

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

It was with great sadness that we received news about the passing of one of our councillors, Kevin Thurland, who represented Northall Ward in Kettering. Kevin had established himself as a genuine and hardworking Member who strove to do the right thing by the people he represented. He was a well-respected Member of the authority and he will be sorely missed. The final Full Council meeting of 2022 took place yesterday in the Council Chamber at the Corby

Cube. We held a two minute's silence in honour of Councillor Kevin Thurland. An estimated 4,000 households of North Northamptonshire residents who are working, but receiving a low wage, will now be able to apply for financial relief through our Household Support Fund. This funding will also enable us to support our community groups, who are so important in

helping us access those in need, including assistance to foodbanks and warm spaces. It is incredibly humbling to be part of an organisation that works with so many others to help make a difference to the lives of so many people in the local community. Last week, the Council hosted North Northamptonshire's very own climate conference, NNClimate22, which was really successful. Thank you to those of you who watched the live

broadcast on YouTube. The NNClimate22 conference recording is available to watch online. Ahead of the start of the Christmas party season, residents across North Northamptonshire are being asked to remember some golden rules when planning a trip or night out. If you are arranging an evening out, please make sure that you plan well in advance how you are getting home by using licensed taxis.

We have launched our Christmas campaign so if you're a social media user, please head over and like our dedicated Hi Street Facebook page to see the Hi Santa video and the campaign in action.

Continuing the subject of Christmas, yesterday we switched on the Christmas lights in Kettering. Tomorrow we shall switch on the Wellingborough Christmas lights. There are lots of festive events coming up all over North Northamptonshire to bring you some Christmas spirit. Our Christmas web pages have all the details.

Please read on to find out more about all of these stories. Whatever your plans are, I hope you have a lovely weekend!

In memory of Cllr Kevin Thurland

North Northamptonshire Council was saddened to announce the death of one of its councillors Cllr Kevin Thurland – who represented Northall ward in Kettering. Cllr Thurland was elected to North Northamptonshire Council on 6 May 2021 as a Conservative councillor.

He served on the Kettering Area Planning Committee, Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel and as substitute on the Strategic Planning Committee which he attended twice. This news has been met with great sadness across the Council by Officers and Members. Kevin was a well-respected member of the authority and will be sorely missed - he had

established himself as a genuine and hardworking Member who strove to do the right thing by the people he represented.

His death will be a huge loss to his family, friends and colleagues at North Northamptonshire Council and in the community. On behalf of everyone at the Council, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences

to Kevin's family and friends.

Full Council meeting

A meeting of Full Council took place yesterday afternoon (Thursday 24 November) in the Council Chamber at Corby Cube. If you missed the live streaming, you can watch the Full Council meeting recording on our

YouTube channel The Full Council agenda and papers are on our website.

Dates for your diary

Next Executive meetings: Thursday 22 December 2022. Thursday 12 January 2023.

Next Full Council meeting: Thursday 26 January 2023.



The agendas will be displayed on our website in the week before the meetings.

Household Support Fund set to help low wage workers manage cost of living

North Northamptonshire Council is committed to supporting households with difficulty managing food and heating costs during the cost of living crisis. An estimated 4,000 households of North Northamptonshire residents who are working, but receiving a low wage, will now be able to apply for financial relief. The funding, part of the Household Support Fund phase 3, provided by the Department of Work and Pensions, has been allocated to help working North Northamptonshire residents who were

not eligible for the Cost of Living benefit. The payments have been earmarked for employed adults (aged 18 or over) on an income of £300 a week or less.

Applicants will need to fill in a simple Household **Support Fund** online form, upload payslips and proof of identity, ideally using a computer, and must have a bank account. Once approved they will receive £125 directly into their nominated account with a further £125 credited to the same account 60 days later. No further application will be needed for the second payment.



Those who do not have access to a computer can visit a North Northamptonshire library where they are available for free public use. For the third Household Support Fund we wanted to help our many hard-working North Northamptonshire residents who are employed but receiving a low wage. It's important that these residents, who haven't been eligible for previous Household Support Funds or other support, such as the Cost of Living benefit, don't miss out on vital help with rising bills. We are delighted that this funding will also enable us to support our community groups, who are so important in helping us access those in need, including assistance to foodbanks and warm spaces.

