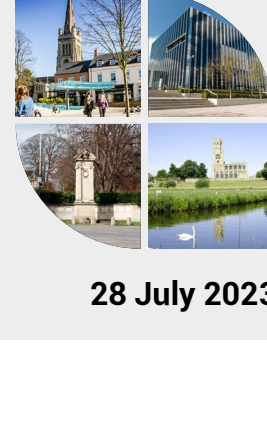


Leader's Update

Clr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council



28 July 2023

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

The council's Executive will hold an Extraordinary Meeting next week to discuss Kettering Leisure Village, ahead of a business case being prepared on options for the future of the site. This meeting will be live streamed on YouTube and I have provided further details on this below. I was delighted when we were able to come to an agreement at the end of June to support the site to stay open. Colleagues have been continuing to work on potential options for how the future of Kettering Leisure Village might look and I look forward to the discussion at next week's meeting. After taking the Hi Street campaign on tour across North Northamptonshire, we are pleased to put local businesses in the spotlight with a message to 'Shop local, eat local and support local'. Our campaign video entitled 'Let's take a trip into town...it's right up your street!' is available to view on YouTube now and highlights the unique character and offerings of local high streets. Please get behind this campaign and support your local businesses.

Four parks in North Northamptonshire have retained their Green Flag Awards for 2023/24. This accreditation is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces and has been awarded to Coronation Park, East Carlton Countryside Park, Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods, and Rockingham Road Pleasure Park. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers who work hard to keep standards high throughout the year.

The new primary school in Rushden, Alfred Lord Tennyson School, will officially open on the sites of the amalgamated schools on Friday 1 September. Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 will be at Tennyson Road. Years 3 to 6 will be at Alfred Street. The council has funded the new school uniforms which have been distributed to pupils. I would like to wish everyone well as they start this new chapter in their educational lives.

An 'expression of interest' from Wilby CE Primary School to relocate to the new build consultancy school at Glenvale Park next year has progressed to the next stage. A formal public consultation will follow so residents and parents can have their say.

The Discover Northamptonshire website has been launched to promote the tourism offering in the local area. This coincides with the start of the school summer holidays and follows the opening of the Discover Northamptonshire hub at Rushden Lakes earlier this year. The website is a one-stop shop for residents and visitors with information on events, arts, culture and heritage, food and drink, accommodation, sports and leisure, local towns and jobs.

North and West Northamptonshire Councils work together to provide Adult Learning courses to the whole county. The September to December 2023 programme is available to book now and offers a comprehensive mix of face-to-face and online courses.

North Northamptonshire Council joined forces with Northamptonshire Police in a crackdown on Illicit Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Seventy-six private properties in the Kettering, Wellingborough and former East Northamptonshire areas were inspected in the local area in a bid to improve housing standards and make communities safer.

North and West Northamptonshire Councils have teamed up to start work on a new version of the Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model (NSTM). Advances in technology means that a full model rebuild is needed to ensure that the traffic flow data it produces to inform strategic planning will be as accurate as possible.

Two of our partnering organisations are holding safety events for road users this Summer. Voi UK is hosting two Safe Riding Skills webinars for e-scooter customers on Tuesday 1 August with further online and in-person events to be announced in the coming weeks. The Northants Safer Roads Alliance has organised the CarKraft Experience for young car drivers to learn lifesaving practical driving skills at the Porsche Experience Centre in Silverstone on Sunday 17 September. The council is reviewing how sport, physical activity and leisure meets the needs, and delivers health and wellbeing benefits, for residents in local communities. If you are a resident of North Northamptonshire, please share your views by completing the community survey.

I have provided details of several other current consultations and engagement activities in today's Update. If you haven't already visited our online Consultation and Engagement Hub, please do so. This is your opportunity to have your say on a range of local issues and shape future plans. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same.

National Highways has been carrying out essential maintenance along the A14 which has meant some overnight road closures. The council took the opportunity to clean up the roadside and verges in safety during the closures where 153 bags of rubbish were collected over five nights. Rubbish on our verges is unsightly and unnecessary. I would like to remind residents and visitors to please take your rubbish home.

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

Business case for Kettering Leisure Village to be discussed

The council's Executive will hold an Extraordinary Meeting next week to discuss Kettering Leisure Village, ahead of a business case being prepared on potential options for the future of the site.

An approved motion at Full Council on Thursday 22 June stated that a business case to consider the viability of the council stepping in to be created and councillors will discuss next steps during the meeting on Thursday 3 August.

Following ongoing discussions between North Northamptonshire Council and Phoenix Leisure Management, an agreement was reached on Wednesday 28 June (Statement regarding Kettering Leisure Village) that Phoenix Leisure Management will take over operations from Monday 4 September.

