



Town & Parish Briefing

Edition 13 | 23 May 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

Welcome new investment in our roads

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

An additional £2.86m is being invested in our roads in the year ahead, allowing our partners West Northamptonshire Highways to accelerate maintenance and repair works across the area.

The additional investment includes £1m from our council, plus an extra £1.86 million from the Government.

We also continue to work with Kier to deliver a multi-million-pound plan to maintain our road network through the Community Enhancement Plan.

This work has reached over 161 parishes, clearing nearly 4km of vegetation and cleaning more than 1,500 road signs to date. Alongside this, Kier has also rectified over 1,688 road and footpath defects, and 6,771 carriageway repairs.

We are committed to working with Kier to manage the Highways network across the area better. We have a planned programme of works to repair our roads, and we will always do our best to act on reports of potholes.

In addition to the £1 million boost we're investing into our planned programme; we welcome the additional Government investment. We know there is a vast amount of work to do to improve the state of the roads across West Northamptonshire, but this is a step in the right direction.



School kids get creative to name gritter fleet

Primary school children across West Northamptonshire have been getting creative and coming up with new names for our fleet of gritters.

Pupils from Brixworth, St Luke's, East Haddon and Croughton Primary Schools, got involved in the fun competition, coming up with some inventive names including:

- Snow Drop
- Frosty Flakes
- Great Gritain
- Salt n Pepper
- Salty Sam
- Icey Slicey
- Gritzilla
- Pretty Gritty (in the city)
- Roadzipper.

Look out for them on a road near you in the winter months.

West Northants to benefit from £5.4m fund

Cllr Dan Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth

New cycleways will be created and local businesses and voluntary organisations are set to benefit from more than £5.4million funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The funding is the largest allocation in the South East Midlands and will be used to create pride in place, improve people's life chances, increase skills, create stronger communities and support local businesses over the next 2 years.

Our plans for the funding include creating new and improved pedestrian crossing facilities between the Billing Road and Abington, in Northampton, and improving paths and cycleways to encourage active travel.

The funding will also be used to tackle fuel poverty and the cost of living through the provision of a range of services across West Northants, including improving Household Energy performance in people's homes.

Local voluntary and community organisations will also receive a portion of the money to help increase engagement in community centres and improve the support available to residents.

A range of initiatives, including a new grants programme to help local businesses at all stages to start, sustain, grow and innovate and tailored employment support to help people into work, will also receive some of the funding.

Other areas planned to benefit include:

- Funding for volunteer and social action projects
- Decarbonisation and improving the natural environment
- Business support to enable employers to better utilise the local workforce and understand the advantages of being flexible in terms of recruitment.

We have worked closely with stakeholders, community groups and local partners to analyse the greatest needs for this funding, and most importantly, to deliver economic prosperity in our area whilst supporting sustainability, increasing employment opportunities and offering greater support for local businesses.



Multiply courses set to boost adult numeracy

A range of free adult numeracy courses have been launched by our Council to help people brush up on their maths skills and become more confident with numbers.

The courses, known as Multiply, are designed to make maths simpler for everyone, and to show that even those who struggled with maths in school can feel confident with numeracy in their day-to-day lives.

Launched as [part of the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme](#), Multiply includes numeracy courses for beginners through to more advanced offers such as GCSE Maths and Level 2 Functional Skills Qualifications. People can take a short quiz to understand which areas of numeracy they might want to improve by visiting the [Skills for Life website](#).

Multiply forms part of almost £575k allocated to help improve adult numeracy in the area by the Department for Education in partnership with WNC.

Through Multiply, we want to boost people's confidence and ability to use maths and numbers effectively in daily life, at home and work. This includes helping people attain a formal qualification to open doors to new jobs, career progression and further study.

People can find out more information and [view the full range of courses on our Multiply page](#)

Vouchers to support families over half term

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

Families with schoolchildren experiencing hardship across West Northamptonshire will receive a voucher to support them with food costs during the May half-term holiday.

Our Council will be distributing over £187,000 in vouchers provided by the Department for Work and Pensions to help up to 12,500 of the most vulnerable families with the ongoing cost of living challenges.

Schools and those who are home educated have been contacted about the plans to issue the £15 (per week and per student) vouchers ahead of the half-term break, from the week beginning 22 May. They can be used in supermarkets and must be used by the redeem date given.

We know that the school vouchers issued previously have been a true support for many families during these difficult times, so we have acted quickly to ensure they will be available again for those who need them ahead of this May half-term break.

The vouchers are the first step towards distributing £5,199,257 that has been allocated to the Council by the DWP in the fourth round of its Household Support Fund (HSF4).