North Northamptonshire's NNClimate22 online conference

Last week's NNClimate22 conference was a tremendous success. 'NNClimate22' focused on three sessions:

- Looking forward our new low carbon future. Sustainability and nature recovery - the way ahead. The future of our communities – providing local
- solutions.

Thank you to those of you who watched the live broadcast on YouTube. The NNClimate22 conference recording is available to watch online. Thank you also to the keynote speakers representing

Electric Corby, the University of Northampton, Kier Highways and the Friars Academy in Wellingborough. The conference was a great opportunity to showcase

much of the good work in the North Northamptonshire area. However, we are mindful of that fact that we, and our collaborative partners, need to do so much more. Climate change presents us with some significant challenges. As such, the conference sparked some healthy debate. We hope it inspired people to come together and help find solutions to combat the causes of global warming and mitigate the effects of climate change. I am hopeful that we will hold another conference next year.



Two trees that were included in the **Queen's Green Canopy** 'Tree of Trees' have been gifted to Chichele College in Higham Ferrers and the Green Patch in Kettering. The trees, two of 350 that formed a sculpture outside Buckingham



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QUEEN'S GREEN **CANOPY**

Palace during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, were gifted as a 'thank you' for all the valuable and tireless work that volunteers and individuals undertake for the benefit of their communities. Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Morcea Walker, presented one of the trees to volunteers at the Green Patch on 10 November, before she was joined by, the Queen's Green Canopy Chairman for Northamptonshire, Paul Parsons to present the second to Chichele College on 12 November. The tree gifted to Chichele College will join existing fruit trees and

further add to the history of the site, whilst the Green Patch's tree has been replanted on the 2.5-acre site by the River Ise. From October 2021 to March 2022, the Council planted over 4,000 trees alongside the many trees that were planted by individuals and community groups across North Northamptonshire. The planting season has now restarted, so now is the perfect time to get involved, if you haven't done so already.

The Lord-Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson, said: "I am delighted that Chichele College and the Green Patch have been selected to receive a tree from the 'Tree of Trees', which form part of the legacy of the celebration of Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee."

The Queen's Green Canopy scheme is currently running until the end of March 2023 and residents are being encouraged to plant a tree as a lasting legacy to Her Majesty the Queen. Any trees that are planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy can be added to the official Queen's Green Canopy map which documents all the trees that have been planted since the start of planting season in October 2021.



Stay safe when you're out celebrating this Christmas

Ahead of the start of the Christmas party season, residents across North Northamptonshire are being asked to remember some golden rules when planning a trip or night out. If you are arranging an evening out this Christmas, make sure that you plan well in advance how you are getting home by using licensed taxis. All taxis that are registered with the local council must display a licence plate (usually on the

front and rear of the vehicle) which has a number, along with a smaller licence in the front windscreen. Always check this before getting in a taxi to make sure that your driver has followed the correct and legal processes. I would encourage all residents to think ahead and follow the golden rules when using taxis this Christmas.

Golden rules:

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- Plan how you're going to get home from your night out arrange a lift or book a taxi in your name and leave the taxi booking details with a friend.
- Always keep the number of a reliable firm with you. When you make a booking, ask if you can pay by card. It is worth agreeing the fare in
- advance, so you can make sure you have the correct cash to pay, if necessary.
- Avoid taxis that tout for business and are unlicensed. When the taxi arrives, check it is the one you booked by asking for the name in which it was booked. If in doubt, don't get in.
- Always sit behind the driver in the back seat.
- If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out.
- Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point for if you get separated. Never accept a lift from a stranger.

Unwrap Christmas in North Northamptonshire

businesses yet? If you're a social media user, please head over and like our dedicated Hi Street Facebook page to see the Hi Santa video and the campaign in action. Our Social Media Team is sharing lots of content during the festive season. Today is Black Friday, one of the busiest days for retail for

Have you seen our Christmas campaign supporting local

Christmas and other shopping. Remember to check out the local businesses on your High Street to see if they have any special offers waiting for you. Where you shop matters and supporting local will give you the feel-good factor, plus you can find unique and interesting products that can make the perfect Christmas gift. There's lots of festive events coming up all over North Northamptonshire to bring you some Christmas spirit. Take a look at our Christmas web pages for more details.