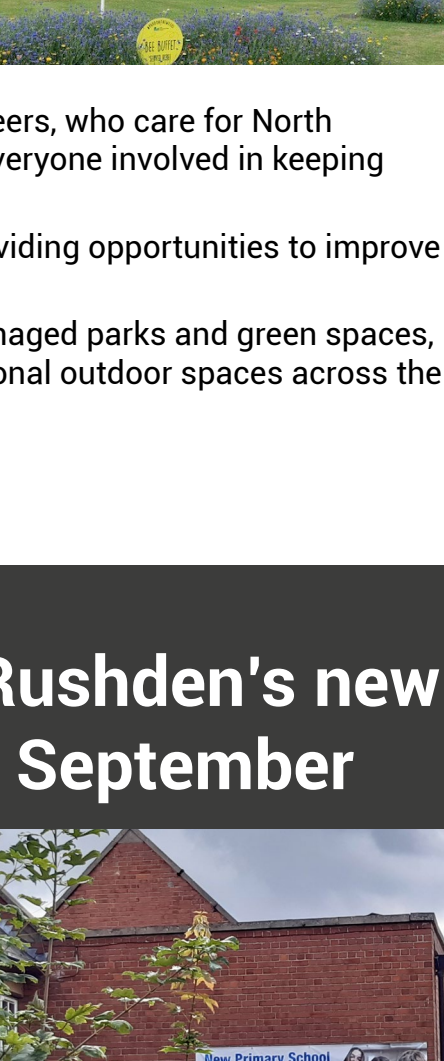
The council is continuing to work with Phoenix Leisure Management and other stakeholders to consider options that may secure the long-term future of Kettering Leisure Village, whilst reviewing the council's current and future involvement in the site.

It is proposed that a business case will be prepared by council officers that fully considers the immediate and longer-term impacts of the council operating Kettering Leisure Village, in full or in part, including key risks and implications that the council may be exposed to. It would also be considered alongside the Leisure Strategic Framework which is currently being developed.

It is estimated that such a business case will take around three months to develop. Once completed, a report will be brought back to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, and then to Executive to consider and agree next steps.

The Extraordinary Executive meeting will take place on Thursday 3 August at 10am in the Council Chamber at the Corby Cube.

The full report on Kettering Leisure Village can be viewed online and the meeting will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.



Forthcoming meetings

- **Extraordinary Executive:** Thursday 3 August from 10am.
- **Executive:** Thursday 17 August from 10am.
- **Full Council:** Thursday 31 August from 6pm.

These meetings will be live streamed on our YouTube channel. Please visit the Council meetings section of our website in the week before the meetings to view the agendas and papers.



The summer phase of the Hi Street campaign is now live

After taking the Hi Street campaign on tour across North Northamptonshire, we are pleased to put local businesses in the spotlight with a message to 'Shop local, eat local and support local'.

Fund by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which invests in communities and place, the campaign features a new video with over 20 local business owners reading the lines of a carefully crafted and heart-warming poem. The aim is to highlight the unique character and offerings of local high streets.

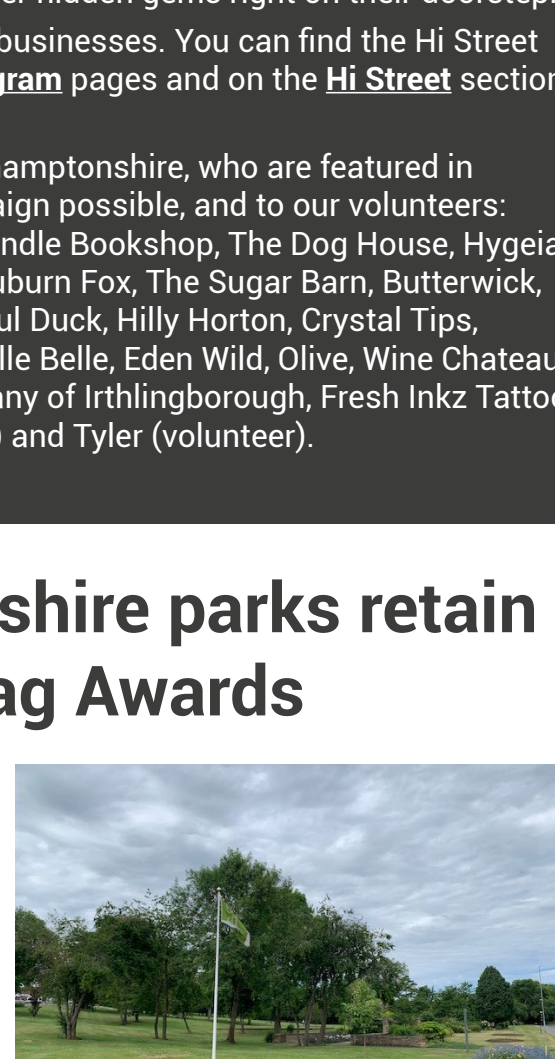
View the video: [Let's take a trip into town...it's right up your street!](#)

The campaign is made up of many components and includes social media, competitions with prizes donated from local businesses, regular business features and local advertising.

