

# Leader's Update

27 May 2022

---

## Introduction and welcome!

After many months of preparation, local towns and villages across the area (and indeed the whole country) are making their final arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events. Thank you to those of you who sent in details of your events which all look very exciting! There is still time to add your event to our website if you would like it included. Please email us at [communications@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northnorthants.gov.uk).

In this edition of my Update, I have included details of a recent public consultation that has been launched to seek views on how a Shared Prosperity Fund provided by the Government can be spent locally. This relates to funding worth £4.8m for North Northamptonshire over three years. Please do take part in the survey and help spread the word.

I have also included details on the news that North Northamptonshire has been awarded over £440,000 from the Government to help deliver Garden Communities. This will help put green, wildlife friendly spaces at the heart of new development in the area.

Also on the subject of funding, I have included details of two exciting events. The first is a virtual funding fair for local community organisations reliant on grant funding. A range of funders will be presenting at the event, providing valuable information on how best to apply for grants. There will also be a 'hints and tips' presentation. This really is a must for local voluntary and community interest companies. You can find more on this below.

The second event is North Northamptonshire's first ever Older People's Fair. This will be held on Friday 1 July at the Corn Market Hall in Kettering. There will be a range of organisations present to provide information and advice to those who have retired, or are preparing to retire, and their family and carers too. To give you an example of the importance of such an event, there are a lot of retired people who are not benefiting from the maximum available pension credit. We will have people on hand to help raise awareness of this and help people understand what they need to do to check what they are entitled to. I have provided more details on this event below.

If you have anything you would like me to include in future editions of my Update, please email us at [communications@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northnorthants.gov.uk).

I hope you enjoy the long bank holiday weekend next week and, as always, I would like to thank those staff, partners and volunteers who continue to work irrespective of what day it is.

## New Chair elected at Annual Full Council

At the meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Annual Full Council yesterday, Councillors welcomed a new Chair of the Council for the next civic year. During the meeting, Cllr Larry Henson was sworn in as the Council's Chair with Cllr Barbara Jenney as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Larry Henson said: "It is an honour and privilege, to represent North Northamptonshire for the next year."

The role of the Chair is a largely ceremonial, including chairing Full Council meetings and representing the area at civic functions and events. Councillors also thanked Cllr Paul Bell for carrying out his role as the first Chair of North Northamptonshire Council.

During the meeting, the Executive and their portfolios for 2022/23 were confirmed with myself continuing as the Leader and Cllr Helen Howell as Deputy Leader alongside her role as Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism.

Also during the meeting, I said that since the Council came into existence last year, our staff and elected members have worked tirelessly to serve North Northamptonshire with dedication and commitment and I am extremely proud of the work that has been achieved so far.

## **Public Consultation Launched: North Northamptonshire Council is seeking views on how the Shared Prosperity Fund should be spent**

North Northamptonshire Council is asking for views on priorities and opportunities relating to £4.8m (across three years from 2022/23) of central Government funding.

The Council has been allocated monies from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a Government fund set up to provide £2.6 billion for local investment. All areas of the UK have received an allocation from the funding. This succeeds the old EU structural funds.

An Investment Plan will be put together by the Council, which sets out the challenges and opportunities locally across three themes:

- Community & Place
- Local Business and
- People & Skills.

It is these three key themes that the Council is currently asking for thoughts on.

We are really keen to hear what residents, local businesses and other stakeholders believe are the top three challenges affecting North Northamptonshire for each of the three themes, plus ways to tackle these challenges.

Alongside the online survey, North Northamptonshire Council will be liaising with key stakeholders including business networks and the private sector, national and local delivery agencies and community representatives to help ensure an inclusive approach is taken.

Anyone wishing to have their say should complete the [online survey](#) by midday on 21 June 2022.

## **Garden communities schemes to get funding injection in North Northamptonshire**

A funding injection for new Garden Communities which will put green, wildlife-friendly spaces at the heart of new development has been welcomed by North Northamptonshire Council.

On 21 May, The Government announced that the Council will receive £441,000 to take forward projects in support of Hanwood Park in Kettering and Stanton Cross in Wellingborough.

Both projects will deliver footpath/cycleway infrastructure, integrating these new communities into routes that follow the Ise Valley Way (receiving £200,000) and the Nene Greenway (receiving £241,000). Tresham Garden Village is another new Garden Community receiving funding support from the Government in its planning.

The development of the Garden Communities is key to regenerating local areas by providing housing and creating job opportunities. The programme provides support to progress long-term major housing projects from their earliest stages. It enables local authorities to recruit specialist staff, undertake the required planning and receive advice and support from the housing delivery body, Homes England.

The announcement builds on plans in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to put beauty and nature at the heart of new development design, with the introduction of mandatory design codes, which will make sure developers respect styles drawn up and favoured locally, from the layout or materials used, to how it provides green space.

