

Leader's Update

6 September 2024

Issue: 82

Introduction and welcome

Welcome to my latest Update.

This issue includes:

- Annual Canvass - Make sure your electoral details are up-to-date.
- New Hi Street campaign film: 'Small spend. Big difference. Give your local businesses a Hi 5'.
- Fletton Field to be transferred to Oundle Town Council.
- North Northamptonshire Council and Family Hubs partners launch new online platform for children's and family services.
- Don't miss your chance to nominate for the Active Communities Awards.
- Long-term future of Corby recycling site to be discussed at Executive meeting.
- Tree planting strategy for North Northamptonshire on the Executive meeting agenda.
- Northamptonshire Police joins national knife surrender scheme.

In addition, you will find below some useful information about forthcoming meetings, Your Voice Matters (our consultation and engagement hub), all the latest press releases and our top social media posts.

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

Annual Canvass - Make sure your electoral details are up-to-date

We are still completing our checks that the electoral register is up-to-date for this year.

All households across North Northamptonshire received either a letter marked CCA, or a form marked CF.

- **Letters marked CCA:** Letters marked CCA only needed to be responded to if the elector details were incorrect.
- **Forms marked CF:** For any household who received a form marked CF, you must respond even if all elector details are correct.

If you have received a form marked CF, the quickest way to respond is to visit the [Household Update Service](#) website and enter the security codes on your form to login and record any changes.

For those who do not respond (and received a CF form only), a staff member may contact you in person or over the phone to confirm details between Monday 9 September and Monday 7 October. Please help them with their work to let us know your elector details are correct.

If you are not sure how to respond or would prefer to contact us about details on the electoral register, our Elections team are happy to help. You can give them a call on 01832 742 076.

The requested information is required by law and not responding or providing false information can result in a £1,000 fine.

If you're not currently registered to vote, your name will not appear in messages we send but you can easily [register to vote](#) on the GOV.UK website or call 01832 742 076.

Not being registered to vote can affect your applications for loans, mortgages and even mobile phone contracts. It also means you will not be able to vote at election time.

New Hi Street campaign film: 'Small spend. Big difference. Give your local businesses a Hi 5'

Monday 2 September saw the launch of our new Hi Street campaign film, showing the big impact that even a small spend with a local business can have.

The film has a feel-good message to share the message that by spending money locally, you're helping your town to thrive, making communities stronger and boosting the local economy too. It encourages people to support the brilliant small businesses all around them, and to give their town a 'Hi 5' by spending local.

Business owners are once again the stars of the show as they are the focus of the Hi Street campaign. We worked in collaboration with five great places across Kettering, Rushden, Rothwell and Higham Ferrers, as well as getting others involved with our film star extras roles.

Watch the film now on YouTube: [Small spend. BIG difference! Give your local businesses a Hi 5!](#)

Please share with your communities to help people see how a small spend can make a big difference.

We can all do our bit to help, so take a trip to town to grab a coffee, pick up a unique gift, share a meal with loved ones, treat yourself, and make connections old and new.

Thank you to the wonderful small businesses featured in the video and all our film stars:

- Dean, Magnolia the Florist (Kettering).
- Daisie-Belle, Lucie Downer Performing Arts (Wellingborough).
- Patrick, KSN Clothing (Kettering).
- Mandy, The Daisy Chain (Higham Ferrers).
- Jazmine, Happy Mondays Coffee Co (Rushden).
- Paul, Retro Mania (Kettering).
- Tilly Mae's (Rothwell).
- Willow and Grey (Higham Ferrers).
- Ebony - volunteer.
- Ioana – volunteer.

You can view and share the film from our [Hi Street Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and find out more on our [Hi Street](#) web pages.

Fletton Field to be transferred to Oundle Town Council

North Northamptonshire Council has agreed to transfer Fletton Field to Oundle Town Council following a successful Community Asset Transfer application.

The transfer means that Fletton Field will remain as a public open space for the benefit of residents and continue to support community activity.

The future use of the site had been uncertain since the land was released by the Department of Education, having been used by Oundle Primary School until it was relocated to Cotterstock Road in 2016.

Open spaces like this are valuable assets to communities and residents, and it is vital that we preserve them in any way we can.

Councillor Helen Harrison and I made significant contributions to this endeavour. As ward members, we maintained close involvement throughout the process, recognising the priority expressed by local residents to preserve this land for community use and safeguard it from development. We engaged in multiple meetings with the Friends of Fletton Fields, consistently advocating for this Community Asset Transfer.

Oundle Town Council will continue to work with local partners and volunteer groups to develop the site for generations to come.