There are also two bloopers released to show the comical mishaps that happened during the filming. Watch bloopers part one (rooms). Watch bloopers part two (town videos).

A further series of local videos will be launched soon to highlight the individuals behind our local businesses, showcase our towns and help people discover hidden gems you can find on their doorstep. Please get behind this campaign and support your local businesses. You can right the Hi Street campaign on our Hi Street Facebook and Hi Street Instagram pages and on the Hi Street section of our website.

Thank you to all the local businesses across North Northamptonshire, who are featured in the new videos and who have helped to make this campaign possible, and to our volunteers: Julietta Aronsteyn for Photography, Bunfina and Iwigo, Audina Bookshop, The Dog House, Hygeia Pilates, Food for Thought, Luke Williams Hairdressers, Auburn Fox, The Sugar Barn, Butterwick, Wendy Lou's Tearoom, Millers Yarns and Crafts, The Artful Duck, Hilly Horton, Crystal Tips, Irthlingborough Market, Jamie's Quality Butchers, Crystelle Belle, Eden Wild, Olive, Wine Chateau, Kolaine Beauty Lounge, The Birdcage, The Flower Company of Irthlingborough, Fresh Inkz Tattoo, NNBN, Epic Media UK, Voi Technology, Amber (volunteer) and Tyler (volunteer).



Four North Northamptonshire parks retain coveted Green Flag Awards

Four parks in North Northamptonshire have retained their Green Flag Awards for 2023/24. This accreditation is the international mark of quality for parks and green spaces, and has been awarded to:

- Coronation Park,
- Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods and
- Rockingham Road Pleasure Park.

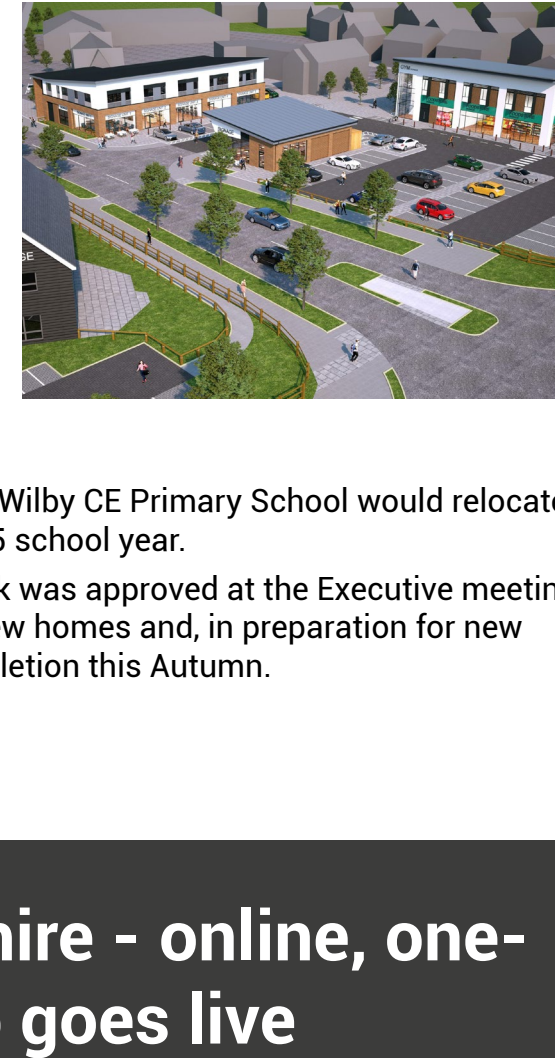
This achievement is testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team, including the staff and volunteers, who care for North Northamptonshire parks and open spaces. Congratulations to everyone involved in keeping standards high throughout the year.

Parks are a vitally important part of our green infrastructure, providing opportunities to improve physical and mental health.

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Further information

Please visit the [Parks and open spaces](#) section of our website.



Final preparations ahead of Rushden's new primary school opening in September

Final preparations are being put in place for the September opening of Alfred Lord Tennyson School - the new primary school in Rushden.

The new school has come about after formal approval was given to amalgamate Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School.

Last week, both schools distributed the new school uniform to pupils. This was funded by North Northamptonshire Council to support families during the transition period. The new uniform will be red and will feature the new school logo based on designs by pupils at the two existing schools.

The headteacher for the new school will be Mrs Kelly O'Connor, who is the current headteacher of Alfred Street Junior School.

