



Introduction and Welcome! Welcome to my latest Update. I am sure the cooler, perhaps more seasonal weather will be welcome for many following the recent heatwaves. Evidently, the heavy rain earlier this week presented a different set of challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff,

volunteers, parish and town councils and partner agencies who continue to work tirelessly to deliver services to those who need them, irrespective of the weather. You may recall that last year the council achieved a bronze award in the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). I am delighted to say that we have now been awarded silver status, clearly demonstrating our commitment to helping and supporting those in the Armed Forces. We have two exciting festivals coming up next month which you are invited to attend: The first is our Health and Wellbeing Festival which runs from Monday 5 to Sunday 11

September. This year the theme is 'It's time to take care of you!' We have brought together a variety of local organisations and services to help people get active, free their mind, take time to relax and discover what health and wellbeing support is available in the area. The second is the Nene Valley Festival from Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 September which to local national and international audiences

promotes the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination offering wildlife and heritage Both festivals offer a wide range of activities for all the family in numerous locations across North Northamptonshire. Please make a note in your calendar, help spread the word and join us if you can. I am also delighted to announce that the council will hold an Adult Social Care Showcase at Corby Cube on Wednesday 5 October. Our Adult Social Care services make such a difference to people's lives across North Northamptonshire - more details are provided further below.

The council's Executive will meet next Thursday at the Corby Cube. You can view the **Executive** meeting agenda and papers on our website. One of the reports on the agenda demonstrates how the library in Raunds is a step closer to being community managed. The report at Executive outlines the council's recommendations for a decision next Thursday. Other important items to two new green initiatives (Pollinator Policy and Tree Management and Care Policy). Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-up, Councillor Matt Binley. Matt has been

be considered include Phase 3 of the Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) and Last, but by no means least, this issue also includes an article guest written by the Executive keen to highlight the good work of our temporary accommodation team who have significantly reduced the number of out of area placements. Whatever your plans are for the weekend, I hope you have a good one!

Raunds Library - A step closer to being community managed The council is a step closer to ensuring that a local library remains in Raunds to deliver valuable services to all

sections of the community. The Creating Tomorrow Academy Trust and the Raunds Community Library Trust have been selected to run the library in partnership. The lease arrangements will now go back before the council's Executive for final approval. As part of a Community Managed Libraries Programme, the council has been working to find a viable solution to enable the transfer of Raunds Library into community management. To ensure that the best possible service is secured for the local community going forwards, the council put out a final call for any expressions of interest to take on the running of Raunds Library as a community managed library. A procurement process and careful evaluation of the business plans submitted have enabled

## Wishing A level students the very best of luck for the future

The library is a wonderful asset for the residents of Raunds and I am pleased that we are a step

Yesterday was an important day for students receiving their A level results. The last few years have had their challenges in many ways, but this week will mark the end of one chapter and the start of a new one. We wish them all the very best of luck

successful providers to be identified.

closer to securing its future.

Deborah Meaden and Jake Humphrey, to name but a few). There are many options that will open doors and create opportunities for the future - and enable young people to achieve great things in life. Anyone looking to attend university, but didn't get the grades they need should use the university <u>clearing system</u>. Alternatively, <u>apprenticeships</u> are available for those wanting to go down this route. The council is currently offering two traineeship programmes for those coming out of education and looking to gain employment skills.

## ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Northamptonshire councils march forward

with commitment to armed forces

employment pathways between the forces and the private and public sectors. After the initial bronze award in December 2021 which recognised both councils' openness to employing reservists, veterans and anyone connected to the SILVER AWARD forces, both have since put in place policies which allow reservists to carry out their military commitments. 2022 marks the ninth year of the awards scheme. In addition to these 44 silver winners, the East Midlands region also had a record 18 gold awards this year. To achieve gold status in the ERS the council must show it has committed to taking on those leaving the services via the Careers Transitions Programme and have registered for the Forces

information, visit the **Armed Forces Covenant website**. **Armed Forces Community Hubs in North Northamptonshire** 

There are now several community hubs in towns around the county including Corby and Kettering.

