

Leader's Update

13 January 2023

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

It was with great sadness that we received news in late December about the passing of one of our councillors, Cllr David Jenney, who represented the Rushden South ward. Cllr Jenney was elected to North Northamptonshire Council on 6 May 2021, as a Conservative councillor. He served on the EAP Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel and as reserve on the Health and Wellbeing Board. He was a well-respected member of the authority and will be sorely missed.

Yesterday the Executive met in the Council Chamber at the Corby Cube. We held a two minute's silence in honour of Cllr David Jenney. The Executive discussed a number of important [agenda items](#) including the Performance Indicator Report 2022/23, the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020/22, the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22 and the North Northamptonshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Congratulations to the ten local residents who were recognised in the New Year Honours List for 2023. The list was announced in the official newspaper of the Crown, The Gazette, on Friday 30 December. I have included details of the awards and accreditations of Northamptonshire recipients in this update.

Our grant scheme, known as the Member Empowerment Fund, is open. Each councillor is allocated yearly funding for small community-based projects. Money can be awarded to parish or town councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities working in North Northamptonshire. If you need some financial help to make your project a reality, please talk to your local North Northamptonshire councillor who can submit an application.

The Council has launched a competition for people to name ten gritting lorries that will be keeping our roads safe. The competition is open to schools, classes or individuals.

As mentioned in my last update, we launched our Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation on Friday 22 December and are keen to get your views. The consultation is open until Friday 27 January if you would like to have your say. Our consultation on a transformation strategy for in-house adult social care provider services will close at midnight on Sunday 15 January. More information on both of these can be found on our [consultation portal](#).

Highways improvements in Wellingborough town centre have started this week and are scheduled to last until Tuesday 24 January. Kier Highways, working in partnership with the Council, is carrying out the works to upgrade the traffic signal equipment, refresh white lining and reinstate block paving in Cannon Street and Alma Street.

Also in Wellingborough, the bin collection days for approximately 24,000 properties will be changing from Tuesday 24 January. The Council will tag bins at all properties affected by the change to notify residents of their new collection day for refuse and recycling.

In web development news, our new [Libraries web pages](#) went live last week, as did two new interactive online mapping tools. These now replace the former Northamptonshire County Council web pages and mapping system. They are both worth a browse.

The Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire has released a Community Hubs timetable for the first quarter of 2023. The friendly, informal drop-in service provides information and advice on support services for all members of the Armed Forces community and their families.

Whatever your plans are, I hope you have a great weekend!

In memory of Cllr David Jenney

North Northamptonshire Council was saddened to announce the death of one of its councillors, Cllr David Jenney, who represented the Rushden South ward.

Cllr Jenney was elected to North Northamptonshire Council on 6 May 2021, as a Conservative councillor. He served on the EAP Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel and as reserve on the Health and Wellbeing Board. His widow, Barbara, also serves the Council as Ward Member for Rushden Pemberton West and as Vice Chair of the authority.

Cllr Jenney had also been a member of Rushden Town Council since 2007 and served as Town Mayor for Rushden in 2013/2014. He had previously served as a member of the former East Northamptonshire Council since 2007, where he was Deputy Leader for several years.

Cllr Jenney was a well-respected member of the authority and brought a tremendous amount of experience and wisdom to his role. His death will be a huge loss to his family, friends and colleagues at the Council and in the community. He will be sorely missed.

Executive meeting

The Executive met yesterday (Thursday 12 January) in the Council Chamber at Corby Cube. If you missed the live streaming, you can watch the recording on our [YouTube channel](#). You can also view the [agenda and papers](#) on our website.

Council meetings

Executive: Thursday 9 February from 10am.

Full Council: Thursday 26 January from 6pm.

The agendas will be displayed on our [website](#) the week before the meetings.

Local residents recognised in 2023 New Year Honours

The New Year Honours List for 2023 recognises the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the UK. The list was announced in the official newspaper of the Crown, The Gazette, on Friday 30 December 2022.

Congratulations to the ten local residents who received honours. Here is the full list of recipients from Northamptonshire and details of their awards and accreditations:

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)

- **Lesley Elizabeth Travill (Lesley Watts).** Chief Executive, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. For services to the NHS. (Hargrave, Northamptonshire).

