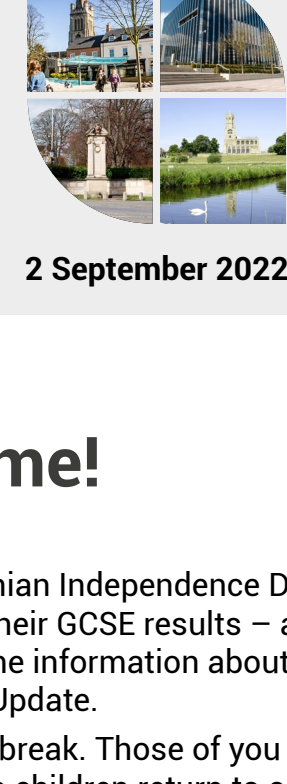




# Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers  
Leader of the Council



2 September 2022

## Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update. Last week we were proud to mark Ukrainian Independence Day in North Northamptonshire. We also saw our Year 11 pupils receiving their GCSE results – an important but nerve-wracking day for many. I'm sure, I've included some information about the options available to those who received their results further on in this Update.

Many pupils are now returning to school having finished their summer break. Those of you who are parents, teachers or both, will know well what that feels like. And as children return to school and the nights start to draw in, we prepare ourselves for the autumn and winter months to which we know will bring new challenges considering the cost of gas and electricity.

Executive will meet on Thursday 15 September at the Corby Cube. The meeting will be broadcast live on YouTube and the recording will be available to view afterwards. The **agenda and papers** will be published online next week and the YouTube link will be confirmed nearer the time on our social media channels.

In this Update I have provided information on how you can have your say on the proposed Corby Towns Fund projects. I have provided details of our Health and Wellbeing Festival taking place next week – please do make some time for this in your busy schedules if you can. A little further from home, I have also included information about how you can support the Pakistan Floods Appeal. I am sure you will agree that the images we see on TV are truly heart-wrenching.

I have also included news of around one quarter of a million pounds of funding to improve facilities for young people at the Kingswood Estate in Corby. The funding was awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund and North Northamptonshire Council is delighted to be working with partners to support the project.

You will find information on carriage resurfacing work we are carrying out along Queensway in Wellingborough. Although such works always feel a little inconvenient when they are taking place, the results usually more than compensate.

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

## Have your say on Corby Towns Fund projects

Residents and businesses are invited to have their say on the proposed scheme to improve the pedestrian and cyclist facilities between Corby Railway Station and Corby Town Centre.

The government awarded £19.9m to the council through the Corby Towns Fund in June 2021. The aim is to drive the regeneration of Corby and deliver long term economic growth for the town. This funding has been secured for, and must be used on, four projects:

- Corby Station Links
- Smart and Connected Corby
- Sixth Form College at Chisholm House
- Multi-use Building



We have started on initial plans for the projects but we would like to hear from those who will be directly impacted by them.

A public engagement period for two of the projects will be held from Friday 2 September to Friday 30 September.

**Corby Station Links** – will look to improve the public realm and provide attractive and safe pedestrian/cycle connections between the town centre, Tresham Station and the train station along the southern route of Oakley Road. It will connect the station directly with the Chisholm House and the Multi-use building projects and make a significant contribution to the active healthy travel agenda and help to reduce congestion and emissions across Corby.

**Smart and Connected Corby** – This project seeks to establish Corby as a smart and green town centre through harnessing connected and clean technologies. Using the latest connected and smart technology will enable us to monitor flows of pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, shoppers, and visitors to understand the present and predict the future.

During the public engagement period, information boards will be on display at The Cube. There will also be staffed events where residents can speak to staff and ask questions between 10:00am and 4:00pm on:

- Monday 5 September
- Tuesday 13 September
- Wednesday 21 September
- Thursday 29 September

I would encourage everyone to come and see the initial plans on display and have your say. Alternatively, you can provide feedback via the **Corby Towns Fund website**.

A further engagement and consultation period will follow.

## Stagecoach appointed as operator for rural bus routes

The council has awarded a new contract to Stagecoach to operate two rural bus services from Monday 5 September.

The previous operator of the routes had informed the council that it could no longer run the services which necessitated a new tendering process.

Following this process, Stagecoach was selected to operate the Kettering – Geddington – Corby service and the Corby – Thrapston service.