Tuesday 13 December Thursday 8 September Thursday 13 October Thursday 11 November

council has launched its second Health and Wellbeing Festival, which brings together a variety of local organisations and services to help people get active, free their mind, take time to relax and discover what health and wellbeing support is available in the area. The popular feel-good festival takes

are simple to join in with. Further information about the event and the full timetable can be found

We all need to find time to take care of our health and wellbeing needs, and everyone is welcome to join in with our festival which is a great way to build communities and ensure people know

Whether people need advice or support, are looking for a new hobby or activity, or want health and wellbeing inspiration, we have a fantastic line-up this year with leisure centres, parks,

libraries and health services all involved, to name but a few. I'd encourage everyone to take a look

Take care of you at this year's

**Health and Wellbeing Festival** 

Less than one month until the Nene Valley Festival returns Organisations across the Nene Valley are working hard on the final preparations for the Nene Valley Festival, which returns from Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 September. The Nene Valley Festival is now in its 9th year and will feature events at key locations

finale event on Saturday 17 September at Northampton's Delapre Abbey.

**Nene Valley Festival Poetry Competition** Have you 'wandered lonely as a cloud' along the Nene Valley? Does the River Nene inspire you? The Nene Valley Festival is looking for a short poem to celebrate this year's event. Please send your entries to karen.williams@northnorthants.gov.uk by Friday 2 September. There will be a small prize for the winner. **Visitor Use Survey** 

We want to understand how people use the Nene Valley for recreation, so we can understand

The survey will be open until December 2022 and it should take less than 10 minutes to

Do you use the Nene Valley to walk, run, cycle, fish, birdwatch, row or anything else? Please give

Adult Social Care Showcase to be held in

**North Northamptonshire** 

the impact on the important wildlife habitats in the area.

us your feedback through our online survey.

The council will hold an Adult Social Care Showcase at Corby Cube on Wednesday 5 October to promote and raise awareness for the services that Adult

The Adult Social Care Showcase will take place from 10am to 3pm in the Council Chamber at Corby Cube. There will be a chance to speak to members of staff and who will answer general questions about the service and provide support. The event will also allow members of the public the opportunity to find out what it is like working within Social Care, with recruitment opportunities advertised on the day.

interviews will be available on the day from 10am to 5pm.

and find out more about the work being done.

of the complex will include a café and multi-use space making the best of the historic setting.

Cornerstone aims to revitalise and unify the town centre site which includes Alfred East Art Gallery, Kettering Library and Kettering Museum, while at

new two-storey extension to the rear of the Art Gallery.

The next Executive meeting will take place in the Council Chamber at the Corby Cube on Thursday 25 August. You can find the **Executive meeting agenda** 

There are a number of important items to be considered including the lease arrangements for Raunds Library, Phase 3 of the Kettering High Street

Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) project and two new green initiatives (Pollinator Policy and Tree

Gold Street has been identified due to its prime

the area and an improved street scene.

discussed at next week's Executive meeting.

pollinators.

council's approach to:

Maintenance Protection Subsidence

Felling and Pruning.

**Planting** 

placements.

Reduce pesticide use.

Participate in pollinator projects. The North Northamptonshire-wide Tree

Management and Care Policy looks at how trees are cared for across the area and sets out the

These new policies, if approved, will grow on

done an amazing job of reducing out of area

As the name suggests, sometimes we have no other option than to place people needing

Increase forage resources for pollinator species. Improve habitats for nesting and overwintering

Management and Care Policy).

on the website.

Full services will be mobilised in several phases over the first six months.

important community event.

Social Care provide to the area.

complete.

improvements to be discussed at Executive At next week's meeting of North Northamptonshire Council's Executive, Phase 3 of the Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) will be discussed. Following successful works along High Street, Meadow Road and the top of Gold Street, it is proposed that Phase 3 will focus on a further section of Gold Street and use existing funds from the overall HSHAZ budget alongside **S106 monies**.

**Phase 3 of Kettering town centre** 

emergency temporary accommodation outside of North Northants if we have no suitable place for them to stay in our area. Of course, this isn't ideal, and we work hard to bring them back into our area as soon as we can. When we started as a unitary authority in April 2021, we had 45 homeless households placed out of area, while this statistic has come down to 12 as of 12 August 2022. This is a remarkable achievement and shows the hard work and dedication of this team. To make this happen the team has sought more temporary accommodation in the area and improved processes so homes can be re-let more efficiently.

supply temporary places in which to stay, to increase capacity.

service which provides a lifeline to our most vulnerable.

It's that time of year again where we make sure electoral register details are up-to-date and all households should

There are two types of mailings being sent out across North Northamptonshire, one is a letter marked 'CCA' and one is a

have now received a letter or form

changes.

can result in a £1000 fine.