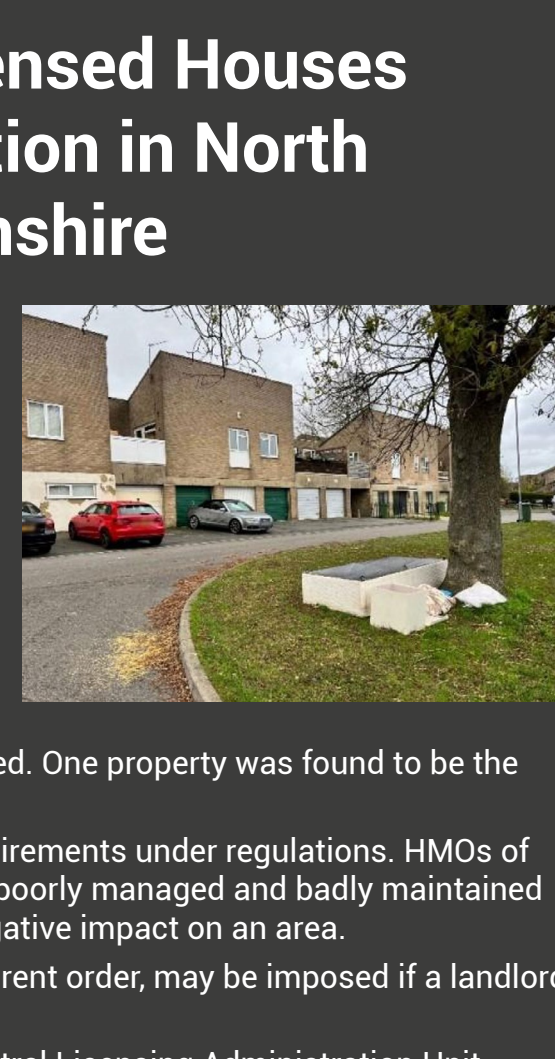
A website is being developed and will be ready for the opening in September.

As outlined in the terms of the amalgamation, Tennyson Road Infant School will close on Thursday 31 August and Alfred Lord Tennyson School will open on Friday 1 September.

The new school will open on the two existing school sites. Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 will be at Tennyson Road. Years 3 to 6 will be based at Alfred Street.

Staff, pupils, parents, carers and the wider school community are being kept informed of further developments over the Summer.

I'm delighted that the council has been able to help drive forward some much-needed change. I look forward to the new school opening in September and wish everyone well as they start this new chapter in their lives.



Proposed school move to Glenvale Park takes a step forward

A panel has met to consider two 'expressions of interest' from existing schools to relocate to a new build primary school at Glenvale Park next year.

The panel reviewed and assessed strong applications from Little Harrowden Primary School and Wilby CE Primary School. Following a rigorous interview process, a recommendation has been made to move Wilby CE Primary School to the next stage.

A formal public consultation will be launched at the beginning of September so residents and parents can have their say. The outcome will inform the council's Executive decision-making process later in the year.

If the recommendation is approved, it is anticipated that Wilby CE Primary School will relocate to Glenvale Park to coincide with the start of the 2024/25 school year.

The proposal to move an existing school to Glenvale Park was approved at the Executive meeting in June. Glenvale Park will provide an additional 3,000 new homes and, in preparation for new families moving into the area, the school is due for completion this Autumn.

Further information

Please visit the [School changes](#) section of our website.



Discover Northamptonshire - online, one-stop tourism hub goes live

A new website promoting the tourism offering across the local area has been launched, coinciding with the start of the summer holidays and following the opening of the Discover Northamptonshire hub at Rushden Lakes earlier this year.

The Discover Northamptonshire website provides a one-stop shop for residents and visitors with information on a wide range of areas including:

- What's on and events across Northamptonshire
- Accommodation
- Days out
- Arts, culture and heritage
- Food and drink
- Walking and cycling
- Sports and leisure
- Local towns
- Jobs in the tourism sector.

Website visitors can also create itineraries based on their interests and individual needs, adding specific attractions and events to an itinerary which can be emailed to the user for future reference. The website will continue to be developed in the future to showcase and highlight the tourism offering in Northamptonshire.

The Discover Northamptonshire hub is located next to the cinema at Rushden Lakes and is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on Sundays from 11am to 4:30pm. As well as the dedicated website, you can also find Discover Northamptonshire on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

If you would like your business or attraction to be promoted on the Discover Northamptonshire website and at the new hub, please email info@discover-northamptonshire.co.uk.



Adult Learning: Find the right course for you

North and West Northamptonshire Councils work together to provide Adult Learning courses to the whole county. The September to December 2023 programme is available to book now and offers a comprehensive mix of face-to-face and online courses, including:

- Art and design
- Computing and business
- Complementary health and wellness
- Crafts
- Fitness
- Languages and British sign language
- Personal development
- Photography.

