



Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council



6 April 2023

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

I am pleased to say that North Northamptonshire Council is celebrating after being nominated for nationally recognised awards. Teams from the council have reached the final five in the Best Transport Decarbonisation project and the Transforming Lives categories. Everyone involved should be extremely proud to be shortlisted for such prestigious awards. The MJ Awards will take place on Friday 23 June.

Last week we had a meeting of **Full Council**. We received moving public statements on the terribly sad murder of Collette Gallacher in 1986. The council listened intently to the campaign that Collette's loved ones have led. They have been campaigning hard to ensure victims of similar crimes have full disclosure when murderers get released from prison and then go on to commit further crimes. Following an emotional and impassioned debate, I have written to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab. I have asked him to make important changes to the procedures relating to the release of offenders from prison. The Council stands united behind the campaign for Collette Gallacher's family.

Council also agreed changes to the constitution for planning and important changes to the scrutiny arrangements of the council from May. The process for appointing an interim Chief Executive was also agreed. The Chief Executive of North Northamptonshire Council, Rob Bridge, is set to depart this June for a new top role at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. I have provided more on this further below and I am pleased for Rob and wish him the best in his new challenge.

There is just over a month to go before the Coronation weekend (Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May). Local communities and town and parish councils have been sharing their celebration plans on the official Coronation map of events. If you're hosting your own public event, street party or other celebration, you still have time to add your event plans to the online map. We have had around 60 applications for road closures for local events so it is clear there is a lot planned in North Northamptonshire.

Applications for the Augean Revenue and Small Grants Fund opened on 1 April 2023. This fund aims to support any organisation with a constitution/charitable status that directly benefits the community within a 10-mile radius of the sites. The council administers the scheme. The deadline for the first round of applications is 12 May 2023. I have provided further details below. Garden waste collections have started for residents who have signed up to our new subscription service. More details about the service and how to sign up are available on the Council's **website**.

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

Chief Executive set to depart for new role

The Chief Executive of North Northamptonshire Council, Rob Bridge, is set to depart this June for a new top role at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Rob started his role in November 2020 with the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority in preparation for the new unitary council which came into existence in April 2021.

I am grateful to Rob for all his work since becoming the council's first chief executive.

Being the council's first Chief Executive was always going to be a challenge, which Rob has grasped with enthusiasm and determination.

Rob has had the honour of being the first Chief Executive of North Northamptonshire Council and has overseen the successful implementation of a wide range of projects and initiatives including:

- Ensuring a safe operational transition from the previous two-tier local government arrangements to the new unitary authority.
- Putting in place a new, highly motivated leadership team for the council, whilst at the same time, reducing costs of senior management to the tune of £2.2 million per annum compared to the previous council management team arrangements.
- Supported council members in defining a vision for the future, a set of values and key commitments for the council and a corporate culture focused on making the council a future employer of choice and provider of good public services.
- Worked with senior colleagues and members to ensure the council has a firm grip of its financial and service performance. The council has set three balanced budgets and has delivered savings of £27 million over the last two years with £15 million identified for the year ahead.

Under Rob's leadership as Chief Executive, the council has made excellent progress in its ambitious modernisation programme to ensure services are delivered in the best way possible for local residents, businesses and communities.

I am pleased for Rob and wish him the best in his new challenge. He leaves the council in an excellent position to seek a new Chief Executive who can continue our journey of improving public services for our residents and businesses, who are the focus of everything that we do.



North Northamptonshire Council teams shortlisted for prestigious MJ Awards

North Northamptonshire Council is celebrating after being nominated for nationally recognised awards.

Teams from the council have reached the final five in the following categories:

- Best Transport Decarbonisation project
- Transforming Lives

The north Northamptonshire e-scooter trial has been nominated for the Best Transport Decarbonisation project. Since the trial started, over three million rides have been undertaken with over 87,000 registered users. The scheme is led by the council, working alongside West Northamptonshire Council, Voi Technology and Northamptonshire Police.

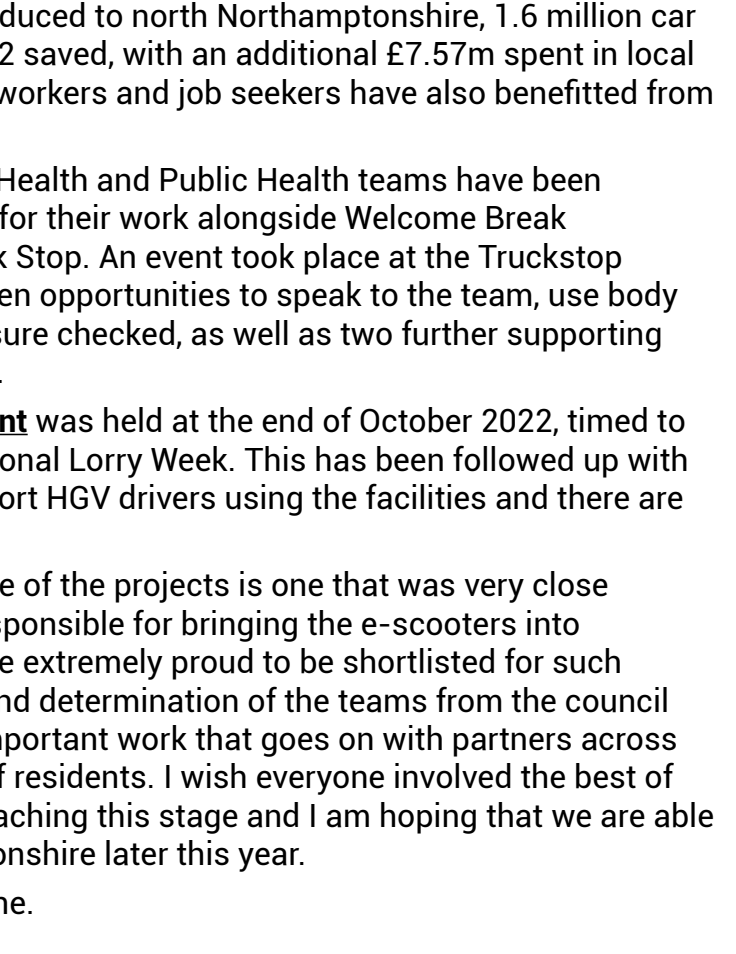
It is estimated that since e-scooters were introduced to north Northamptonshire, 1.6 million car trips have been replaced and 700 tonnes of CO2 saved, with an additional £7.57m spent in local town centres as a direct result of the trial. Key workers and job seekers have also benefitted from discounts through the trial.