Our Cabinet will meet on 13 June to determine the best use of HSF4 within the scope set out by government over the next 9 months, which will support struggling residents and deliver better outcomes as part of its anti-poverty strategy.

Residents are encouraged to look out for further information on the support packages that will be available in the coming weeks.

People who would like more information on cost of living support are encouraged to visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living or call 0300 126 7000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

Survey on county's sexual health services

Public Health teams at West and North Northamptonshire Councils are seeking input from residents across Northamptonshire to help shape sexual health services across the county.

They are keen to know what is working well and what can be improved to help shape the future sexual health strategy and commissioning of sexual health services in Northamptonshire.

This survey will help us understand:

- The emerging and current needs of residents
- Residents' experience of accessing sexual health, HIV, contraception, and reproductive health services
- Which communities, if any, need additional support and consideration
- How to improve services and sexual health.

Any and all information provided while completing the survey will be kept anonymous, secure and confidential, and will be shared only with the people who run and make decisions on Sexual Health services.

People can have their say by [completing the sexual health survey here](#)

Town and parish councils are asked to please support this project by highlighting the consultation link to residents in their area.

The survey will close at midnight Sunday 11 June 2023.

Videos aiming to improve recycling habits

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

It's clear that all our residents do a fantastic job by recycling, with about half of all household waste being recycled each year.

To help ensure that the right stuff, goes in the right bin – [we have created a series of videos](#) to help reduce contamination and improve these recycling rates.

Have you ever opened something at home, but not known what to do with the packaging? Or perhaps you're a bit of a wish-cycler – putting things in your recycling bin in the hope they can be recycled?

We all try to do the right thing, but if too much of the wrong stuff goes in the recycling bin, it causes contamination.



Too much contamination in our recycling bins can lead to entire lorry loads being spoiled and disposed of with general waste instead of being recycled into new products.

Residents can also download the 'West Northants' app for your [Android](#) or [Apple](#) mobile device and search our handy guide, or [visit our Right Stuff, Right Bin web page](#)

A key milestone in our sustainability journey

Cllr Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council

Our Council has reached a key milestone in our journey towards becoming a net zero local authority by achieving our first national environmental accreditation.

Following an independent audit, the Council has earned Bronze Award accreditation with the Investors in the Environment scheme (iE), recognising its commitment towards sustainability.

The iE scheme is designed to help organisations improve their environmental performance and reduce their impact on the environment, save time and money as well as get recognition for their progress. Bronze status is the first of three iE accreditation levels the Council is working towards achieving to ensure environmental excellence.

As members will be aware, our Council is committed to achieving Net Zero for our own emissions by 2030 and Net Zero West Northants emissions by 2045, with the recent publication of our baseline [emissions report](#) for 2021-22 last month representing a significant step forward in meeting its sustainability goals.

We're delighted to be awarded Bronze iE Accreditation, recognising our commitment to cutting emissions and meeting our 2030 target to achieve net zero as well as celebrate our achievements so far.

Town and Parish Councils can find out more and make a sustainability pledge on our [Sustainable West Northants page](#)



West Northants businesses win King Awards

Cllr Dan Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth

I was thrilled to see two of West Northamptonshire's talented businesses recognised in this year's King's Awards.

Brian James Trailers Limited, who are based in Daventry and specialise in designing and manufacturing trailers for transportation of vehicles, plant machinery and general materials, received an award in the International Trade category.

An award in the same category was granted to **Viridian Nutrition**, also based in Daventry, which specialises in effective, ethical and pure health supplements, nutritional oils, tinctures and topicals.

West Northants has a wonderfully strategic location and is home to a diverse range of businesses who have shown outstanding resilience and innovation throughout the past few years.

It's businesses like these that drive our economy forward and demonstrate what success looks like, so congratulations to them both.

The King's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses, with winning businesses able to use the esteemed King's Awards Emblem for the next five years. The 2024 Awards will open for applications on 6 May 2023.



Merged Futures to explore digital innovation

Merged Futures returns to the Learning Hub at the **University of Northampton's Waterside Campus on Friday June 30** and, as with all Digital Northants events, it's free to attend.

A celebration of Northamptonshire's innovators, educators and entrepreneurs, the event brings together people from different sectors interested in digital, tech and innovation to share and spark ideas.

It's also an opportunity for the business community to discover some of the University of Northampton's innovative teaching methods, the skills developed by students and the potential to partner and collaborate with the University in different fields.



Northamptonshire is a forward-thinking county, home to hundreds of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Events like this provide us with the ideal opportunity to make new connections, share best practice and drive forward change together.