Bus services provide such a vital role in providing an alternative to car travel particularly in our rural communities. I am pleased that the council has been able to find a solution in providing continuity of service for our residents.

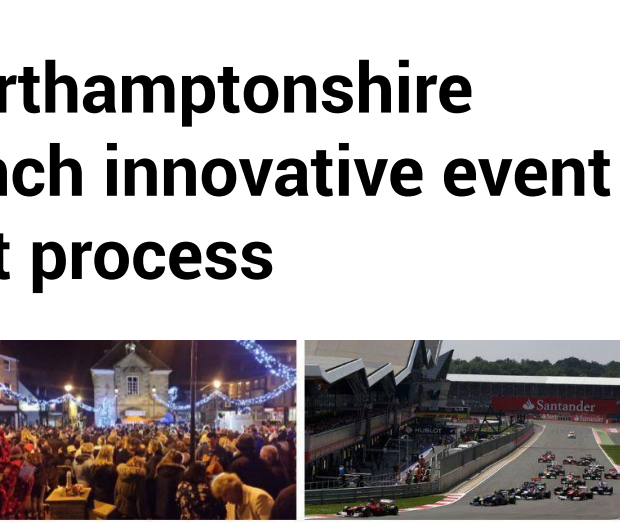


## Options still open for GCSE students

Last Thursday saw thousands of Year 11 pupils up and down the country receiving their GCSE results – an important but largely nerve-wracking day for many.

Results day marked the start of the next phase of many young people's lives as they move on to new challenges, whether that is continuing to study at Sixth Form or college, moving on to an apprenticeship or other work-based learning opportunity.

Some pupils may not have received the grades they have hoped for or may still be unsure what they would like to do from September. There are many options still open and schools will be able to offer advice, guidance and support.



- There are plenty of resources available online including information on what happens after Year 11 and Sixth Form places.
- The council is currently offering two traineeships programmes for those coming out of education and looking to gain employment skills.
- Apprenticeships are also available for those wanting to go down this route.
- The Study Programme in Kettering is available as an alternative to Sixth Form or college. The 6-week 'EMPOWER' programme starts on 12 September which will focus on helping students to build confidence and support with challenges in learning with team building activities and projects. A 31-week programme, 'NABLE' starts in November which will focus on building skills, qualifications, attitudes and behaviours to prepare a young person for further learning and work. For more information, please call 01604 367119 or email the Study Programme team at [studyprogramme@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:studyprogramme@northnorthants.gov.uk)

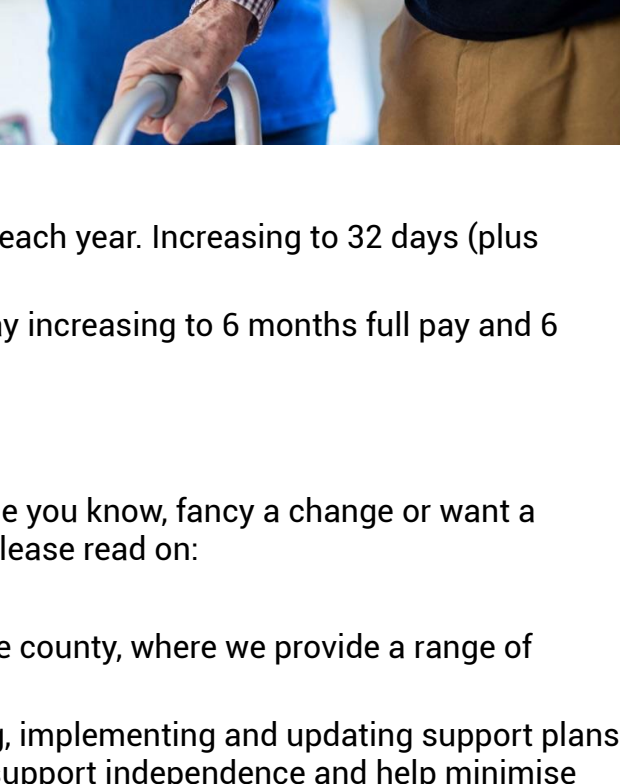
On behalf of the whole council, I am extremely proud of all the young people across North Northamptonshire who received their GCSE results last week, especially considering the unprecedented challenges that they faced during the pandemic. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped them reach this point – all the teachers and parents and carers who supported them throughout – and who, I am sure, will be proud no matter what grades they achieved.