Kettering Christmas lights switch-on

The streets of Kettering were lit up last night (Thursday 24 November) as we hosted the annual Christmas lights switch-on event. This year's lights were switched on by Coronation Street star, Samia Longchambon, alongside representatives from the Council. The event in Kettering Market Place featured local community radio station Shire Sounds. Highlights of the festive celebrations included live performances from Starlight Dance, the stars of Sleeping Beauty at the Masque

theatre, the Hotsie Totsies and No Angels. The event also included Kettering Lions' Santa Sleigh, street performers and a Festive Fair at St Peter and St Paul's Church.



Street!

Wellingborough Christmas lights switch-on Saturday 26 November - 2:30pm to 5:30pm

Join us tomorrow for the Wellingborough Christmas lights

switch on in Market Street. Live entertainment will take place on stage on Market Street outside the Castello Lounge on the Mosaics floor area.

The event includes local community acts performances (local singer Odette, Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust, Dynamix Dance Company), Wellingborough Rotary Clubs with Santa and his sleigh, Wellingborough Carnival Committee plus the stars from the Castle Theatre Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' followed by a fireworks display.

Anyone who comes to the event has a chance to win family tickets to see Jack and the Beanstalk from the Castle Theatre, plus the chance to turn on the Christmas lights.





10 years of celebrating Small Business Saturday

Launched in the UK in 2012, this year marks the tenth anniversary of the **Small Business Saturday** campaign where the thousands of wonderful independent businesses across the country are celebrated through localised campaigns. The aim is to raise awareness and encourage people to shop and support local, and see how incredible small businesses are, on the day itself and beyond, and it strives to have a lasting

impact. This year, Small Business Saturday takes place on Saturday 3 December, and as part of our festive Hi Street campaign, we will be sharing features from some of North Northamptonshire's

local businesses from different industries including retail, health and beauty, eating out and entertainment in the lead up to the special day. Amongst the features, you'll find out how Rushden-based jewellery shop, Crystelle Belle are

preparing for the festive season; hear from the team at Kettering-based salon, Crystal Tips about popular trends this year; as well as discover how Corby-based restaurant, Olive are catering for a wide range of customers with themed events and special cocktails! Plus much more! We are also supporting the campaign by highlighting the range of advice and support that is

available to local businesses from North Northamptonshire Council which includes: **Business Support:** Support for start-up and established business and information about

- funding and grants.
- Vacancy and Employment Support: The NN Job Club can help promote any job vacancies vou are looking to fill.
- Business and Licencing: Advice on health and safety, business rates, food safety, trading standards and licencing.
- Planning and Building Control: Advice on planning applications, building control, local
- searches, delivering growth and policy. Waste and Recycling: Competitive and reliable commercial waste service for local
- businesses. Selling to the Council: The Council purchase a wide range of goods and services each year which provide opportunities for local suppliers.

Our local retail and tourism app, <u>DiscoverNN</u> will also be promoted as part of Small Business Saturday and the Hi Street campaign, and we will be sharing local social media content from the North Northants Business Network (NNBN), along with national messages too. Please look out for and share the campaign and use the national hashtag #SmallBizSatUK in any social media content you share to help raise awareness of this important campaign and the amazing businesses we have operating in North Northamptonshire.





Join the Armed Forces Community Walk

Members of the Armed Forces Community and their families are invited to a community walk through Abington Park, Northampton. Tomorrow's event (Saturday 26 November) will take place from 11am to 1pm and is a chance for people to come together to enjoy the great outdoors.

It is also an opportunity to pick up advice for individuals or family members with links to the Armed Forces Community. To join the event, please meet at the Abington Park Museum (Park Avenue

South. NN1 5LW) at 11am. The walk will take about 30 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity to get refreshments at the Park Café.

New Adult Social Care web pages

The new Adult Social Care website content has been improved by our Web Team during the migration of content from the old Northamptonshire County Council webpages.

- The Web Team has helped address key issues such as: Ensuring key contact information is present on all pages.
- Creating pages which feature prominently plain English as possible
- throughout the site instead of jargon. Establishing that duplicate information is not featured in unnecessarily across our pages.
- Consistent formatting of webpages. The website is clear, clean and simple. The headings are self-explanatory, and it is easy to navigate.