The event takes place at the Learning Hub, University of Northampton, on Friday June 30, 2023 from 10am to 4pm. Members can find out more and [book a free ticket](#) online.

Councils now able to apply for £150m fund

Parish councils are now able to apply to the multi-million-pound Community Ownership Fund.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has launched the third round of its £150m Community Ownership Fund.

The aim of the fund is to help community projects to save local assets, such as sports clubs, music venues and historic buildings.

The amount of funding all projects can bid for will be increasing from £250,000 to £1m in this third round, and the requirement for match-funding is also being reduced to as low as 10%.

[Parish councils will now also be able to apply to the fund](#), which has previously only been available to charities and community groups.

Venues sought for free Heritage Open Days

Historic buildings, churches and venues across West Northamptonshire will be open to the public for free from Friday 8 to Sunday 17 September, as part of the [Heritage Open Days event](#)

The initiative is a once-a-year opportunity for residents to explore some of the area's unique historic buildings and sites, many of which are usually restricted access or charge for entry, finding out about West Northamptonshire's vibrant culture and heritage like never before.

We'll be listing all local attractions and events over the coming months on our website and across our social media channels.

Please encourage any local attractions who might be interested in taking part in this year's event to contact economy@westnorthants.gov.uk by 31 May 2023.

All sites and associated events/activities taking part in HODs must be completely free to access, from entry to exit, and ideally will offer something to your audience which is not normally available.

Residents can also download our [Explore West Northants App](#) to discover the full offer of the area from independent businesses and attractions to exclusive discounts and events.



Short film explores our county's role in history

Volunteers have worked together to produce a short film about Northamptonshire as part of the Northampton Film Festival.

With the support of Northamptonshire Community Foundation, more than 120 volunteers came together to produce *Northants: Kind of a Big Deal*.

The film explores Northamptonshire's pivotal role in British history, paying homage to the accomplishments of outstanding women like Margaret Bondfield (1873-1953), Britain's first female cabinet minister and privy counsellor; as well as more recent heroes like national Scooter Champion Jayden Sharman and BMX Olympic Bronze Medallist Declan Brookes.

And of course there is nowhere else that can claim it produced footwear for Darth Vader, James Bond and King Charles. [Northants: Kind of a Big Deal can be viewed online now](#)

Northampton Film Festival runs from 22 May to 4 June and [more information can be found on their website](#).

New area planning committees are adopted

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

Planning applications across West Northamptonshire will be determined by two new committees from June, as our Council continues work to improve planning services.

As Town and Parish Councils will be aware, since Vesting we have operated three Local Area Planning Committees, covering the former Daventry District, South Northants and Northampton Borough areas.

Proposals to abolish those committees, and replace them with two new committees – one covering the north of West Northants, and one for the south – were agreed at Annual Council last week.

These changes form part of our response to the review by the Planning Advisory Service, and seek to ensure that our planning function is effective, reflects good practice and supports our duties.

They will enable us to continue to improve our planning services for residents and partners. We will be able to make decisions more quickly and improve our communications with residents by livestreaming meetings, enabling them to watch from anywhere.

They form part of our wider planned improvements to the planning service, which has already seen us implement a new planning portal for Daventry, Towcester and Brackley areas – with Northampton to follow this summer.

Update on the Planning Portal

We are working hard to resolve an intermittent issue relating to documents for applications determined before 23 March 2023 in the Daventry area.

These documents are not currently available to view online and the team are carrying out a review to determine the cause of the issue and resolve this as quickly as possible

In the meantime, any residents who need to access document(s) from these applications are advised to please email the service on: planning@westnorthants.gov.uk with the application number, site address and details of the document(s). The team will aim to make these documents available within 10 working days of the request.

Access support for neighbourhood planning



Are you planning to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for your town or parish area?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the opportunity to work together to develop a plan for their area. They contain policies about what communities consider important, where they think development should go and what it should look like.

When they are “made” or adopted, they form part of the development plan and are used in decision making alongside the Part 1 and Part 2 Local Plans for West Northamptonshire, together with other material planning considerations, so they are powerful tools.

New information to help communities understand the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan and to decide whether it is the right approach for them has been published on our website recently.

It includes advice on designating a neighbourhood area, preparing a draft plan, and the process of submission and consultation, together with information about the examination process and the local referendum which all Neighbourhood Plans must go through before they can be ‘made’, or adopted.

We encourage interested communities to contact us as early as possible, preferably at the point that a steering group is being established, so that we can provide support from the beginning. By contacting us early, we will be able to advise when we will have resources available to support you.