## Ukrainian Independence Day marked in North Northamptonshire

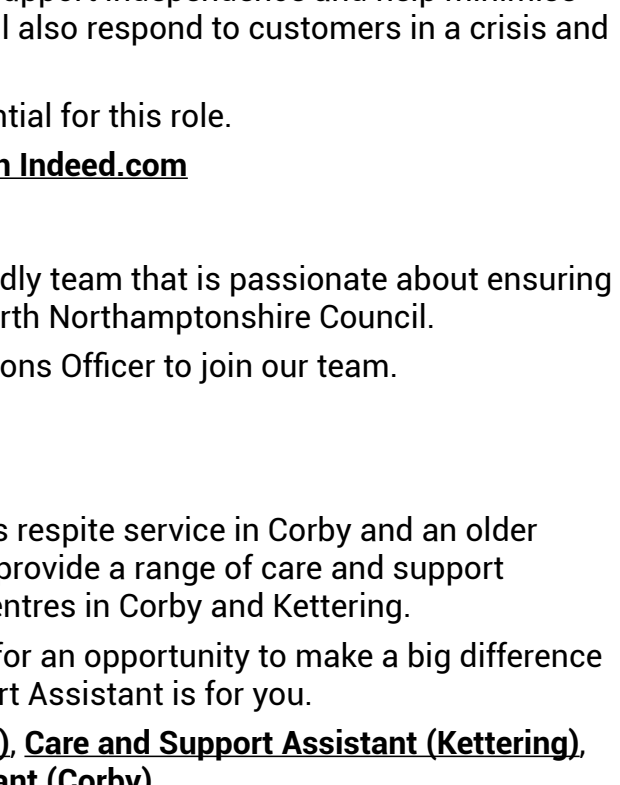
Ukrainian families and their hosts in North Northamptonshire celebrated Ukrainian Independence Day on Wednesday 24 August, marking 31 years since Ukraine's declaration of independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

The day was celebrated with the distinctive blue and yellow Ukrainian flag flying high across the nation. Ukraine's national flower, the sunflower (or 'soniashnyk') was displayed in windows.

Social media users showed their support by sharing posts with #SunflowersForUkraine and #StandforFreedom hashtags.



Certainly, a highlight on a local level were the daily 'Family Fun Picnic Meet and Greet' sessions that the resettlement team organised for sponsors and their guests who arrived in North Northamptonshire under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. These took place in country parks across North Northamptonshire including Barwell Country Park, East Carlton Countryside Park, Stanwick Lakes, Wicksteed Park and Rochester Country Park. The sessions were a huge success, and a great opportunity for sponsors and guests to meet up and discuss their experiences, catch up and meet new friends. Local officers, councillors and partners were also on hand to any answer queries.



At Stanwick Lakes, Ukraine Independence Day was celebrated with lots of guests turning up and Ukrainian children marking the day by drawing and painting sunflowers.

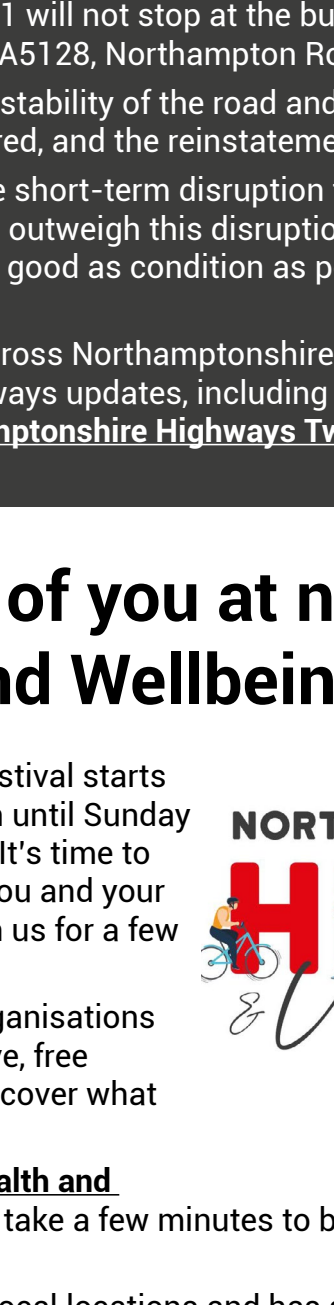
I am so pleased that we are able to come together and support our Ukrainian guests during an extremely difficult time in their lives. The stories and scenes we have all seen in the news about the war in Ukraine have shocked and horrified us. We continue to stand with those affected.