1 September until Thursday 29 September.

The team at Nene Valley Crematorium has raised £15,000 for a local charity. The Council's companyoperated crematorium serves the community of

A cheque was presented by the manager, (on behalf

representing the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire local Air Ambulance, who provide lifesaving services. The raised funds have already supported eight missions

persons entitled and empowered to make this decision.

of the company's chair for the Board of Directors, Councillor Paul Bell) to Keith Brown, a volunteer

Wellingborough and beyond.

for this Air Ambulance service.

Royal Dutch Cremation Federation.

can easily register online at GOV.UK or you can call 01832 742 076.

phone contracts. It also means you will not be able to vote at election time.

People have also been given additional support to pay their temporary accommodation charges and more options on how they can pay. The council also works with third party providers, who

I'm keen that we maintain this focus and continue making these tangible improvements to this

Make sure your Electoral Registration

details are up-to-date

Ukrainian guests and sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme are invited to join us for a Family Fun Picnic next week. GREET SESSIONS This is a free event from 11am to 1pm at the following locations: Monday 22 August - Barnwell Country Tuesday 23 August - East Carlton Countryside Park Wednesday 24 August – Stanwick Lakes Thursday 25 August - Wicksteed Park Friday 26 August – Irchester Country Park Council Resettlement Officers will be available to answer any queries that guests or sponsors may have. For further information on this event, please email resettlement@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Nene Valley Crematorium donation to charity

These funds are a result of the crematorium's membership with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, who provide a recycling of metals policy via a European scheme, the

The Institute's recycling scheme continues to grow in partnership with **OrthoMetals**. Metals recovered after cremation are recycled with the express consent of bereaved people, being the

charities that have collectively benefitted from £38,000 because of this recycling scheme. This year follows a former recent donation from the crematorium scheme to Marie Curie for

Since the opening of the crematorium on 19 September 2016, the team has nominated five local

£10,000 and a future donation for £12,000 has recently been agreed for 'We Mind, Kelly Matters'.

**Kettering Study Programme is** 

recruiting 16 to 18-year olds

WNAA

will still be enrolling in November for those who missed the September start and those who went to college but found it wasn't for them. N'ABLE programme - Starting in November and running for 31 weeks following Northamptonshire school term times, this programme is an alternative to college or 6th form and supports learners to: Gain nationally recognisable qualifications to lead them into employment or further study. Achieve Functional Skills Qualifications which are nationally recognised and are equivalent Develop positive attitudes and behaviours for employment such as punctuality, appearance, teamwork and resilience. Gain skills and experience of the world of work through structured and supportive placements that could lead into future employment or an apprenticeship. Increase digital and basic computer skills used in the majority of modern workplaces.

Develop skills to enhance wellbeing and increase resilience to be happy, successful, and

Press releases

New green strategies on the NNC Executive agenda

Less than one month until the Nene Valley Festival

To help you stay abreast of the key things the Council has been doing, I have included some

If you know a young person who would benefit from joining the Kettering Study Programme,

please email <u>aimee.woore@northnorthants.gov.uk</u> or call 01604 367119.

links to the Council's press releases below (starting with the most recent):

proactive members of society.

We're wishing A level students the very best of luck

Make sure your Electoral Registration details are up

on the electoral

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

register

Take care of you at this year's Northamptonshire councils Nene Valley Crematorium Health and Wellbeing Festival march forward with commitment donation to charity to armed forces

If you would like stay up to date with the Council's media releases, you can visit the news

Social media: Top stories

The forecasts may be showing rain on the way, but until further notice, there is still a ban on bbgs in parks and woodlands. Take a picnic instead and enjoy the sun before

section of the Council's website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news

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

(Reach 8,041, Post Clicks 1,344)

(Reach 5,789, Post Clicks 37)

Or follow Twitter 🕑 <u>@NNorthantsC</u>and/or Facebook 👍 <u>@NorthNorthants</u>

COVENANT

(Shared post from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service) - We are currently dealing with a number of incidents across the county - One is a field fire in Northfield Road, Cransley. We have eight appliances on scene and are expected to be there for some time. A second is in Tower Hill Road, Corby, and involves a hedgerow and grass on fire with two appliances on scene. Residents in both local areas are advised to keep their windows and doors closed while we deal with these incidents. Thank you for your (Reach 4,837, Post Clicks 334)

the clouds roll in. Please take any rubbish home with you.