If you would like more information, including how to get started, please [visit the Neighbourhood Plans area on our website](#) or email neighbourhoodplanning@westnorthants.gov.uk

New Chairman takes the chains of office

Cllr John Shephard received the ceremonial chains of office from outgoing Chairman Cllr André Gonzalez De Sávege at the Council's Annual Meeting last week (Thursday, 18 May).

John, who has served as a councillor for over 40 years, plans to be active and dedicated in the year ahead as Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council, supporting local communities and businesses whilst also fundraising for his two chosen charities, Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) and the Army Benevolent Fund.

Originally from Bedford, John read law at Worcester College, Oxford and qualified as a solicitor in London before moving to Northampton in the late 1970s to practise in property and administrative law. He also took a commission in the reserve forces whilst at university and subsequently joined 4th (Volunteer) Battalion Royal Green Jackets, seeing short periods of service in Cyprus, Germany and Belize.

His political career began at Daventry District Council, where he was a member for Spratton Ward as well as chairing and being a member of a number of committees.

In his latest role, John is looking forward to representing the Council and West Northamptonshire at events and functions, as well as chairing Council meetings to ensure they are properly run in accordance with the Constitution.

As part of the role, he is keen to meet and engage with local businesses, schools, community and voluntary groups and other organisations to help raise their profile. Groups organising an event, activity or function who would like the Chairman to attend should email chairman@westnorthants.gov.uk



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 26 May from 10am to midday.
- **Briar Hill Community Centre** (The Springs Walk, NN4 8SX) Weds 7 June from midday to 2pm.
- **Hunsbury Library** (Overslade Close, NN4 0RZ) Thurs 8 June from 1pm to 4pm.
- **Moulton Library Plus** (Moulton Readings, NN3 7AX): Fri 26 May from 10am to midday.
- **Weston Favell Library** (Weston Favell Shopping Centre NN3 8JZ): Fri 9 June from 12.30pm to 3pm.



[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](#)

You can find out the results of recent surveys on our [We asked, you said, we did page](#), and [sign-up to receive emails whenever a new consultation opens on the West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub](#).

Home to School Transport

Deadline for comments: End of May

People are being encouraged to give their views on proposed changes to Home to School Transport services for children up to the age of 16 across West Northamptonshire.

The review of the service seeks to ensure it is delivered in line with other local councils and at a reasonable cost, by tackling challenges including increasing demand and rising operating costs. It also explores opportunities for a more flexible, environmentally friendly service that increases choices for parents and better supports the independence of young people.

[Have your say on the Home to School Transport consultation](#)



Short Breaks for children with disabilities

Deadline for comments: 29 May

Residents can have their say on the future shape of services providing 'short-breaks' for children with disabilities in Northamptonshire.

The breaks offer young people with disabilities rich opportunities while allowing their carers to have a break. Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board fund a range of different services to provide these breaks.

Having worked with parents and practitioners the organisations have developed a potential new model for the services and are looking for feedback on this before going any further.

[Have your say on the Short Breaks consultation](#)

Sexual Health services

Deadline for comments: 11 June

Public Health teams at West and North Northamptonshire Councils are seeking input from residents across Northamptonshire to help shape sexual health services across the county.

They would like to know what is working well and what can be improved to help shape the future sexual health strategy and commissioning of sexual health services in Northamptonshire.

[Complete the Sexual Health Services survey here](#)

Commissioning of Healthwatch Northamptonshire

Deadline for comments: 18 June

West and North Northamptonshire Councils would like to understand how you feel about local Healthwatch - an independent consumer champion for people who use health and social care services.

The two councils are re-commissioning Northamptonshire's Healthwatch services, with the new service being live from 1 November 2023. They would like to hear views to help explore and shape how Healthwatch in Northamptonshire will look in the future.

[Complete the Healthwatch consultation here](#)

What a happy and glorious celebration

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

Thousands of people came together to enjoy a Bank Holiday weekend of events and activities as communities across West Northamptonshire celebrated the Coronation.

On Saturday hundreds of people braved the rain for the Community Festival street party in Northampton town centre, with the celebrations continuing in the sunshine on Sunday as over 6,000 people flocked to the Coronation Big Lunch and After Party in the grounds of Northampton's historic Delapré Abbey.



Visitors to the free event were treated to a variety of local performances including StyleStars and Dance with a Difference, Northampton's Pauline Quirke Academy, Similar Jones, Old Savoy Jazz Band, Rock Choir, Djin-Li, Britain's Got Talent semi-finalists Born To Perform and Lucien Moon, who appeared on The X-Factor in 2015 and is opening for Westlife later this summer.

The event, held on a gloriously sunny day which turned into a mild evening, concluded with a live broadcast of the National Coronation Concert on the big screen.