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- **Dr Brian George Mackie Dickie.** Director of Research Development, Motor Neurone Disease Association. For services to Motor Neurone Disease Research. (Northampton, Northamptonshire).
- **Caroline Mary Grant.** Lately Headteacher, Billing Brook Academy Trust, Northampton, Northamptonshire. For services to Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. (Banbury, Oxfordshire).
- **Dr Marie Howley.** Lately Senior Lecturer, University of Northampton. For services to Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. (Brixworth, Northamptonshire).

Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

- **Zulqarnain Tony Aslam.** Councillor, Wellingborough Town Council. For services to the community in Wellingborough during Covid-19. (Wellingborough, Northamptonshire).
- **Susan Carolyn Baker.** For services to the community in Charlton, Northamptonshire. (Charlton, Northamptonshire).
- **Jacqueline Joan Beaumont.** Founder and Patron, Oxfordshire Oesophageal and Stomach Organisation. For services to People with Cancer. (Aynho, Northamptonshire).
- **Victoria Jane Geary.** Beaver Scout Leader, 5th Kettering Scout Group. For services to Young People and to the community in Kettering, Northamptonshire. (Kettering, Northamptonshire).
- **Carol Esme Keach.** For services to the community in Barton Seagrave and Kettering, Northamptonshire. (Kettering, Northamptonshire).

King's Fire Service Medal (KFSM)

- **Darren William Dovey.** Lately Chief Fire Officer, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. (Northamptonshire).

Community grants available to help transform lives across North Northamptonshire

Voluntary and community groups who are looking for a funding boost to kickstart a project in 2023 are being encouraged to apply for small grants to help improve the lives of residents in North Northamptonshire.

Community funding

Funding of up to £5,000 is being made available by North Northamptonshire Council.

The second funding round is currently open:

- **Grants up to £2,500** – deadline 6 February 2023.
- **Grants of between £2,500 and £5,000** – deadline 6 February 2023.

The scheme is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, with priority given to projects that support the Council's key priorities and strategic aims.

The Council's six key priorities are:

- **Active, fulfilled lives** – helping people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives.
- **Better, brighter futures** – caring for young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish.
- **Safe and thriving places** – enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit.
- **Green, sustainable environment** – taking a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come.
- **Connected communities** – ensuring our communities are connected with one another so they are able to shape their lives and areas where they live.
- **Modern public services** – providing efficient, effective and affordable services that make a real difference to all our local communities.

Examples of suitable applications could be a project encouraging wildlife in a local pocket park, or sports and play equipment for a community group.

Any groups that want to find out more, including available funding and criteria for applying, can do so on our [Community funding web pages](#).

Alternatively, you can email communityfunding@northnorthants.gov.uk for more information.

Member Empowerment Fund

The Council's grant scheme, known as the Member Empowerment Fund, is open to applications all year round.

Each councillor is [allocated yearly funding](#) for small community-based projects up to £2000. Money can be awarded to parish or town councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities working in North Northamptonshire. This allows members to be innovative in formulating proposals for the benefit of residents in their wards.

Applications must be made by a ward member.

If you need some financial help to make your project a reality and think it might be suitable Member Empowerment Fund grant, you should talk to [your local North Northamptonshire Council councillor](#) who can submit an application.

Organisations cannot apply for both the Community Funding and Members Empowerment Fund at the same time.

Voters to show photo ID at some elections

From May 2023, the UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections.

More information can be found on the [Electoral Commission's website](#).

From 16 January, those without a valid form of photo ID can apply for a free [Voter Authority Certificate online](#).

Please note - there are no scheduled elections due to take place in North Northamptonshire in May 2023 and further information about how this change will impact voters in the area will be published later in 2023.

Help us to name our gritting fleet!

With North Northamptonshire Council on standby to deal with wintry weather over the coming months, we are giving people the chance to name ten gritting lorries that will be keeping our roads safe.

The competition runs until Wednesday 25 January and is open to schools, classes or individuals. The winning entries will have the name painted onto the gritter.

In North Northamptonshire, a total of 821 miles of road receives precautionary gritting – almost the same distance as from London to Dundee and back. This service is carried out by highways service provider, Kier Highways.

Entries should be sent to NNCCcommunications@kier.co.uk or by tweeting [@NNCHighways](#) and include:

- A suggested name of the gritter.
- Applicant's name.
- Applicant's contact details.
- And be clean, original and creative.

Have your say on North Northamptonshire Council's spending plans

We would like your views on our budget proposals. You can take part in the budget process and have your say via our [consultation portal](#).