Now that the pages are live, it enables the North's Adult Social Care service to identify itself within the brand of North Northamptonshire Council. Please visit the Adult Social Care website for more information.

Staying ahead of the curve with **Northamptonshire Libraries**

The Web Team recently interviewed Jaisant Patel, Libraries Systems Coordinator, at Northamptonshire's LibraryPlus service for Digital Northants. Northamptonshire's LibraryPlus service has always embraced new technology, bringing innovation to its locations across the county and widening digital access for all.

So, what are they working on at the moment and what does the future look like? You can read the full interview on the Digital Northants website: Staying ahead of the curve with Northamptonshire Libraries.





Have your say on... Consultation on admission arrangements for schools in North Northamptonshire for the 2024-2025 academic year

The Council's School Admissions Team is co-ordinating a formal consultation on the admissions arrangements which will apply for mainstream schools within the local authority (LA) area for the September 2024 intakes (Primary, Junior and Secondary). This consultation period allows parents, schools, religious authorities and the

local community to comment on proposed admission arrangements. The Council is not consulting on the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the 2024-2025 academic year. Consultation will take place from now until 31 December 2022.

Determination of school admission arrangements by admission authorities must be completed by 28 February 2023. Publication of admission policies should happen as soon as possible after 28 February 2023 and must be completed by 15 March 2023 (published on

schools' websites with copies sent to the LA).

You can view the School Admissions consultation online.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please email School Admissions Consultation at: schooladmissionsconsultation.NCC@northnorthants.gov.uk. Alternatively, please put your response in writing to:

Jan Baines, School Admissions Manager, Tithe Barn Office Block, Tithe Barn Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BN.

Have your say on... Boundary Commission for **England - 2023 Boundary Review**

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is required by Parliament to undertake an independent and impartial review of all constituencies in England, to rebalance the number of electors in each constituency. Constituency sizes currently vary widely due to population changes since the last boundary review.

The new map proposed by the Commission will make sure each constituency has between 69,724 and 77,062 electors, so that each MP represents roughly the same number of electors. The 2023 Boundary Review also requires that the number of constituencies in England increases from 533 to 543.

The Commission has listened to the feedback sent in from the public and has changed nearly half of the initial proposals published last year. The new revised proposals are now available to view via an interactive map on the **Boundary Commission for England** website.

A final public consultation is open until 5 December. Please visit the **Boundary Commission for England website** to comment on the proposals or to send them an email or a letter. Hard copies of the proposals are available to view at public places of deposit listed on the Boundary Commission for England website. You can give your feedback on anything from where the proposed electoral boundaries are, to the suggestions for new constituency names.

Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of our open consultation and engagement activities. I would welcome your feedback on the following: New powers to enforce moving traffic offences in North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council wants to be amongst the first local authorities outside London with powers to enforce moving traffic offences. Closes 18 December 2022. Transforming North Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services: North Northamptonshire Council are reviewing how we can deliver our in-house adult social care provider services. Closes 15 January 2023. North Northamptonshire Retail Capacity Update - Household Survey: The Council has

commissioned specialist consultants Nexus Planning to carry out a Retail Capacity Update, which is a study that will give a better understanding of how and where people like to shop, spend their leisure time and use their town centres. Closes 30 November 2022.

Parent-Infant Relationship services - Parents/Families' Survey: Public Health Northamptonshire would like your help in sharing your views as parents/carers/family/ friends to develop a new service across North and West Council areas. Closes 30 November 2022.

Visitor Use of the Upper Nene Valley: We are currently undertaking a project to understand how people use the Nene Valley for recreation, so we can understand the impact on the important wildlife habitats in the area. Closes 1 December 2022. Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on



A celebration of North Northamptonshire health, wellbeing and sporting excellence

Those who have made key contributions to health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in the area have been recognised for their excellence at the North Northamptonshire Council's Active Communities Awards.

It was an evening of celebration at Kettering Conference Centre as sports performers, clubs, schools, groups and organisations were honoured. The awards, organised by the Council, is a celebration event for health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in the area.

Local sporting hero Anita Neil from Wellingborough also shared her story as the first British Female Black Olympian.