Through the Homes for Ukraine resettlement scheme, North Northamptonshire Council has supported the arrival of nearly 400 Ukrainian guests. We continue to be grateful for the support and hospitality that our residents and communities have given them.

For more information on the Homes 4 Ukraine scheme, please visit our **Ukraine web pages** or email a member of the resettlement team at [resettlement@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:resettlement@northnorthants.gov.uk).

## Pakistan Floods Appeal

Continuing with the altruistic theme, we have had some queries from staff and residents this week asking if there is anything they can do to support the victims of the devastating floods in Pakistan. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) brings together leading UK charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. If you would like to get involved and make a donation, please visit the DEC website.

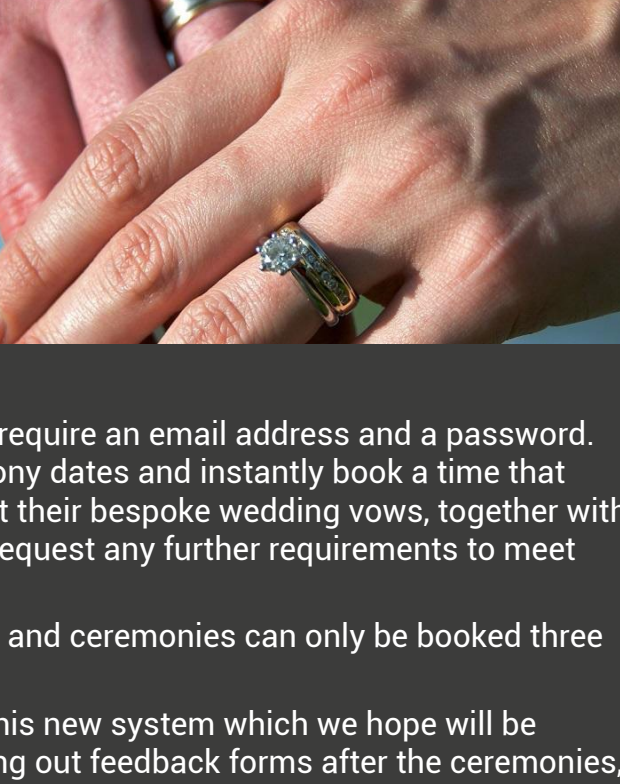


**DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

## North and West Northamptonshire Councils partner to launch innovative event management process

The North and West Northamptonshire Event Safety Partnership, which offers advice for local event organisers, is delighted to launch a new event notification process that has been developed to help ensure a supportive and consistent approach to event safety management in Northamptonshire.

Businesses and residents across the county can now notify their local council of an upcoming event via the respective local authority website by completing a short online form. Once this form has been completed, services across the councils and partner organisations, including Northamptonshire Police, will be able to access this and support event organisers to fully understand what they need to do to deliver a safe and secure event.



Notification should be given as soon as possible once it has been decided that the event will take place.

To find out more, please visit **Event Safety Partnership North** or **Event Safety Partnership West**.

## NN Job Club set to launch across North Northamptonshire

The council is teaming up with partners to support job seekers across the local area.

The new NN Job Club will occur in-person every Tuesday from 6 September between 11am and 2pm rotating around four locations:

- Kettering – Council Chamber, Bowling Green Road on 6 September
- Wellingborough – Swansgate Shopping Centre, near Customer Services on 13 September
- Corby – Council Chamber, Corby Cube on 20 September
- Rushden – Salvation Army, 19 Church Street on 27 September



The sessions will provide customised support for local residents until they find employment, training, volunteering or start a new business. Plus, in between the sessions, Job Club members will be encouraged to stay in touch with partners.

The council is working with partners including Job Centre Plus, MIND, Prospects, Evolve Your Future, Tresham College, University of Northampton, Catalyst, Serve, the Prison Service and the Salvation Army.