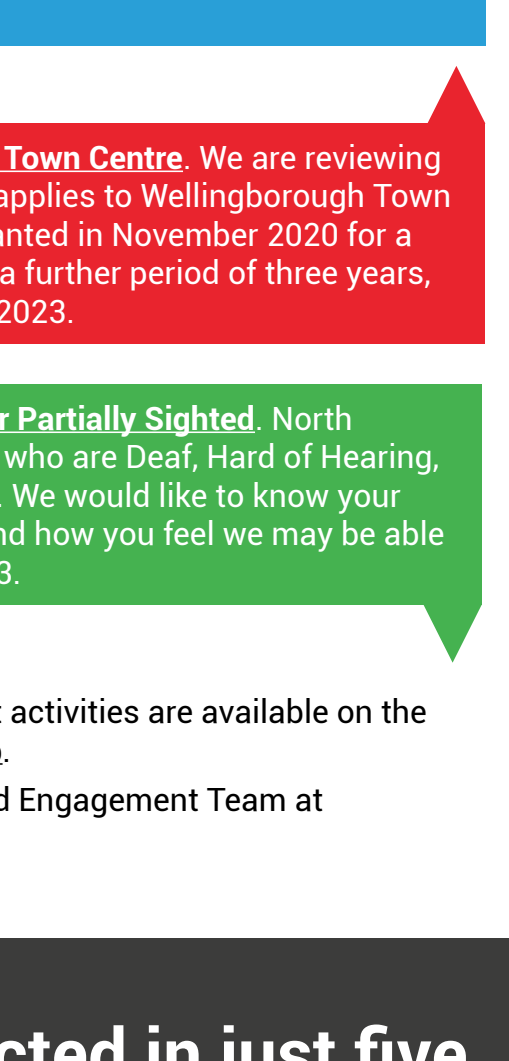
The **Essential Skills courses** are free of charge and include:

- Functional Skills Maths and English - allowing you to qualify up to Level 2.
- Basic IT skills and a Digital Skills Certification - designed to enable you to develop the digital skills you need for life, work or further study.
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - the ESOL course can improve your English fluency, and confidence in English speaking, reading and writing, and help increase your employability.

Please visit the [Adult Learning](#) section of our website to view the full range of courses.

Concessions (**remitted fees**) are available for learners in receipt of certain benefits.

If you have any questions, please email adultlearning@northnorthants.gov.uk, call 01604 367119 or fill in the [Northamptonshire Adult Learning Service](#) online contact form.



Crackdown on unlicensed Houses in Multiple Occupation in North Northamptonshire

Illicit Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) have been targeted in North Northamptonshire in a bid to improve housing standards and make communities safer.

North Northamptonshire Council joined forces with Northamptonshire Police in the crackdown which targeted 76 private properties in the Kettering, Wellingborough and former East Northamptonshire areas.

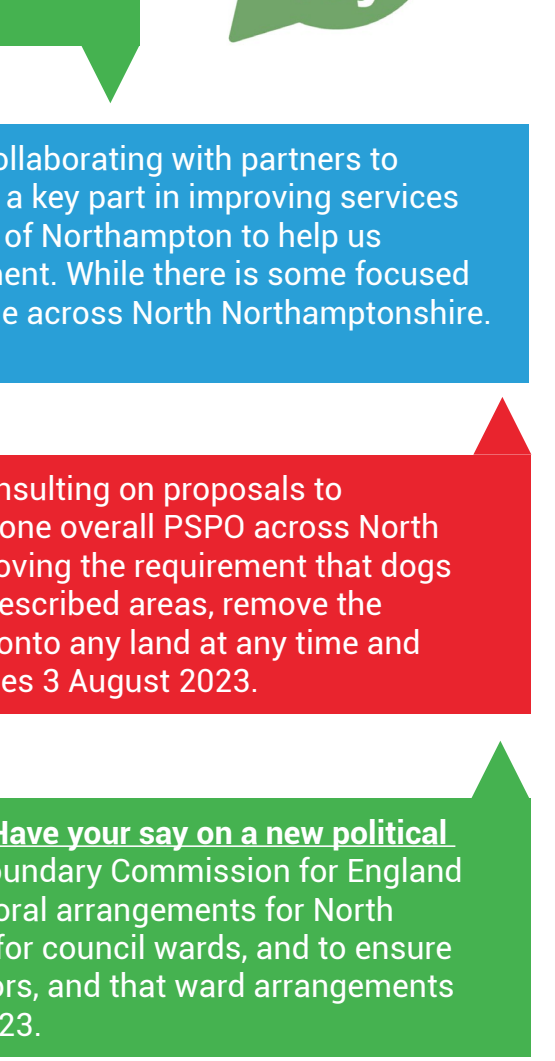
Of the houses inspected during the week of action, four were discovered to be unlicensed, 68 were houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) that did not require a licence because of their size, while four are still being investigated. One property was found to be the location of a cannabis farm.

