

Town & Parish Briefing

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Latest news



A single vision for West Northants



Have you shared your views on the **draft One West Northamptonshire Plan** yet?

This new joint strategy sets out local partners such as town and parish councils, businesses and other organisations can work more closely together over the next five years to help communities flourish and businesses prosper.

We would love to hear your views on the plan, by **completing the online survey here** before the deadline of 20 February.

We would also encourage you to help spread the word about the survey within your own networks. **Resources to help you do this are available here**, or you can email **oneplan@westnorthants.gov.uk**

You can **find more about the draft One West Northamptonshire plan on our website**

Budget proposals to be discussed



Our final **budget proposals for 2025-26 have been published** ahead of the matter being **considered by Full Council** next Thursday (20 February).

Pressures caused by increasing cost and demand for both children's services and adult social care continue to present significant challenges for councils across the country, including ours.

Despite this, we are proposing a balanced budget. It includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99% an average increase on a Band D property of £88.73 a year, or about £1.71 a week.

Changes to voting arrangements



Thank you to all town and parish councils for taking part on our Community Governance Review.

The Community Governance Order, confirming changes to local parish boundaries and governance in West Northamptonshire, **has now been officially published**. This means the changes are finalised and will take effect for the local elections on 1 May 2025, allowing residents to vote within the newly approved arrangements.

The key updates across the area include:

- Adjustments to the boundaries between several parishes, such as Boughton and Kingsthorpe, Moulton and Pitsford, and Dodford and Weedon Bec, to better reflect community identities and new developments.
- Updates to ward boundaries to improve representation and address population growth.
- Parishes like Overstone, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, Thorpe Mandeville, and West Hunsbury will have revised numbers of councillors to improve local representation.

New operator for our recycling centres



Recycling centres across West Northants are set to open 7 days a week from April 1.

It's **one of a number of improvements being made** as part of a new contract with FCC Waste Services, who will take over management of our six recycling centres at Sixfields, Ecton Lane, Daventry, Towcester, Brixworth and Farthinghoe.

Disappointment over devolution bid



Our Council was hugely disappointed to learn last week that the South Midlands has not been chosen for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme at this stage.

We will however **continue to work with Government and our partners towards devolution in the future** and discussions will start shortly on how we secure a devolution deal, with the full support of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments (MHCLG).

As Town and Parish Councils will be aware, we had hoped to leverage the devolution model to bring millions of pounds of investment into the area during the coming decades, enhancing infrastructure, housing, and employment opportunities.

The Government was clear that to join the priority programme there needed to be local consensus on the proposed Devolution footprint, so we were disappointed that this could not be achieved at this stage. There was however clear ministerial recognition that the South Midlands Authorities had a strong track record and was viewed as a central corridor for economic growth from a national perspective.

Progress achieved following peer review



We were pleased recently to receive a positive update from the team which visited us last year as part of the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge.

Professionals from a range of local authorities across the country visited the area in March 2024 to assess our performance, highlighting the strong start we had made since our launch in 2021, as well as identifying a series of actions which would take that work to the next level.

During a return visit in November, the team reviewed all of these areas and in their report just published they noted that “the council has made tangible progress since March 2024 and should be commended for that progress and its renewed optimism and confidence for the future”.

- **Read more about our ongoing improvement work**

New surgery for Moulton



Proposals for a new Health and Wellbeing Surgery in Moulton have taken a step forward.

The new facility **would enable the expansion of the established GP practice** into larger premises, along with additional supporting medical services.

The project is led by the Integrated Care Board, working closely with the practice, Moulton Parish Council and our Council.

Relief road to be completed



Construction of the final section of the Sandy Lane Relief Road is underway.

Our Highways Partner Kier Transportation is carrying out the work to link the route to the A4500 junction in a project which will reduce congestion and improve connectivity for local communities.

Motorists are warned that this work will involve some lane closures on the A4500 and at the Upton Valley Way North junction during March.

Immediate Justice Programme cleans up



Do you know of any places in your town or parish area that would benefit from a clean-up?

Run by the Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, the Immediate Justice programme offers people who have committed low-level crimes an alternative to prosecution, through completing reparative work such as litter picking, graffiti removal, gardening and repairs.

The programme has so far delivered over 650 hours of work across 30 locations in West Northamptonshire, and the feedback the team has received from communities has been positive.

If you have any suggestions of areas, or what work could be implemented, please email **immediatejusticeteam@northants.police.uk**

All aboard for new bus charter



A new passenger charter has been launched to set out how we will work with partners to improve bus services across West Northamptonshire.