To become a member of the NN Job Club, simply attend one of the sessions listed above. Alternatively, you can email the NN Job Club team at [njobclub@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:njobclub@northnorthants.gov.uk) to register your interest. All information, advice and guidance that is given is free, strictly confidential and customised to your personal circumstances.

NN Job Club sessions will be promoted on our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

These sessions are designed to support an individual's needs and our team will work closely with you. If you or someone you know is currently looking for work, training or volunteering opportunities or maybe considering starting a business, I would encourage you to come along to become a member. Support and advice will never be too far away for those wanting to access the service.

## Are you looking for a change? Would you like to work in Adult Social Care?

North Northamptonshire Council is a workplace where everyone is given equal opportunities to develop and progress within a motivated community. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will make a change. Our values include being customer-focused, trustworthy, supportive, respectful, transparent and innovative.

Do you work well in a team? Do you like flexible hours to create a good work/life balance? Would you like to receive:



- 27 days paid annual leave plus 8 public holidays each year. Increasing to 32 days (plus public holidays) after 5 years' service.
- Paid sick leave, beginning with one-month full pay increasing to 10 months full pay and 6 months half pay.
- Free continuous training and development.
- Local Government Pension

Here are some of our vacancies so if you, or someone you know, fancy a change or want a career supporting customers from our community, please read on:

**Reablement Support Workers**

We have a reablement service across the north of the county, where we provide a range of support for our customers in their homes.

The post holder will work with customers developing, implementing and updating support plans, in consultation with other interested parties, which support independence and help minimise the risk of hospitalisation or residential care. You will also respond to customers in a crisis and provide personal care as required.

A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential for this role.

**Apply for Reablement Support Worker in Kettering on Indeed.com**

**Business Relations Officer**

The Commissioning Team is a small dedicated, friendly team that is passionate about ensuring high quality services for vulnerable people within North Northamptonshire Council.

We are recruiting for an enthusiastic Business Relations Officer to join our team.

**Apply on the Public Sector Jobs East website.**

**Care Assistants**

North Northamptonshire Council have a short breaks respite service in Corby and an older people's residential home in Desborough, where we provide a range of care and support services for our customers. We also have two day centres in Corby and Kettering.

If you are a patient, caring individual who is looking for an opportunity to make a big difference to the lives of our customers, please apply for a Care and Support Assistant in Corby.

**Apply via Indeed for the Care Assistant (Desborough), Care and Support Assistant (Kettering), Care Assistant (Corby) and Care and Support Assistant (Corby).**

**Day Centre Officer**

North Northamptonshire Council have a day service in Wellingborough, where we provide a range of care and support services for our customers.

We're seeking to recruit a great new Day Centre officer; someone with the right values and positive attitude to work at Harrowden Road with the LIVE team – could this be you?

LIVE is a supported employment enabling service, which exists to support adults with disabilities to reach their aspirations and work towards their learning, independence, volunteering and paid employment goals.

**Apply for Day Centre Officer in Wellingborough**

**Business Support Assistant**

We are recruiting for an experienced Business Support Assistant to join our respite unit for younger adults in Corby.

It is a temporary position until February 2023 so we are looking for someone to start as soon as possible.

If you think you have the skills and experience to join our friendly and compassionate team, **please apply via Indeed.**

## Carriage resurfacing work taking place on Queensway, Wellingborough

Northamptonshire Highways, on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council, is carrying out resurfacing works along Queensway in Wellingborough until Friday 9 September.

Full road closures are in place on Queensway and the junctions with Brickhill Road & Milton Avenue and associated side roads between 9:30am and 3:30pm on weekdays. A signposted diversion will be in place.

Residents are advised to move any vehicles parked within the works before 9:30am each day to ensure works can be carried out swiftly and with minimum disruption.

During the road closures, bus route W1 will not stop at the bus stops on the Queensway. Access to this work will be available from the A5128, Northampton Road or Kiln Way.

The works will improve the structural stability of the road and safety for road users including the replacement of ironwork, where required, and the reinstatement of road markings.

Although these works will mean some short-term disruption for local residents and businesses, I hope that the long-term benefits will outweigh this disruption. This work should ensure that this stretch of the Queensway is in as good as condition as possible as we head into the cooler months.

All roadworks and diversion routes across Northamptonshire can be viewed on our **current roadworks pages**. For the latest highways updates, including any unplanned impact on roadworks due to weather, please follow **Northamptonshire Highways Twitter**.