The North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards 2022 are sponsored by

Northamptonshire Sport, Alliance Leisure TA6, Legacy Leisure, Groundwork Northamptonshire, Places Leisure, Freedom Leisure, MR Industrial Services, MPB Structures, Priors Hall Park and Arena Sports.

The 2022 winners:

- Community Club Corby Hellenic Youth FC. • Community group/organisation - Kings Cliffe Active. .
- Sports activator Ben Collins. •
- Community Champion Jeremy Strutt. •
- Young Volunteer (Joint winners) Ellis Bird and Millie Brading. • Disability Sports Performer - Maisie Summers Newton. •
- Health and Wellbeing Initiative Support Northamptonshire Ladies Swimming. •
- Workplace Wellbeing Award Cottingham CofE Primary School.
- Sport School of the Year (Primary) St Marys CofE (VA) Primary Academy. . Sport School of the Year (Secondary) - Bishop Stopford School.
- Get Active (Young Person) Jamie Arthur Jones. •
- Get Active Sheila Stanforth.
- Young Sports Person Alice Bates.
- Local Sports Performer Maisie Summers Newton.
- Outstanding Recognition Award Jeffrey Gonsalves.

Congratulations to all the winners. Please visit our website for more information about the winners of the North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards 2022. I'm delighted to see so much sporting talent in our area showcased - it's encouraging to see so much excellence. Keeping active – at any level – is an important part of living a healthy life and I hope we can build on this in future years.



Pen Green Centre awarded **Stronger Practice Hub status**

Congratulations to the Pen Green Centre in Corby for achieving Stronger Practice Hub status Funded by the Department for Education and delivered by National Children's Bureau and the Education Endowment Foundation, Stronger Practice Hubs aim to support early years settings and childminders to address the impact of the pandemic on young children, by sharing effective practice and building lasting local networks. Please visit the **Pen Green Centre website** for further details.



To help you stay abreast of the key things the Council has been doing, I have included some links to the latest press releases below (starting with the most recent):

- Trees from 'Tree of Trees' gifted to North Northamptonshire
- Stay safe when you're out celebrating this Christmas
- People invited to join Armed Forces Community Walk
- Tributes paid to North Northamptonshire councillor Cllr Kevin Thurland
- Household Support Fund set to help low wage workers manage cost of living Further bird flu control zones introduced in North Northants
- A celebration of North Northants health, wellbeing and sporting excellence
 - Countdown to North Northamptonshire's NNClimate22 online conference
- Santa Claus returns to unwrap Christmas in North Northamptonshire
 - Consultation on admission arrangements for schools in North Northamptonshire for the 2024-2025 academic year

Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts on Facebook and/or Twitter.

Top Facebook posts so far this week (21 to 23 November 2022)

- Household Support Fund set to help low wage workers manage cost of living (Reach 4,827, Post Clicks 797)
- The countdown is on to Christmas in North Northamptonshire and our towns will be lit up in only a few days' time! Join us on Thursday (24 November) in Kettering from 4pm as we welcome Coronation Street and Dancing on Ice star, Samia Longchambon to the town to switch on the Christmas lights! And on Saturday (26 November) the festivities will begin in Wellingborough with live dance and music performances, and the big light switch-on! Unwrap these special events, plus find details of more Christmas festivities at a town near you on our website at
- (Reach 3,211, Post Clicks 62)
- Top Tweets so far this week (21 to 23 November 2022)
- Constituencies in your area are changing and the Boundary Commission for England @BCEReviews want to hear your thoughts on their new proposals. Have your say in the consultation before 5 December at (Impressions 589, Engagements 31)
 - England kick-off their World Cup campaign today, and we wish them the best of the • luck to bring it home. If you're cracking open a bottle and ordering take-out, please remember to be a world-class recycler (and drink responsibly of course.)
 - (Impressions 551, Engagements 11) Household Support Fund set to help low wage workers manage cost of living
 - (Impressions 398, Engagements 16)

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have ideas of items to include in future updates please let me know at: executive@northnorthants.gov.uk

With Best Wisnes, Tason



North Northamptonshire Council

Follow me on Twitter @SmithersJason Contacting North Northamptonshire Council **0300 126 3000** www.northnorthants.gov.uk

(Reach 3,407, Post Clicks 183)

Stay safe when you're out celebrating this Christmas