North Northamptonshire Council and Family Hubs partners launch new online platform for children's and family services

This week marks the official launch of a new online portal offering easy-use access to many children's and family services in North Northamptonshire.

The '[Family Hubs Digital Front Door](#)' is a platform that links services such as the Family Hubs, Start For Life, SEND Local Offer and Family Information Service functions into one digital platform, which is responsive and accessible from desktops, laptops and mobile devices.

The platform hosts a wide variety of content including an events booking system, a series of Family Hubs-funded service introduction videos, and NHS digital support content.

It is also a tool for professionals and partners who work with families to swiftly signpost them to information and support, offer ease of access for referrals and also, through artificial intelligence, can support a family opt into automated care pathways to meet their needs.

Working in collaboration with Beebot AI, earlier in the year the council ran a series of focus groups and surveys to listen to what young people and family members would like from an online service and this directly shaped the development of the new online tool.

A launch event, hosted by the Family Hubs Team and Beebot AI, was attended by over 200 professional partners across North Northamptonshire. Attendees came from a wide array of organisations, including colleagues from North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Children's Trust, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Strong Start, Family Action, Milk&You, local primary and secondary schools, childminders, social workers, police officers and voluntary sector staff.

The event was also attended by the senior leadership team from North Northamptonshire Council, including Director of Children's Services David Watts, Chief Executive Officer Adele Wylie, and myself.

The purpose of the event was to introduce professionals to the platform and demonstrate how to access and use it as a tool when working with families, children and young people, as well as explaining how they can host their own content on the platform as we all move forward together as a partnership.

Don't miss your chance to nominate for the Active Communities Awards

There are only three weeks left to submit nominations for the North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards 2024.

The awards, organised by North Northamptonshire Council, are a celebration event for health and wellbeing, physical activity and sport in North Northamptonshire.

They recognise local individuals, groups, clubs, organisations and projects which have either improved the lives of the community or encouraged North Northamptonshire residents to get active.

Electronic nomination forms are available on the [Active Communities Awards](#) website if you wish to nominate your local sporting heroes.

The nomination process will remain open until noon on Sunday 29 September, closely followed by shortlisting by a panel of judges.

The categories are:

- Community Club
- Community Team
- Community Organisation/Group
- Community Activator

- Community Champion
- Health and Wellbeing Initiative
- Young Community Champion
- Get Active
- Disability Sports Performer
- Young Sports Performer
- Sports Performer
- Outstanding Recognition Award
- Sport School of the Year - Primary
- Sport School of the Year - Secondary

Winners will be announced at an invitation-only ceremony on Wednesday 20 November at Sywell Aerodrome.

Thank you to our many sponsors who make this event possible.

Long-term future of Corby recycling site to be discussed at Executive meeting

Maintaining the long-term future of Corby's household waste recycling centre will be discussed at a meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Executive next week.

Recommendations are to extend the lease at the current Kettering Road site for up to 25 years from when it is due to expire on 1 March 2025.

The new lease would also give the council an option to extend the area of the current site if required, subject to planning permission.

Another recommendation is for a business case to be prepared for potential future investment at the facility.

The council has four Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) which are operated on a legacy contract which ends on 31 March 2025. The Council is currently engaged in a procurement exercise for future operation and management of the HWRCs from 1 April 2025, with contract award expected in December 2024.

Principal terms have been reached to secure a new lease for the current site footprint, with a 25-year lease being negotiated with an option to break the lease at 15 years, and subsequent three-yearly breaks, with a right to renew at the end of the lease term.

Our HWRCs play an important role in helping our residents manage the waste they produce as well as helping to boost recycling. They are greatly valued by our residents. What we're proposing offers a great long-term provision, which also is the most cost-effective for the taxpayer.

View the [Corby Household Waste Recycling Centre Lease](#) report (agenda item 10) on our website.

Tree planting strategy for North Northamptonshire on the Executive meeting agenda

A new strategy that covers all tree planting activity undertaken directly by North Northamptonshire Council is on next week's Executive agenda.

Since April 2021, approximately 20,000 trees have been planted across the council's estate and a formal strategy is now required to ensure there is a consistent, sustainable and viable solution to increase canopy cover.

Canopy coverage across North Northamptonshire currently stands at 10.55%, the government's Committee on Climate Change wishes to increase the UK's tree cover to 17% by 2050.

The Tree Planting Strategy aims to ensure North Northamptonshire Council's treescape is enhanced and becomes more sustainable and resilient to pests and diseases, including factors like Ash Dieback, within a changing climate.