Top Tweets so far this week (15 to 17 August 2022)

future updates please let me know at: <a href="mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk">executive@northnorthants.gov.uk</a>

(Impressions 3,299, Engagements 27) Less than one month until the @\_NeneValley Festival returns: https://t.co/ **ATISWCEWdb** (Impressions 1,590, Engagements 45) flooding advice. (Impressions 796, Engagements 14) Thank you! Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have ideas of items to include in

in the future, whatever their chosen path. Many people have achieved great success without A Level grades (including Sir Richard Branson,

Congratulations! Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council have both been awarded silver status. The ERS silver award is the second step in a constant improvement programme which makes it easier for reservists to find flexible employers and improves

Less than a year after achieving bronze status in the

The next dates are as follows:

Corby NN17 1SZ

Venue: West Glebe Pavilion, Cottingham Road,

Opening times: 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm

It's time to take care of you. The

on the **Health and Wellbeing Festival website**.

at what's on offer and join us during the week.

across the Nene Valley from Northampton to Peterborough with a wide range of activities for

national and international audiences.

The festival will kick off with an official launch at Lyveden New Bield from 10:30am on Saturday

all ages.

Family Portal. Both councils offer a range of support for serving personnel, veterans and their families which could include support with finance, housing and employment and education. For more Community hubs provide a warm and welcoming place where members of the Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families, can go to for support, advice and comradeship - or just drop in for a brew and a chat.

**Tuesday 30 August** Tuesday 27 September Tuesday 25 October Tuesday 29 November **Kettering** Venue: Kettering Room, Corn Market Hall, 42 London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA Opening times: 1:30pm to 3:30pm and 6pm to 8pm Thursday 8 December

place from Monday 5 to Sunday 11 September at various local locations and has something suitable for all the family with physical activities such as walks, netball, football and running, as well as opportunities to escape for a few hours with gardening, craft, Tai Chi, and even knitting and singing sessions. Talks and advice are on offer from various local organisations including Mind, Macmillan and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) on a range of health topics such as diabetes, cancer, autism and mental health, which will provide people with the chance to feel informed, meet others and build support networks. The award-winning Youthworks LGBTQIA+ group is offering social opportunities and activities for young people during the week. The Health and Wellbeing Festival consists of a huge range of free and low-cost activities that

about (and have access to) the huge range of services available across the area.

Northamptonshire Council, Nenescape, Natural England, Peterborough City Council, The Wildlife Trust, River Nene Regional Park, the Environment Agency and West Northamptonshire Heritage Forum. Full details about the events taking place during the Nene Valley Festival can be found on the **Destination Nene Valley website** or by following Destination Nene Valley on **Twitter** and Facebook. It is great that the Nene Valley Festival is back to celebrate the tourist attractions and businesses we have in the local area. The team has been working hard alongside partners to ensure this year's festival is the best yet and really highlights the Nene Valley.

10 September before a week of activities take place including a variety of walks, from heritage through to health across the valley, alongside theatre and wildlife activities. There will be a

The annual festival is being organised through the Destination Nene Valley project to promote the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination offering wildlife and heritage to local,

The council is working on the Destination Nene Valley project with partners including West

Flagship cultural regeneration project nears completion I am pleased to share with you an early glimpse of Cornerstone as our flagship cultural regeneration project nears completion. Finishing touches are being applied ahead of the phased opening from this Autumn. The new part

the same time keeping the individual identities of these much-loved assets. Once completed, there will be significant improvements to the Alfred East Art Gallery and Kettering Library and a

**Executive meeting on** 

**Thursday 25 August** 

For anyone interested in going one step further and applying for any of the roles being advertised,

Northamptonshire and I am pleased that we are holding this event so residents can ask questions

Further details will be available in the coming weeks. I hope that you will be able to join us at this

Our Adult Social Care services make such a difference to people's lives across North

location, alongside the potential long-term benefits and increase in footfall. It is anticipated that Phase 3 will see improvement works totalling £460,000. The HSHAZ project is a partnership between the council and Historic England designed to unlock the full potential of Kettering town centre and restore and enhance local historic character. If the report is approved, it is anticipated that work could begin in September, following the completion of Phase 2 which is currently being undertaken along the High Street. The High Street Heritage Action Zone is an excellent project which is making a real difference to

Kettering. I hope residents and local businesses are already noticing this, with more visitors to