The Council knows that our services are vital to our residents and local businesses and we are seeing an increase in demand for our services in these difficult times. Unprecedented levels of inflation driven by global events present significant challenges for everyone: individuals, businesses and local authorities, making running costs more expensive.

Creating an efficient Council which can deliver vital services while being robust enough to withstand economic uncertainty is the cornerstone of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for 2023/24.

Putting this budget together has not been easy and we have been very cautious with our finances. We continue to work tirelessly to deliver savings, to innovate, improve services and to attract funding from outside the area.

A report, that was discussed at the Executive meeting on Thursday 22 December proposed that the Council sets a balanced budget for 2023/24. This means that we will ensure that the Council spends within its means, whilst also protecting vital services. While this is challenging, we have laid strong foundations for financial stability against a backdrop of global financial uncertainty.

The net (revenue) budget for the Council for 2023/24 is £336 million. This money will be used to provide a range of vital services to residents and businesses across the area, including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the disposal and collection of waste, household waste recycling, highways, economic development, housing and support for the homeless, plus much more.

Next steps

The consultation on our draft budget will run until midnight on Friday 27 January.

The Executive will then meet on Thursday 9 February to consider final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on Thursday 23 February. You can watch meetings of the Executive and the Council on our [YouTube channel](#).

Last chance to have your say on adult social care strategy

A consultation on a transformation strategy for the Council's in-house adult social care provider services will close at midnight on Sunday 15 January.

The strategy proposes that the focus of these services will be to provide reablement, enablement and developing independence, moving away from the provision of longer-term support. It aims to make the direct delivery of the Council's provider services fit for the future.

It also aims to further improve pay for care staff and is expected to improve working conditions and the recruitment and retention of staff.

The strategy provides options for different ways that buildings used for care can be improved, if possible, or look at different options where we cannot deliver what we want from the current buildings.

It is believed that the strategy shows the Council's commitment to improving the services that have been inherited, so people who use these services experience better outcomes in the future whilst also improving working conditions for staff and their ongoing development.

You can find out more and give us your views at [Transforming North Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services - Consultation Questionnaire](#).

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:

- [Transforming North Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services](#): North Northamptonshire Council is reviewing how we can deliver our in-house adult social care provider services. Closes 15 January 2023.
- [North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation](#): Creating an efficient Council which can deliver vital services while being robust enough to withstand economic uncertainty is the cornerstone of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for 2023/24. Closes 27 January 2023.
- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England - North Northamptonshire Electoral Review](#): North Northamptonshire Council has been asked by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to promote their North Northamptonshire Electoral Review consultation. Closes 6 February 2023.

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the [North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub](#).

If you have any questions, please email the Consultation and Engagement Team at CET@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Wellingborough town centre highways improvements

This week saw the start of several highways improvements in Wellingborough town centre.

Kier Highways, working in partnership with the Council, is carrying out the works to upgrade the traffic signal equipment, refresh white lining and reinstate block paving in Cannon Street and Alma Street.

For the duration of the works, there will be a 24-hour road closure on Alma Street with a reversal of the one-way system with entry and exit from Park Road junction. Here vehicles must turn right, onto Park Road, when exiting Alma Street. There will also be a temporary 'Give Way' sign at the Alma Street/Park Road junction and two-way temporary traffic lights on Cannon Street in between Regent Street and Chequers Lane. Parking bays on Cannon Street between these two roads will be suspended.

Weather permitting, the works are scheduled to last until Tuesday 24 January.

All businesses will be open as usual, and access/egress will be available to residents on Alma Street at all times. Buses will not be affected in accessing the Church Street Interchange. However, they will be diverted around the works and will have to either follow the diversion or not stop on Cannon Street.

Motorists are also advised that the bus gate cameras which operate in the town centre will still be operational.

The latest Highways news across North Northamptonshire can be found on our [Roadworks web pages](#), [NNC Highways Facebook](#) page and [NNC Highways Twitter](#) page.

Change of waste collection days in Wellingborough

The bin collection days for approximately 24,000 properties in the Wellingborough area (previously covered by the Borough Council of Wellingborough) will be changing from Tuesday 24 January.

The Council will tag bins at all properties affected by the change to notify them of their new collection day for refuse and recycling.

These changes are necessary to improve the efficiency of the collection service and to allow for the ongoing growth in property numbers into the future.

If you are unsure of your bin collection day or need more information, you can check on the [Bins, recycling and street cleansing web pages](#). The website will continue to be updated to reflect the new collection days.