The landlord of any HMO is required to meet certain requirements under regulations. HMOs of five or more tenants need to be licensed and those that are poorly managed and badly maintained can put an extra burden on local services and have a negative impact on an area.

A financial penalty of up to £30,000 plus a repayment of rent order, may be imposed if a landlord is operating a licensable HMO without a licence.

Landlords can apply for an HMO licence through our Central Licensing Administration Unit. Please see the [applying for an HMO licence](#) section of our website for details.

If you think an HMO is unlicensed, please email the council at privatesectorhousing@northnorthants.gov.uk. This can be done anonymously.



Councils join forces to build new Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model

North and West Northamptonshire Councils have teamed up to start work on a new version of the Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model (NSTM).

The partnership makes sense in terms of efficiency and because many journeys are made across council borders.

The model uses a computer simulation to anticipate traffic flows and is used to inform strategic planning where new developments or major roads are proposed.

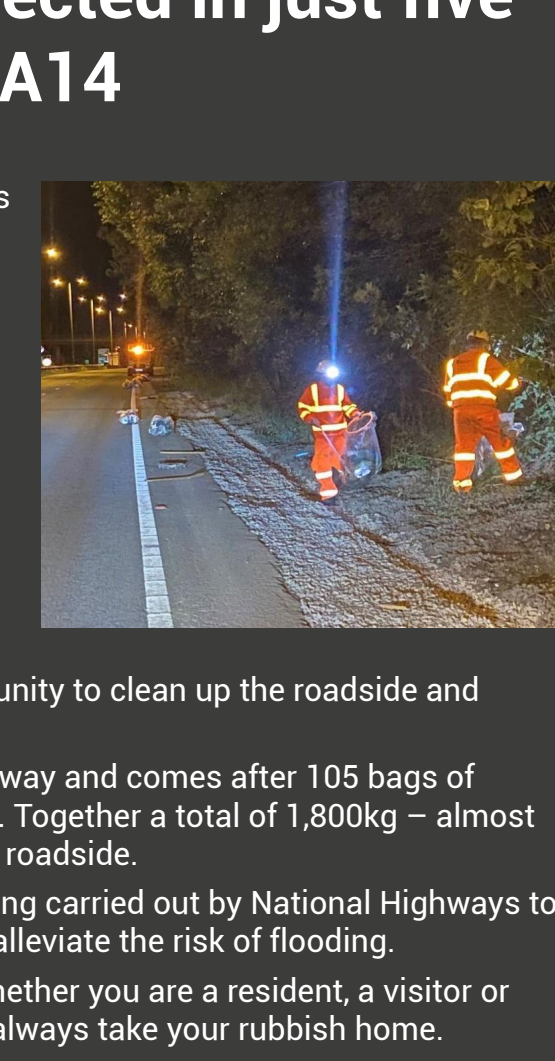
It was last rebuilt in 2015, since when technology has moved on significantly, meaning a full overhaul is needed to ensure the data it produces is as accurate as possible.

Each council will contribute £78,000 toward the project from fees charged to developers using the model, alongside £400,000 previously allocated by the former Northamptonshire County Council.

Hosting, maintenance and operation fees could take costs to a total of around £2m over the life of the contract.

West Northamptonshire Council will lead on procurement of the model rebuild. As part of the process, each council will have its own version of the new model, but it will be managed through a continued relationship with the consultancy building it.

The new model will have a 2023 base year, informed by verified traffic count data. The process is expected to be complete by Autumn 2024, with a contract anticipated to run until 2031.



Voi UK: Safe Riding Skills webinars

Residents can find out more about Voi e-scooters and how to ride them safely by joining a Safe Riding Skills webinar on Tuesday 1 August.

- **Book 12 noon to 1pm webinar.**
- **Book 1:15pm to 2:15pm webinar.**

Details of further online and in-person rider safety events can be found on the [Voi Forthcoming Events](#) web page.

