonshire Council sets out budget for 2023/24](#) – 24 Feb
- [New provision for children with SEND is officially open](#) – 24 Feb
- [Work well under way to improve trails at new bike park](#) – 24 Feb
- [Subscriptions now open for garden waste service](#) – 27 Feb
- [Residents encouraged to shop local at Northampton Market](#) – 28 Feb
- [Town centre to host 'Animal Paradise' trail](#) – 28 Feb
- [Over 4,700 secondary school places allocated](#) – 1 Mar
- [Deadline extended to take part in Northampton Pride 2023](#) – 1 Mar
- [Consultation period for taxi licensing policy is extended](#) – 2 Mar
- [Unsafe products removed from sale by Trading Standards](#) – 2 Mar
- [Provide your view on plans for the regeneration of public realm in Northampton](#) - 3 Mar
- [Have your say on a new political map for West Northamptonshire](#) – 7 Mar
- [People urged to look after their brain health and quit smoking](#) – 7 Mar
- [Awards ceremony celebrates International Women's Day](#) – 8 Mar
- [Development fund launched to support local social entrepreneurs](#) – 8 Mar
- [HMO licence holder hit with £25k fine following fire safety breaches](#) – 8 Mar
- [Expo event showcases free support for West Northants businesses](#) – 9 Mar
- [West Northants at the heart of hosting international sport this summer](#) – 9 Mar
- [Preparation works underway to transform Northampton's Market Square](#) – 10 Mar
- [Disaggregation of IASS for SEND Northamptonshire service](#) – 15 Mar
- [Residents invited to have their says on new measures for public open spaces](#) – 16 Mar
- [Residents urged to submit their road closure application before 27 March](#) – 16 Mar
- [Communities invited to support the Great British Spring Clean](#) – 17 Mar