New Libraries web content goes live

The development of northnorthants.gov.uk continues with another service migrated over.

Last week, the new [Libraries web pages](#) went live after the Web Team moved the information across from the old Northamptonshire County Council site.

The team reviewed the usage of the previous web pages, audited what needed to be moved over and created new content.

The new Libraries web pages include:

- A list of North Northamptonshire Council libraries.
- A list of Community libraries.
- A library catalogue (search for a book, renew your books, reserve items and pay charges).
- Event listings (including activities for under 5s such as Rhymetimes).
- Information about joining a library as a full or virtual member.
- Advice on pre-booking a computer, accessing free Wi-Fi and printing/photocopying charges.

New interactive online mapping tools

Two new interactive mapping tools have been developed to replace the former Northamptonshire County Council mapping system.

- [North Northamptonshire Council Online Mapping](#)
- [West Northamptonshire Council Online Mapping](#)

Both solutions are easier to navigate and deliver improved speed and performance.

The new mapping tools include a series of layers to show:

- Council Boundaries
- Ward Boundaries
- Parish Boundaries
- Westminster Boundaries
- Schools
- Leisure Centres
- Salting Routes - Precautionary
- Salting Routes - Adverse
- Public Right of Way - Bridleway
- Public Right of Way - Footpath
- Public Right of Way - Restricted Byway
- National Highways Maintained Highway.

The tools will continue to be developed this year as more information is added.

Armed Forces Community Hubs 2023 timetable

[Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire](#) provides information and advice on support services available within the county for the Armed Forces community and their families.

The Community Hubs are a friendly, informal drop-in service. All members of the Armed Forces community are welcome to gain advice and support, or just pop by for a chat.

The Community Hubs timetable for the first quarter of 2023 is below.

January

- Thursday 19 from 2pm to 3:30pm at Kettering Library.
- Friday 20 from 12:30pm to 3pm at Weston Favell Library.
- Monday 30 from 1pm to 2:30pm at Northampton General Hospital.

February

- Wednesday 1 from 12 noon to 1:30pm at The Bridge, Northampton.
- Friday 17 from 9:30am to 11am at Corby Library.
- Friday 24 from 10am to 12 noon at Moulton Library.
- Monday 27 from 1pm to 2:30pm at Northampton General Hospital.

March

- Wednesday 1 from 12 noon to 1:30pm at The Bridge, Northampton.
- Thursday 9 from 1pm to 4pm at East Hunsbury Library.
- Thursday 23 from 2pm to 3:30pm at Kettering Library.
- Monday 27 from 1pm to 2:30pm at Northampton General Hospital.

For more information, please email Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk or call 07741 684647.

Press releases

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):

- [Community grants available to help transform lives across North Northants in 2023](#)
- [Help us to name our gritting fleet!](#)
- [Last chance to have your say on adult social care strategy](#)
- [Wellingborough town centre highways improvements to start soon](#)
- [Tributes paid to North Northamptonshire councillor – David Jenney](#)

Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts and share our [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) posts when you can.

Top Facebook posts so far this week (9 to 11 January)

- Help us name our gritting fleet! <http://ow.ly/M3bR50MmrAQ>
(Reach 19,218, Post Clicks 2,186)
- Parents and carers - if your child will be 4 years of age on or before 31 August 2023, and you haven't applied for a Reception place, please do so as soon as possible. The deadline is this Sunday (15 January) at midnight. Apply: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/admissions>
(Reach 2,984, Post Clicks 34)
- From Tuesday 24 January 2023, some bin collection days in the Wellingborough area will be changing. Households impacted will have a tag placed on bins to notify residents of the changes. Find out more: <http://ow.ly/eWSE50Mla7C>
(Reach 2,601, Post Clicks 493)

Top Tweets so far this week (9 to 11 January)

- If you have been affected by the rain, visit the Northamptonshire Flood Toolkit website: <https://t.co/cgWw1dPFyo>. Please avoid driving into flooded roads where possible.
(Impressions 1,549, Engagements 24)
- Help us name our gritting fleet! <https://t.co/zr0DoU8xsP>
(Impressions 1,099, Engagements 42)
- You only have until 15 January to have your say on our consultation on transforming our in-house adult social care provider. The survey is open and can be completed online: <https://t.co/ZsSZ6fwRg2>
(Impressions 610, Engagements 11)

Thank you

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

With Best Wishes,
Jason