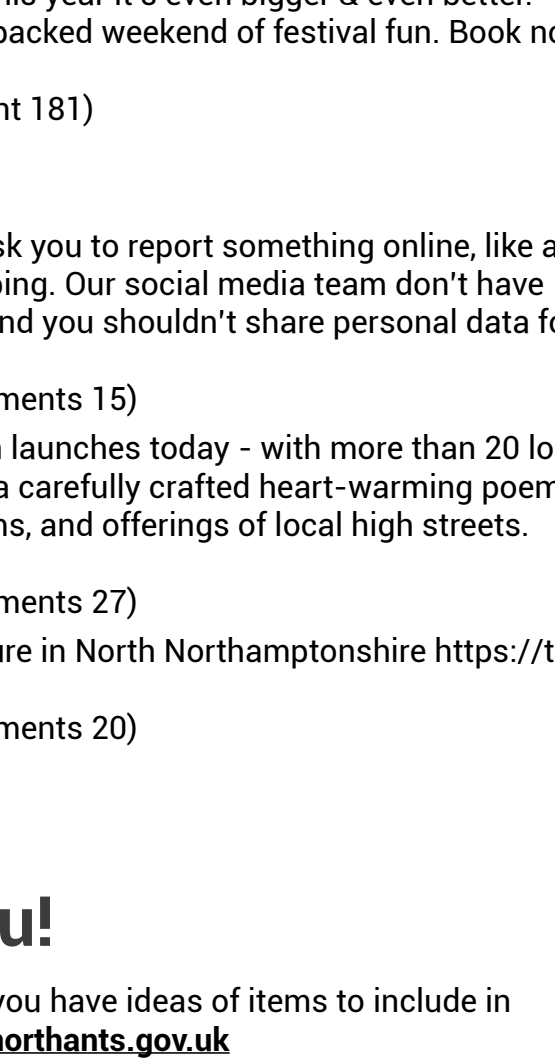


Northants Safer Road Alliance: CarKraft Experience for young drivers

The CarKraft Experience is a free event for 17- to 30-year-olds, run by Northants Safer Roads Alliance, that features lifesaving practical driving skills and workshops.

The event will be held at the Porsche Experience Centre at Silverstone on Sunday 17 September. It includes a classroom session, an observed drive with a police advanced driver and a session on Kick Plates and Ice Hills.

Drivers must hold a full driving licence. Please visit the [CarKraft](#) website to book a ticket.



Have your say on the future of sport and leisure in North Northamptonshire

The council is reviewing how sport, physical activity and leisure meets the needs, and delivers health and wellbeing benefits, for residents in local communities.

The review will support the creation of a Leisure Strategic Framework that will shape the way these services are delivered in the future to support the wellbeing of our communities.

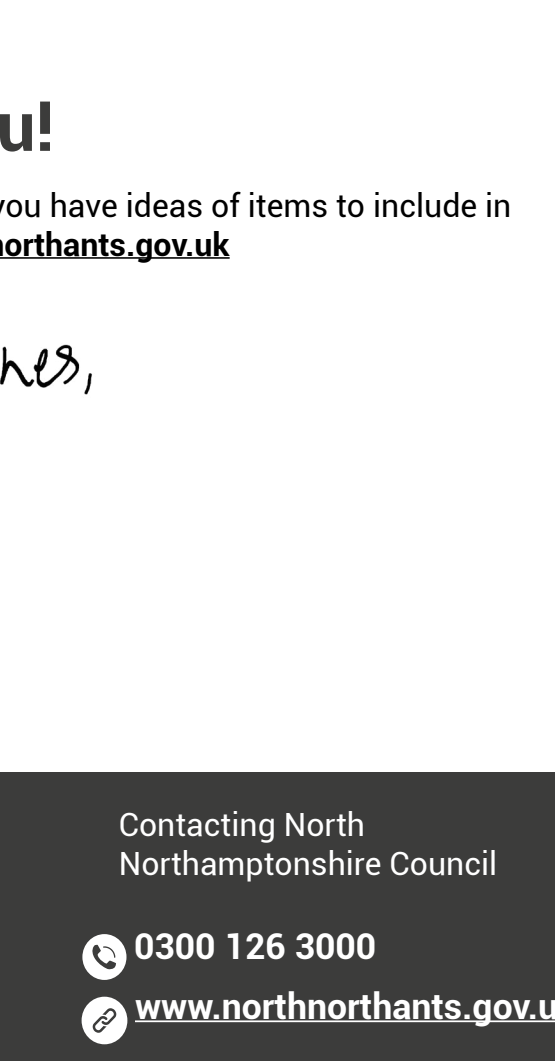
The plan has three main elements:

- **Active Communities** - to ensure residents have increased opportunities to be more active and build healthier active communities.
- **Leisure Facilities** - an assessment of current use and future needs, focusing on quantity and quality in relation to supply and demand.
- **Playing Pitches** - an assessment of current use and future needs, focusing on quantity and quality in relation to supply and demand.

The council is directly liaising with sports clubs, schools, national governing bodies and other stakeholders.

If you are a resident of North Northamptonshire, please share your views by completing the [Community Survey](#).

This survey closes at midnight on 20 August 2023.



Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of several current consultations and engagement activities. Please use the links below to provide your feedback and inform council decisions - and share with family and friends who may be interested in shaping future plans.

Seeking Living Schemes - Share your views. We are seeking views from residents, those 50 years and above (with or without current care and support needed) regarding the support required for the future within Independent Living Schemes (also known as Extra Care or Assisted Living) across North Northamptonshire, which will shape future commissioning. Closes 31 July 2023.