The charter - developed by an Enhanced Partnership made up of our Council, bus operators and other stakeholders - sets out how we're working to develop more reliable, efficient bus network which is reliable and easy and enjoyable to use.

- **Find out more about the charter**

Fresh efforts to tackle littering



More enforcement officers will be patrolling the streets of West Northants to help tackle problems such as dog fouling, graffiti and litter.

A **new three-year contract with Kingdom Local Authority Support** will see extra officers deployed across the area, helping us take action against those who commit such offences, and supporting wider efforts to keep our open spaces looking clean and green. The previous contract only covered Northampton.

Tour delivered economic boost



Did you enjoy **The Tour Of Britain** when it came to West Northamptonshire in September? It had a really positive impact on our local economy too.

The event's fifth stage, held on Saturday, 7 September 2024, showcased West Northants as a hub of excitement and community pride, seeing thousands of residents line the streets to cheer on the world-class cyclists, contributing significantly to the race's overall success.

Research carried out for **British Cycling** by YouGov shows the event **delivered a £5.69 million boost to West Northamptonshire**, driven by £3.6 million in attendee spending.

Could you offer a welcoming home?



Monthly thank you payments of up to £700 are available to people who are able to offer a room to someone in need of short-term accommodation under our Welcoming Homes scheme.

The aim of this pilot scheme is to support existing West Northamptonshire residents who are in need of a temporary home, to help them gain a bit of stability while they find a more permanent place to stay. Our hope is to offer people a safe and comfortable environment that goes beyond traditional housing support.

Guests are carefully matched with their hosts, are able to meet to discuss arrangements before any agreement is made, and both must undergo safeguarding checks to ensure a safe, supportive experience for everyone involved. A dedicated caseworker will also provide support throughout.

Anyone interested in finding out more should email **welcominghomes@westnorthants.gov.uk** or **submit an interest by completing this form**

Celebrating our historic figures



We're asking people to **share their nominations for prominent local figures whose legacies deserve to be celebrated with a Blue Plaque.**

Eight new plaques are set to be installed across West Northamptonshire as part of the Histories of Northamptonshire project, led by Northampton Museums & Art Gallery and supported by Arts Council England.

Nominations can be submitted by **completing an online form** or by emailing **hon@westnorthants.gov.uk** to request a nomination form.

Events and activities



Rugby World Cup Trophy on its way



People will have the unique opportunity to see the Women's Rugby World Cup trophy up close, take pictures and learn more about the upcoming tournament during a **series of events taking place over half-term next week**:

- **Mon 17 Feb:** Community Rugby Camp at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens from 9am to 10am
- **Tues 18 Feb:** Derngate Theatre from 2pm to 3.30pm

- **Thurs 20 Feb:** Weston Favell Library from 9.30am to 11.30am and Northampton Market Square from 12.30pm to 6.30pm
- **Fri 21 Feb:** Northampton Museum from 9am to 3.30pm and at the Loughborough Lightning vs Ealing Trailfinders match at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens on Friday evening

Chairman's January update



Chairman of the Council, Cllr Jo Gilford has had a busy January, attending a range of community engagements across West Northamptonshire and further afield. You can **read all about it in her monthly blog**

Service spotlight



When it comes to food waste recycling, any bag will do!

We're reminding people that they do not need to use compostable bag to line their food waste caddy when using our recycling service.

It's all because of the way our food waste is recycled.

Compostable bags require oxygen to break down, but food waste collected in West Northamptonshire is recycled at an anaerobic digestion facility at either Cassington in Oxfordshire or Coleshill near Birmingham, in a process that operates without oxygen.

Any bags or liners are separated from your food waste as part of this process, and taken to a separate facility where they are used to make electricity, while your food waste is also turned into electricity, as well as a bio-fertiliser that is spread onto farmers' fields.

So whether you want to use a sheet of old newspaper, an old carrier bag, cereal bag or bread bag – it really doesn't matter. We only ask people do not use black bin liners, as crews may mistake these for general waste.

Liners are available at West Northants libraries for just £1 per roll of 30, and if you would prefer to use compostable bags, they can be found at most supermarkets.

Food waste is collected weekly in West Northamptonshire. Anyone in need of a new bin or caddy **can order one on our website**

More information can be found at **westnorthants.gov.uk/foodwaste**



Accolade for Archives Service

From first hand accounts of the Great Fire of Northampton, to the signatures Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, our Archives Service conserves and safeguards the county's most important historic records.