New green strategies on

the Executive agenda

Two new initiatives, a Pollinator Policy and a Tree Management and Care Policy, will also be

The Pollinator Policy will set out how the council is seeking to improve habitats for pollinator species (and other wildlife) in all its parks and open spaces. Areas covered in the policy include:

our green environment across North Northamptonshire. Temporary accommodation team providing a lifeline to the most vulnerable By guest writer, Councillor Matt Binley, Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-up I wanted to highlight the good work of our temporary accommodation team who have

existing initiatives in place across the area including the popular 'Pardon the Weeds' campaign which has run in Kettering and Corby for several years and gained worldwide attention. The

and leaving meadow areas in open spaces to allow flowers to bloom and seed.

policies also look at other commitments including replacing any felled trees with at least one more

I welcome these reports to the Executive. Since we declared a Climate and Environment Emergency in July 2021, the teams at the council have worked to ensure we are doing all we can to improve

form marked 'CF'. Households will receive one of the below: **Letters marked 'CCA'** - If you receive a letter marked 'CCA', you only need to respond if any elector details are incorrect. We will not send any reminders for letters marked 'CCA', this is the only letter your household will receive this year. Forms marked 'CF' - If you receive a form marked 'CF', you must respond even if all elector details are correct. Response reminders for Canvass Forms will be sent directly to registered electors via email, telephone, text message, personal visit or paper form up until October. All contact will be easily identifiable as North Northamptonshire Council and we will only ask for limited information relating to voter registration such as name, nationality, date of birth and national insurance number. We will only visit a property where a canvass form marked 'CF' has been received and not responded to before Tuesday 23 August.

If you have received a form marked 'CF' the quickest way to respond is to visit the **Household Response website** and enter the security codes on your form to login and record if there are any

The requested information is required by law and not responding or providing false information

received a form marked 'CF') by Tuesday 23 August. Door knocking will commence from Thursday

If you're not currently registered to vote, your name will not appear in messages we send but you

Not being registered to vote can affect your applications for loans, mortgages and even mobile

**Family Fun Picnic Meet and Greet Sessions** 

To avoid being disturbed at your doorstep, please respond to your Canvass form (if you have

Based in Kettering, the Study Programme is Are you 16–18 ? an educational programme that specialises in supporting small groups of 16 to 18-year olds. • Need to gain or improve Kettering Study Programme Designed as an alternative to 6th form or college. your English and maths skills? the Study Programme consists of employability **ENROL** · Want to gain an skills, maths and English functional skills NOW apprenticeship, work or go qualifications and a work experience placement. to college? · Didn't enjoy the school **EMPOWER programme** - Starting on 12 environment? Suffer with low confidence September for 6 weeks, this programme focuses and prefer small groups? on helping students to recognise barriers to · Been home schooled and learning and what tools and strategies can scared to get back into learning? be used to overcome these. Learners will also take part in teamwork activities, projects and volunteering challenges to boost their confidence and develop skills to add to their CVs. EMPOWER is intended to bridge the transition Our Course back into education for those who became disengaged over COVID or were home-schooled or were school refusers. The aim is to help them to be more successful and resilient for the November programme. The Study Programme

Adult Social Care Showcase to be Phase 3 of Kettering town centre Raunds Library - A step closer to improvements to be discussed at held in North Northamptonshire being community managed Executive Make sure your correct details are

Top Facebook posts so far this week (15 to 17 August 2022) Due to limited crew numbers, we're still experiencing delays with waste collections in the Wellingborough area. If your street's bins aren't collected by 6pm, we'll come back by the following Monday at the latest to catch up - so just leave your bins out and we'll come back whenever we have capacity. When catching up, we will prioritise general refuse bins first, followed by recycling bins and then garden waste bins. We will try to get the longest waiting of any particular type first. We apologise for this inconvenience.

ban on bbgs in parks and woodlands. Take a picnic instead and enjoy the sun before the clouds roll in. Please take any rubbish home with you. This video perfectly illustrates how ground after a long period of high heat doesn't absorb water as quickly as already wet or normal summer ground. This means heavy rain flows over the top of it and can cause flooding. Visit https://t.co/cgWw1dPFyo for

Contacting North

© 0300 126 3000

Northamptonshire Council

🔊 <u>www.northnorthants.gov.uk</u>

The forecasts may be showing rain on the way, but until further notice, there is still a



Follow me on Twitter

@SmithersJason