This is fantastic news for North Northamptonshire and is a terrific boost for us to be able to provide the homes and jobs which are necessary to allow growth and prosperity to thrive in our communities.

We want North Northants to prosper and flourish and be an area that creates great opportunities for our residents, while at the same time being mindful of our environment. Garden Communities are an innovative way of managing long term growth and I'm delighted to see these projects moving forward.

## **Virtual funding fair to be held in Northamptonshire**

The Northamptonshire Virtual Funding Fair 2022 will take place via Zoom from Tuesday 7 to Thursday 9 June.

After a difficult few years for community projects, this will be the opportunity for groups from across Northamptonshire to listen to presentations from local and national funders who can help contribute towards community projects in the county.

Across the 3 days, there will be a variety of funders presenting including the Heritage Lottery, Northamptonshire Community Foundation and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC), plus many more organisations who can all help provide much needed funding for projects. Each of the sessions will provide information on how best to apply for grants, along with a hints and tips presentation.

The Virtual Funding Fair is being organised by North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council in partnership with the Voluntary Sector 'Northamptonshire Development and Funding Workers Network.'

The event will be hosted via Zoom and you must have Zoom to access the virtual fair.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance in order to reserve a place on the presentation of your choice. [Book your place online.](#)

Details on how to log in to the session will be emailed the day before the seminar. Please note if you have not booked, you will not be given access to the seminars.

For further information, please email [grants.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:grants.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk).

## **North Northamptonshire to hold an Older People's Fair**

On 1 July, we are hosting our first ever Older People's Fair to pull together local community groups, health and care providers, pension credit and debt advisers, to name a few, who can help people plan and live a more fulfilling retirement or better help someone they are caring for.

This event is open to everyone and will be free of charge.

The Older People's Fair will be held at the Corn Market Hall in Kettering on Friday 1 July from 10am until 3pm.

There will be a range of advice and information available on a range of areas including:

- Debt, money and pension credit advice
- Advice on accessing adult social care services
- Health advice and access to healthy activities
- Information on social activities and clubs
- Advice on how to avoid scams and fraud targeted at older people
- Transport and travel advice

If you are a local group looking to exhibit, or if you would like to attend and have any questions, please email [guy.holloway@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:guy.holloway@northnorthants.gov.uk).

## **Businesses urged to apply for COVID-19 additional relief funding**

Business rate relief is available for businesses impacted by COVID-19 but who are not eligible for existing relief schemes.

The Government has provided funds for the Covid Additional Relief Fund which is being administered by North Northamptonshire Council.

[Applications can be made online.](#) The deadline for making an application is Monday 13 June.

Funds from Government are limited and only businesses occupied and liable for business rates in the financial year 2021/22 are eligible to apply for funding (other eligibility criteria also apply). The amounts awarded will be determined once the application window has closed.

## **Build a career in construction with our free training programme**

Free bitesize courses giving people the practical skills and experience needed to work in the construction industry are available from North Northamptonshire Council, thanks to a successful bid for funding from the Government's UK Community Renewal Fund which invests in skills, community and place, local business and supporting people into employment.

The Construction Skills Programme returns to the area following the success of previous training courses launched in 2019 which saw over 400 local learners take up the opportunity to get their construction career off the ground.

Awarded with £88k of funding to deliver the programme, the Council is working in partnership with local training provider, Evolve Your Future, to run bitesize courses which cover essential skills including health and safety, manual handling and first aid, as well as practical work experience at a local construction site, as well as CSCS card accreditation, giving learners all they need to work on-site.

This is a pioneering training programme and, following the success we have had over the past few years, it is brilliant that we are now able to provide more learning opportunities for people looking to do the groundwork to launch a construction career.

Learners completing previous courses have had the chance to get involved with some exciting local construction projects including Five Wells Prison in Wellingborough, housing developments, highways projects, as well as school and academy expansions.

This training programme is quick to complete, opens up many opportunities for people and provides a stepping-stone into working in construction. I would encourage anyone who is interested to register their interest today, they could be working in a construction job by the summer.

The Construction Skills Programme is available for anyone aged 18 and above, who isn't currently working in the construction sector. People interested must be able to show they have the right to work in the UK, either with a National Insurance Number, valid Passport, full driving licence or copy of birth certificate. They must also be able to read and speak English.

Anyone interested in this opportunity should complete an expression of interest form on the Council's [website](#).

## **Race for Life: Thank you and well done**

Corby hosted another Race for Life this year to help raise money for Cancer Research. The event was held on Sunday 22 May at West Glebe Park with racers joining either the 5k or 10k race. Although attendance has been down nationally in events like this since the pandemic, those that came along to Corby managed to raise a fantastic £20k and counting! Well done to everyone who attended and managed to complete the 5k and 10k routes, every bit of help we can give to fighting cancer is so valuable.

## **Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay to visit Corby**

The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay is confirmed to visit Corby during its final journey through England this summer, as the full route is revealed.