## Take care of you at next week's Health and Wellbeing Festival

Our second Health and Wellbeing Festival starts on Monday 5 September and will run until Sunday 11 September. This year's theme is 'It's time to take care of you' and we hope that you and your family and friends will be able to join us for a few activity sessions.

The festival brings together local organisations and services to help people get active, free their mind, take time to relax and discover what support is available in the area.

If you haven't already viewed the **Health and Wellbeing Festival timetable**, please take a few minutes to browse the wide range of activities on offer.



The event will take place at various local locations and will be something suitable for all the family. There will be physical activities such as well-being walks, netball, football and running, as well as opportunities to escape for a few hours with gardening, arts and crafts, yoga and even knitting and singing sessions.

NHTS and advice are on offer from various local organisations including Mind, Macmillan and Talk to a Nurse at a range of health topics such as diabetes, cancer, autism and mental health issues will provide people with the chance to feel informed, meet others and build support networks. The award winning Youthworks LGBTQIA+ group also have social opportunities and activities for young people during the week.

If you are able to, please come and join us.

## Say 'I do' to the new online booking system for civil wedding ceremonies

An online one-stop booking service for civil wedding ceremonies is now available to residents across North Northamptonshire.

The facility means that marriage ceremonies, civil partnerships, and marriage registrations can be booked online.

The new streamlined system is simple and seamless and removes the need for manual cross-checking and communication between council staff and customers, which previously took considerable time. The new online booking service is instant.



Customers will now be able to register an account which will require an email address and a password. They will then be able to easily check available ceremony dates and instantly book a time that suits. If they choose to, they will also be able to submit their bespoke wedding vows, together with their music and readings ahead of the ceremony and request any further requirements to meet their needs.

There is currently a backlog of weddings in the county and ceremonies can only be booked three months from the date the user logs onto the service.

We listened to residents' feedback and implemented this new system which we hope will be welcomed by newly-weds to be. We will also be sending out feedback forms after the ceremonies, so that we can continue to learn and improve the service.

To access the service, please visit the **NNC Registration Services online booking system**.

## Commissioner wins Safer Streets funding for North Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold, has been awarded almost £1.2 million from the Home Office after two successful bids to the government's Safer Streets Fund.

A significant amount of the funds will be spent in North Northamptonshire and will be invested in projects to improve the safety of women at night in and around Kettering and to prevent crime on the Queensway estate in Wellingborough.

The first project will target the night-time economy in Northampton and Kettering and see a 'night safety charter' implemented for both towns. There will also be significant investment in ID scan technology so that venues in Kettering can share information about people who behave inappropriately.



A second Safer Nights Out van (SNOvan) will be produced for the north of the county to be used by volunteers as a haven for anyone in difficulty on a night out. This comes after the successful launch of the first SNOvan in Northampton town centre.

In Wellingborough around 650 properties in Kiln Way and Minerva Way on the Queensway estate will have new, secure doors fitted in a partnership with Greatwell Homes. Alleyways in Shelley Road will be gated, security lighting will be fitted to some properties and security products will be distributed to residents.

In addition, there will also be 18 new security cameras, car parking security will be improved to the Park Mark standard and activity schemes will be put in place for young people.

## New bleed control kits for the community

Seventeen new bleed control cabinets containing lifesaving equipment have been installed across the county by Off The Streets NN, with the support of funding from Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold.

These new kits and cabinets join more than 50 others already installed by campaigning organisation Off The Streets NN and are funded through a grant of £10,000 by the Commissioner. The bleed control cabinets, which are accessible at all hours, allow someone to call 999 and be linked to an emergency operator, who will talk them through using the lifesaving kit.

The cabinets contain medical items that are used to stop catastrophic bleeding and keep someone alive until the emergency services arrive. The cabinets are being fixed outdoors in high profile locations including Eastfield Park in Wellingborough, Crow Hill skate parks in Irthlingborough and Adrenaline Alley in Corby.



## Kingswood receives 273K funding to improve facilities for young people

Kingswood Estate in Corby is celebrating being awarded £248,096 from the **National Lottery Community Fund**, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, to develop a youth engagement project and improve facilities.