The strategy covers various areas including:

- Standard tree planting
- Woodland and whips style planting
- Natural regeneration of strategic sites across North Northamptonshire Council's assets and land in private ownership.

It also provides advice and guidance to support tree planting undertaken by private landowners outside of the North Northamptonshire Council estate.

This strategy is also backed up by our work on the Local Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as well as smaller projects across the council which feed into our Carbon Management Plan.

View the [Tree Planting Strategy](#) (agenda item 8) on our website.

Northamptonshire Police joins national knife surrender scheme

Northamptonshire Police is taking part in a national surrender and compensation scheme for some knives.

From Tuesday 24 September, it will be illegal to possess, sell, manufacture and transport zombie-style knives and machetes.

Between now and Monday 23 September, people can hand in these knives to the police and claim compensation from the Home Office.

The surrender and compensation scheme is part of the government's ongoing commitment to tackling serious violence and strengthening police powers.

Under the scheme, lawful owners will be able to claim compensation once the item is handed in to police.

Northamptonshire Police is dedicated to tackle knife crime and, with the Youth Violence Intervention Unit, is taking a long-term approach to improving the lives of young people involved in this crime type.

Further details are available on the [Northamptonshire Police Knife Crime](#) website.

Your Voice Matters

Please find below details of our other 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.

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

- [Healthwatch - give us your views](#). Public Health have launched a survey to help shape future services for North Northamptonshire Healthwatch. Healthwatch plays an important role in monitoring the quality of local services, gathering the views and experiences of customers and the wider public; and presenting these views to influence local services. Closes 15 September 2024.
- [Designation of the Kettering Central Neighbourhood Area](#). North Northamptonshire Council has received an application from Kettering Town Council for the designation of a neighbourhood area. Under Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, NNC is required to publicise the application to let people know about it and provide details of how they can make comments. Closes 3 October 2024.
- [Give us your views on Pharmaceutical Needs](#). North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council Public Health teams are completing some important research on how you feel about pharmacy services. Closes 6 October 2024.

- [Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024](#). North Northamptonshire Council is conducting a further review of polling districts and polling places that are used across North Northamptonshire to take account of new ward boundaries that come into effect for the Local Government Elections that will be held in May 2025. Closes 25 October 2024.

Forthcoming meetings

Executive

- Thursday 12 September from 10am.

Full Council

- Thursday 17 October from 6pm.

The agenda and papers will be published on the [Council meetings](#) section of our website in the week before the meeting.

These meetings will be live streamed on our [YouTube](#) channel.

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):

- [Long-term future of Corby recycling site to be discussed by North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- [Tree planting strategy for North Northamptonshire set to be discussed at Executive](#)
- [Taxi driver has licence revoked after using mobile phone whilst driving](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council and Family Hubs' partners launch new online platform for children's and family services across the area](#)
- [Don't miss your chance to nominate for the Active Communities Awards](#)
- [Calling all households - Make sure your electoral details are up-to-date](#)
- [Films documenting Corby's history presented to Corby Heritage Centre](#)
- [Fletton Field to be transferred to Oundle Town Council](#)

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 (2 to 4 September)

- We're not collecting food waste on Monday 2 September in the Corby area (including Oakley Vale estate, Great Oakley and Great Oakley Village) - please leave your bin out and we'll return as soon as possible this week. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
(Reach 13,655, Link Clicks 0, Engagements 1,966)
- Coming soon... Heritage Open Days take place from 6 - 15 September and there is plenty happening across the local area. Visit the Discover Northamptonshire website to find out what's on near you: <https://ow.ly/R5w550T35fk>
(Reach 7,993, Link Clicks 32, Engagements 232)
- There is less than a month to make your nominations in the Active Communities Awards for 2024. Find out about the different categories and how to make your nomination/s at <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/.../dontmiss-your...>
(Reach 6,055, Link Clicks 45, Engagements 366)

Top Tweets so far this week (2 to 4 September)

- We're not collecting food waste on Monday 2 September in the Corby area (including Oakley Vale estate, Great Oakley and Great Oakley Village) - please leave your bin out and we'll return as soon as possible this week. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
(Impressions 631)
- Looking for a new job? Have you considered a career in local government? Are you the final piece of the puzzle to make our team the best it can be? Check out our latest vacancies, and we look forward to welcoming you to NNC! <https://careers.northnorthants.gov.uk>
(Impressions 366)
- Coming soon... Heritage Open Days take place from 6 - 15 September and there is plenty happening across the local area. Visit the @Discover_N_ website to find out what's on near you: <https://ow.ly/R5w550T35fk>
(Impressions 310)

Thank you

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

With Best Wishes,
Jason