Birmingham 2022 is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – a journey which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth during the build up to the Games.

In England, the Queen's Baton Relay will provide the opportunity for communities to experience the excitement for Birmingham 2022, as the 11 days of showstopping sport nears ever closer.

The Queen's Baton Relay is set to travel the length and breadth of England for a total of 29 days, before culminating at the Opening Ceremony for Birmingham 2022 on 28 July 2022. Kicking off on Thursday 2 June, the Baton will spend four days in London, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. The Baton will then resume the international journey and return to England on Monday 4 July to commence a 25-day tour of the regions.

On Sunday 10 July, Corby will officially welcome the Baton.

A busy schedule of activities and events are planned for the Queen's Baton Relay, with opportunities to highlight untold stories from Batonbearers who are striving for change in their community.

During its time in Corby, the Queen's Baton Relay will visit Corby East Midlands International Pool and will experience exciting pool side displays from local divers and cheerleaders.

The Queen's Baton for Birmingham 2022 was created in a West Midlands collaboration that fused art, technology and science. Made from copper, aluminium and steel, the Baton also features a platinum strand in homage to The Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year. It is also equipped with cutting-edge technology; 360-degree camera, heart rate monitor, atmospheric sensors and LED lighting.

Please visit the [Queen's Baton Relay website](#) for more information.

## **Knife Angel leaves Corby soon**

The Knife Angel sculpture is currently still on public display on Corporation Street, Willow Place, Corby until Sunday 29 May, giving those who haven't been able to view the artwork in person still time to visit.

The Knife Angel is a sculpture designed by artist Alfie Bradley, in partnership with the British Ironworks Centre and is also known as the National Monument Against Violence & Aggression.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour and act as a memorial to the victims and families affected by knife crime and other forms of violence/aggression. The sculpture travels across the UK to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effect violence has on communities.

If you have not seen it yet, it is well worth a visit!

## **41st International Waendel Walk is a success**

More than 3,200 walkers took Wellingborough's town, streets and the North Northamptonshire countryside to join in the 41st International Waendel Walk.

Walkers of all ages put their best foot forward and took part in routes ranging from 5km through to 42km on Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May.

The weekend started with the 5km and 10km Friendship walks and music on the Friday evening in the grounds of the Castle Theatre. Across Saturday and Sunday, the live music continued with performances by acts including Rock Choir and Jess Oresstano alongside sports, activities and entertainment.

Twelve different routes were available to walkers across the weekend and the annual event was celebrated with a closing ceremony at the Castle Theatre on Sunday evening.

Thank you to everyone who took part and who helped organise and deliver the event.

## **Press releases**

[New Chair elected at Annual Full Council](#)

[NNC seeking views on how Shared Prosperity Fund should be spent](#)

[Notice of election and referendum](#)

[Build a career in construction with our free training programme](#)

[Garden communities schemes to get funding injection in North Northamptonshire](#)

[Virtual funding fair to be held in Northamptonshire](#)

[Expressions of interest sought to take on the running of Raunds Library](#)

[41st International Waendel Walk is a success](#)

[Businesses urged to apply for Covid additional relief funding](#)

[Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay to visit Corby](#)

## Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#).

### Top Facebook posts so far this week (23-25 May 2022)

- From picnics to parties, live music, sport and games to arts and crafts activities, there's something for all the family happening across North Northamptonshire for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Check out our website to find out what's happening, get involved and party like a royal! <http://ow.ly/schA50JgL1S>  
(Reach 4,382, Post Clicks 535)
- (Shared post from The Chester House Estate) - Join us as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We are holding Jubilee celebrations every day of the bank holiday, and our site is FREE to enter. We can't wait to see you on site celebrating with us, don't forget to book a FREE car parking space to help us manage capacity across site. You can book your car parking ticket by visiting [www.chesterhouseestate.org/plan-your-visit/book-parking](http://www.chesterhouseestate.org/plan-your-visit/book-parking) #PlatinumJubileeCelebrationsatChesterHouse  
(Reach 2,411, Post Clicks 98)
- Made no plans for half term? North Northants has loads to offer families of all shapes and sizes <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism>  
(Reach 2,085, Post Clicks 62)

### Top Tweets so far this week (23-25 May 2022)

- There's something for all the family happening across North Northamptonshire for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Check out our website to find out what's happening, get involved and party like a royal! <https://t.co/TKxKeJLqEH>  
(Impressions 694, Engagements 39)
- Whether you are attending a community party or hosting one of your own to celebrate the Jubilee, it's important to be aware of food safety and hygiene. @foodgov have practical tips and advice so that everyone can trust the food they're eating <https://t.co/iUyjREbuOL>  
(Impressions 506, Engagements 3)
- Garden communities schemes to get funding injection in North Northamptonshire <https://t.co/bpR6DUquGF>  
(Impressions 469, Engagements 23)

## 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](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk)

With Best Wishes,  
Jason