It houses books, diaries, maps plans and photographs on an incredible eight miles of shelving, charting the rich history of the county from the 12th Century through to modern times.

The service recently received the Archive Service Accreditation - a national accolade recognising its commitment to preserving, conserving and making the documentary archives accessible to the public.

Find out more about Northamptonshire's Archives Service





















Town and Parish Council Help Centre



Town and Parish Councils have a dedicated officer at our Council who they can contact for help and support with all things WNC.

Our Parish Council Liaison Officer Alan Burns has a remit to maintain and enhance good working relationships between West Northamptonshire Council and our Town and Parish colleagues.

Find out more on the **Town and Parish Council help centre on our website**, or email alan.burns@westnorthants.gov.uk for more information.

Clerks are also encouraged to **use the self-service options on our website** to ask questions and access Council services.

Our news releases



We have issued the following press releases over the last month:

- Helping residents stay on top of payments with new text /SMS reminders - 6 Jan
- Nominate an inspirational woman for the 2025 Awards - 6 Jan
- NHS in Northamptonshire declares a critical incident - 8 Jan
- All aboard: new passenger charter sets out commitment to improving bus services for our communities - 8 Jan
- Help shape a strategy aimed at tackling climate change - 8 Jan
- West Northamptonshire Council Strengthens Partnership for Greyfriars Regeneration - 8 Jan
- Deputy Chief Executive Stuart Lackenby to leave West Northamptonshire Council - 9 Jan
- Northampton's new Public Mortuary secures planning approval - 9 Jan
- Reminder on enforcement camera set to go live in Northampton next week - 9 Jan

- WNC agrees to pursue South Midlands devolution bid - 10 Jan
- Have Your Say to shape the future of West Northamptonshire - 10 Jan
- Tackling environmental crime a priority for West Northants Council - 10 Jan
- Enjoy a day of free winter skating and activities at Northampton Market Square - 10 Jan
- Continuing the journey to improving air quality in West Northants - 13 Jan
- NHS Critical incident stood down - 13 Jan
- Veterans and rough sleepers among those to benefit from revamped leisure services - 16 Jan
- Final call to complete a survey to help understand fuel burning habits locally - 20 Jan
- Warm welcome week is here to help residents stay connected - 20 Jan
- Have your say on tackling dangerous driving and 'car cruising' in West Northants - 22 Jan
- Pineham Barns Primary School achieve first Food for Life Award for West Northamptonshire - 22 Jan
- Community-led changes to parish boundaries and governance confirmed - 23 Jan
- Empowering Young Minds: Celebrate Children's Mental Health Week 2025 at Your Local Library - 24 Jan
- Mural Project to be delivered to commemorate Northampton's historic castle - 27 Jan
- Discover the Northamptonshire Archives Service - 28 Jan
- Works to deliver a new heritage park in Northampton to begin next month - 29 Jan
- Significant progress achieved following peer challenge review - 29 Jan
- Parents are encouraged to get their school aged children vaccinated to protect them this winter - 30 Jan
- Council progresses its plans to support Northampton town centre - 30 Jan
- British Cycling report highlights major economic benefits in West Northants during 2024 Tour of Britain - 31 Jan
- Residents with greatest housing need continue to be prioritised - 31 Jan
- Council presents balanced budget for 2025-6 | West Northamptonshire Council - 4 Feb

- Recycling centres to open 7 days a week as new contracts set to launch - 4 Feb
- Northampton Town Centre to receive a boost with St James Depot regeneration plans - 4 Feb
- Partnership provides major investment for Northampton community - 4 Feb
- South Midlands not included in Government's devolution programme for now - 5 Feb
- Construction work continues on a key road that will improve connectivity for communities - 7 Feb
- Proposals for New Health and Wellbeing Surgery in Moulton take a step forward - 7 Feb
- First school in Northamptonshire awarded the Gold standard for health and wellbeing - 7 Feb
- Residents invited to nominate historical figures to honour West Northants history - 11 Feb
- Cabinet gives the green light for St James Depot regeneration set to benefit Northampton residents - 12 Feb
- Groundworks begin to deliver new Overstone Park Primary School - 12 Feb
- Women's Rugby World Cup trophy comes to West Northants this half term - 13 Feb
- Rising sports stars urged to apply for talent scheme fronted by Olympians and Paralympians - 13 Feb