The funding will support the new Kingswood Urban Development Project. The three-year initiative, will provide much-needed youth engagement and provision in the area, including an upgrade to the existing skatepark, a new galvanic art, and solar lighting on the multi-use outdoor area. It will also provide a range of sport activities and engagement programmes to encourage young people to be more active and take up volunteering, training and learn employability skills.



Over the past two years, COVID-19 has impacted greatly on the Kingswood community, particularly the young people. Pandemic restrictions on activities combined with social isolation have resulted in a reduction in physical activity levels and mental health issues are increasing. The new initiative will provide young people with new opportunities and support them to develop healthy relationships, whilst engaging in positive activities.

The project will help to improve access and increase usage of the places and spaces where young people hang-out by improving existing provision. It will also help to restart youth activities in the area, engage and promote local clubs, all of which has been lacking in Kingswood for many years.

As gang culture and anti-social behaviour increase in the area, this project aims to create diversionary activities to help to prevent crime and effectively build resilience amongst those at-risk by strengthening life skills and minimising the risk factors related to gangs, violence and drug use.

The skatepark build will be completed by the end of February 2023 and will be located on the old skatepark facility near the Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre. A full-time youth worker will be in post supporting youth engagement projects for the next three years, working with delivery partners to ensure young people from the estate have the opportunity to gain new skills and training as well as have new facilities such as the skatepark and calisthenic bars on their doorstep.

Working in partnership is the key to levelling-up communities to create healthy, prosperous and connected places in which to live.

## 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).

<p>Looking for a change? Want to work in Adult Social Care?</p>	<p>Have your say on Corby Towns Fund projects</p>
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<p>North Northamptonshire Council appoints operator for rural bus routes</p>	<p>Safety tips for a brilliant Bank Holiday</p>	<p>Congratulations to GCSE students across North Northamptonshire</p>
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<p>Ukrainian Independence Day to be marked in North Northamptonshire</p>	<p>NN Job Club set to launch across North Northamptonshire</p>
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<p>North and West Northamptonshire Councils partner to launch innovative event management process</p>	<p>Carriage resurfacing work to take place on Queensway, Wellingborough</p>	<p>Residents across North Northamptonshire asked to say 'I do' to online wedding ceremony bookings service</p>
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If you would like stay up to date with the Council's media releases, you can visit the news section of the Council's website: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news) Or follow Twitter @NNorthantsC and/or Facebook @NorthNorthants

## Social media: Top stories

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

**Top Facebook posts so far this week (29 to 31 August 2022)**

- There's a great day of pop up events happening as part of this year's Health and Wellbeing Festival. Give something new a try, and see the range of services available in your area - there's something for everyone. Join us on Saturday 10th September to get involved! <https://ow.ly/gJVE50KitiWw> (Reach 3,145, Post Clicks 40)
- A reminder that resurfacing works start along a section of the Queensway in Wellingborough today with road closures and a diversion (see below) in place between 9:30am - 3:30pm. For more details, please visit: <https://ow.ly/ny2n50Kve8u> (Reach 2,937, Post Clicks 110)
- (Shared post from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service) Don't be alarmed if you see our crews and appliances in the vicinity of Deene Hall near Corby on Wednesday 31st August between 6:30pm and 8:30pm, as we will be conducting a training exercise. The exercise is to test our response to incidents at the county's historic locations. It's anticipated to involve at least four of our appliances and various other vehicles so please be aware if you are in the area especially around Kirby Lane. (Reach 1,768, Post Clicks 21)

**Top Tweets so far this week (29 to 31 August 2022)**

- Have your say on Corby Towns Fund projects: <https://t.co/5g8WNn1w4D> (Impressions 1,670, Engagements 20)
- Are you the final piece of our puzzle? Do you have what it takes to support the residents, communities and businesses of North Northamptonshire? Check out our latest opportunities! <https://t.co/CSpWeyZ581> (Impressions 555, Engagements 19)
- Need support to find a job? Join us at NN Job Club in Kettering on 6 September to meet our team who can help you: Find opportunities. Create your CV. Ace your interview. Learn about starting a new business. Plus much more! Find details at <https://t.co/IPKH9VQxyb> (Impressions 513, Engagements 8)

## 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

<p>Follow me on Twitter @SmithersJason</p>	<p>Contacting North Northamptonshire Council</p> <p>0300 126 3000</p> <p><a href="http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk">www.northnorthants.gov.uk</a></p>
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