Have your say on the new Family Hub network. We are collaborating with partners to develop Family Hubs networks and want families to play a key part in improving services provided to them. We have commissioned the University of Northampton to help us understand what is working well and areas for improvement. While there is some focused activity in Wellingborough, we want to hear from everyone across North Northamptonshire. Closes 31 July 2023.

Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control. We are consulting on proposals to review the content of current PSPOs for dog control into one overall PSPO across North Northamptonshire. The main proposed changes are removing the requirement that dogs must be kept on a lead no more than 1.5m in length in prescribed areas, remove the restriction that a person may not take more than 6 dogs onto any land at any time and incorporate the former Corby Borough Council area. Closes 3 August 2023.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Have your say on a new political map for NN. We are promoting The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) activity asking for views on proposed new electoral arrangements for North Northamptonshire. New boundaries are being proposed for council wards, and to ensure that councillors will represent the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively. Closes 7 August 2023.

Public Spaces Protection Order Extension - Isobrook and Victoria Ward Alley Gates. We are reviewing the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which currently applies to four alley gates in the Wellingborough Ward of Isobrook and Victoria and would like your views. The current PSPO was granted in November 2020 for a period of three years, and an extension is now proposed for a further period of three years, from November 2023 to November 2026. Closes 13 August 2023.

Public Spaces Protection Order Extension - Wellingborough Town Centre. We are reviewing the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which currently applies to Wellingborough Town Centre and would like your views. The current PSPO was granted in November 2020 for a period of three years, and an extension is now proposed for a further period of three years, from November 2023 to November 2026. Closes 13 August 2023.

Have your say on Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind or Partially Sighted. North Northamptonshire Council would like to hear from residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind or Partially Sighted about the services provided to you. We would like to know your experiences of using a service in North Northamptonshire, and how you feel we may be able to improve the support we provide. Closes 1 September 2023.

Further information
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.

150 bags of rubbish collected in just five days along A14

National Highways has appealed to road users to always take home their litter after 153 bags of rubbish were collected in just five nights along a stretch of the A14 in the East Midlands.

Mesh fencing and vehicle parts including tyres were amongst the litter and debris collected from the westbound carriageway of the road between junctions 9 and 10 in Northamptonshire.

National Highways has been carrying out essential maintenance along the stretch which has meant some overnight road closures.

To minimise the need to shut the road again in the near future, North Northamptonshire Council took the opportunity to clean up the roadside and verges in safety during the closures.

The 153 bags were collected on the westbound carriageway and comes after 105 bags of rubbish were recently picked up on the eastbound verge. Together a total of 1,800kg - almost two tons - of litter has been cleared from this stretch of roadside.

Work finished last week on the maintenance scheme being carried out by National Highways to clear and improve the drainage system in this area and alleviate the risk of flooding.

Rubbish on our verges is unsightly and unnecessary. Whether you are a resident, a visitor or just travelling through North Northamptonshire, please always take your rubbish home.

Press releases

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

- [Business case for Kettering Leisure Village to be discussed](#)
- [Have your say on the future of sport and leisure in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [New campaign unveiled to capture the spirit of the high street and local businesses](#)
- [Discover Northamptonshire - online, one-stop tourism hub goes live](#)
- [Proposed school move to Glenvale Park takes first step forward](#)
- [Final preparations ahead of Rushden's new Alfred Lord Tennyson School opening in September](#)
- [Four parks across North Northamptonshire awarded coveted Green Flag Awards](#)
- [Nene Valley Crematorium donates £12,000 to MIND](#)
- [Crackdown on unlicensed multiple occupancy households in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [New British library report confirms BIPC Northamptonshire is an engine of economic recovery and growth](#)
- [Fifth showcase of digital innovation in Northamptonshire is biggest so far](#)
- [Councils join forces to build new Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model](#)

If you would like your say to date with the Council's media releases, you can visit the news section of the Council's website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news

Or follow Twitter [@NNNorthants](#) and/or Facebook [@NorthNorthants](#)

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 (24 to 26 July)

- From today to 31 August, Splash Park at The Embankment, Wellingborough is open daily from midday to 6:30pm. More about Splash Park: <https://www.ly/0IPq50Payt6> (Post Reach 40,954, Link Clicks 186, Engagement 4,637)
- (Shared post from) Chester House Estate - Kids Summer Festival - Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July (Post Reach 3,719, Link Clicks 295, Engagement 403)
- The Chester House Estate have plenty to keep the kids entertained over the summer holidays, including Kids Fest this weekend! This year it's even bigger & even better. You won't want to miss out, join us for a jam-packed weekend of festival fun. Book now <https://www.ly/1p1r50Pjhh> (Post Reach 3,412, Link Clicks 62, Engagement 181)

Top Tweets so far this week (24 to 26 July)

- 1/2 We know it can be frustrating when we ask you to report something online, like a missed bin, an overflowing litterbin or fly-tipping. Our social media team don't have access to systems to report on your