Coronation events also took place at towns and villages across West Northamptonshire, with over 70 street closures taking place as neighbourhoods gathered to stage their own street parties.

I know a lot of Town and Parish Councils held events over the weekend, including getting involved in the Big Help Out on Bank Holiday Monday, which saw people across the country take part in voluntary work to highlight its impact on local communities.

I am sure you will agree it was great to see so many families and communities come together and enjoy a wonderful Coronation weekend.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the organisations who helped to support the Big Lunch and make it such a memorable and enjoyable day for all those who came along.

Finally, a huge well done to everyone who supported in the Big Help Out and embodied the true community spirit that we see so often in West Northamptonshire – a fantastic effort all round.

James Saunders Watson, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, said: "It was fantastic to see thousands of people turn out to enjoy the celebrations across a spectacular bank holiday weekend.

"The weather on Sunday was splendid and it was great to see so many street parties and local events taking place across the whole weekend, with children, families and local communities all getting involved.

"The Big Help Out on Monday was the cherry on top of what was a truly terrific Coronation celebration."

You can [watch a video from the Big Lunch event on our Twitter channel](#)



Partnership can help you put on a safe event

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

Is your council planning an event this summer? Please ensure you make good use of the Event Safety Partnership (ESP), set up by our Council in consultation with colleagues at the police, fire and rescue and East Midlands Ambulance Service.

The ESP receives applications for events on behalf of all partners and deposits the information on Resilience Direct – a secure repository that blue light services and selected Council colleagues can access.

Our Council has a duty of care to ensure that any events held on our land are compliant with current legislation but above all are safe and legal.

Any event that is not on our land but in the WNC catchment area may still be subject to scrutiny from partners, for example Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and the police joint operation team.

The ESP is also able to advise on anything event related, so groups planning an event can be provided with templates and guidance for event management plans, risk assessments, food safety, inflatables, counter terrorism and more.

If you or groups in your area are planning an event, you can [access support by completing the application form here](#) The partnership can also be contacted on esp@westnorthants.gov.uk



New campaign aims to prevent battery fires

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

We are urging residents across West Northamptonshire to ensure they dispose of batteries safely following a number of fires in our bin lorries and at Household Waste Recycling Centres in recent months.

A new campaign, supported by Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service, is urging people to:

- Never put any kind of battery into their wheeled bins
- Use the Council's battery recycling collection, take batteries to supermarkets, or to a HWRC
- Remove all batteries from old electrical or battery powered items before recycling electricals.



As part of the campaign [we shared a video of a real incident in which one of our bin lorries caught fire](#)

People can recycle batteries as part of our kerbside collections, so long as they put them in a bag and place them on top of:

- Their blue lidded recycling bin (Northampton residents)
- Black general waste bin (Daventry area residents)
- Either bin (those living in the South Northamptonshire area)

People can find out more information about safe battery disposal on our [battery disposal page](#)

Our Council in the news

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

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:

- [Over 70 roads to be closed over the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend](#) – Apr 24
- [Avian flu measures reduced](#) – Apr 25
- [Landlord fined £115,181 for housing offences](#) – Apr 25
- [New video aiming to help residents recycle](#) – Apr 26
- [Two West Northamptonshire businesses congratulated on prestigious King's Award](#)– Apr 28
- [West Northants to hold vigil one year on from Knife Angel visit](#) – May 2
- [West Northamptonshire Council receives Bronze iiE accreditation](#) – May 3
- [West Northamptonshire Council launch free adult numeracy courses](#) May 3
- [Planning your food this bank holiday](#) – May 3
- [Council selects winning gritter names from over 700 primary school entries](#) – May 4
- [Reminder to have your say in the home to school transport consultation](#) – May 4
- [Get involved in the Big Help Out and support a cause you care about](#) – May 4
- [Youth charity going from strength to strength](#) – May 4
- [West Northamptonshire comes together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III](#) – May 10
- [Temporary road closure on Angel Street, Northampton from 15 May](#) – May 11
- [West Northants residents invited to 'make some noise' for IDAHOBIT](#) – May 12
- [70-79-year-olds to take up the shingles vaccine](#)– May 12
- [12,500 families to receive meal vouchers ahead of May half-term](#) – May 12
- [Care network day for Daventry and surrounding villages](#) – May 15
- [Have your say on Sexual Health Services in Northamptonshire](#) – May 15
- [Never bin batteries – they cause fires](#) – May 15
- [Work presses ahead at Northampton's market square](#) – May 17
- [Pride Festival returns to Northampton for 2023](#) – May 18
- [West Northamptonshire awarded funding for new active travel route](#) – May 19