Elsewhere, our Wellbeing team, Environmental Health and Public Health teams have been nominated in the Transforming Lives category for their work alongside Welcome Break supporting HGV drivers utilising Rothwell Truck Stop. An event took place at the Truckstop held in September 2022 where drivers were given opportunities to speak to the team, use body composition scales, and have their blood pressure checked, as well as two further supporting visits to the site to engage directly with drivers.

A further **health and wellbeing promotional event** was held at the end of October 2022, timed to be part of the Road Haulage Association's National Lorry Week. This has been followed up with an action plan created for 2023 to further support HGV drivers using the facilities and there are plans for future events.

I am really pleased to see this, especially as one of the projects is one that was very close to my heart, as I was the Executive Member responsible for bringing the e-scooters into Northamptonshire. Everyone involved should be extremely proud to be shortlisted for such prestigious awards. As well as the hard work and determination of the teams from the council involved, this recognition also highlights the important work that goes on with partners across North Northamptonshire to improve the lives of residents. I wish everyone involved the best of luck and want to congratulate the teams for reaching this stage and I am hoping that we are able to bring both awards back to north Northamptonshire later this year.

The MJ Awards will take place on Friday 23 June.



New toilet facility opened in Corby to support people with disabilities and their carers

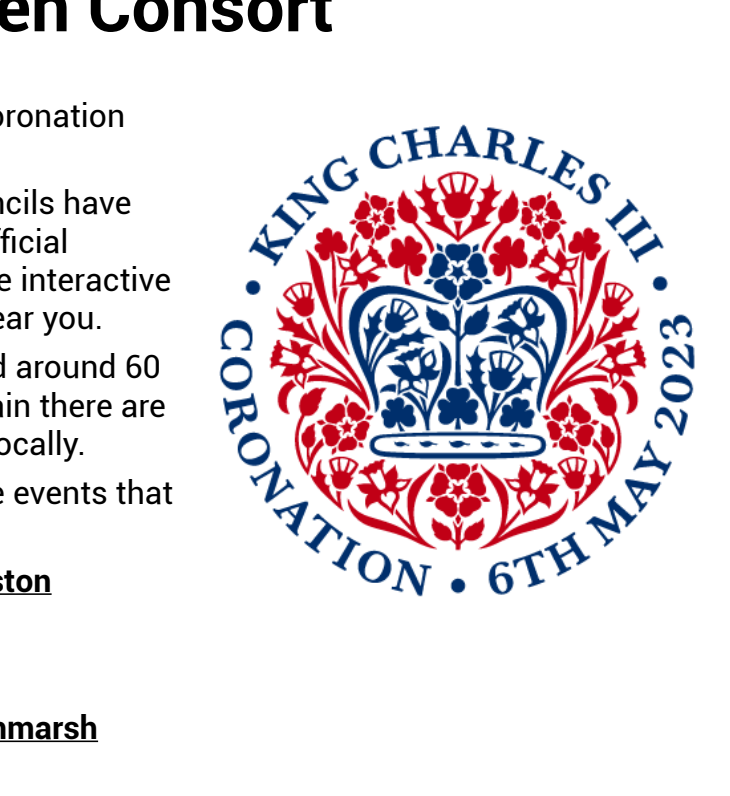
Making public spaces inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities and their carers is the aim of the national Changing Places initiative which has seen North Northamptonshire Council open a brand-new refurbished toilet facility at Corby Cube this week.

Powered by £330,000 of Government's Levelling Up fund and further investment from the Council's capital programme, along with the new facility at Corby Cube where the existing disabled toilet has been extended and refurbished, further construction works are due to start at East Carlton Countryside Park later this month to open a Changing Places toilet, with more to follow in other areas across North Northamptonshire.

The new toilet facilities help people who are limited in their mobility and need equipment to assist with this and have modern features including a powered height-adjustable changing table, raising and lowering sink, movable ceiling hoist, grab rails, non-slip flooring, privacy screens, an alarm and a large clear space to accommodate wheelchair users and their carers.

Other locations in North Northamptonshire with Changing Places facilities already in use are Rushden Lakes, Wicksteed Park, Waendel Leisure Centre and Corby Swimming Pool.

Once opened, Changing Places facilities are registered on the **national website** to help people locate them and plan visits where they can use a toilet safely and with dignity.



The Coronation of The King and The Queen Consort

There is just over a month to go before the Coronation weekend (Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May). Local communities and town and parish councils have been sharing their celebration plans on the official **Coronation map of events**. You can search the interactive map to find out about events and activities near you.

North Northamptonshire Council has received around 60 applications for road closures so we are certain there are going to be lots of celebrations taking place locally.

Here are some of the north Northamptonshire events that are open to the public:

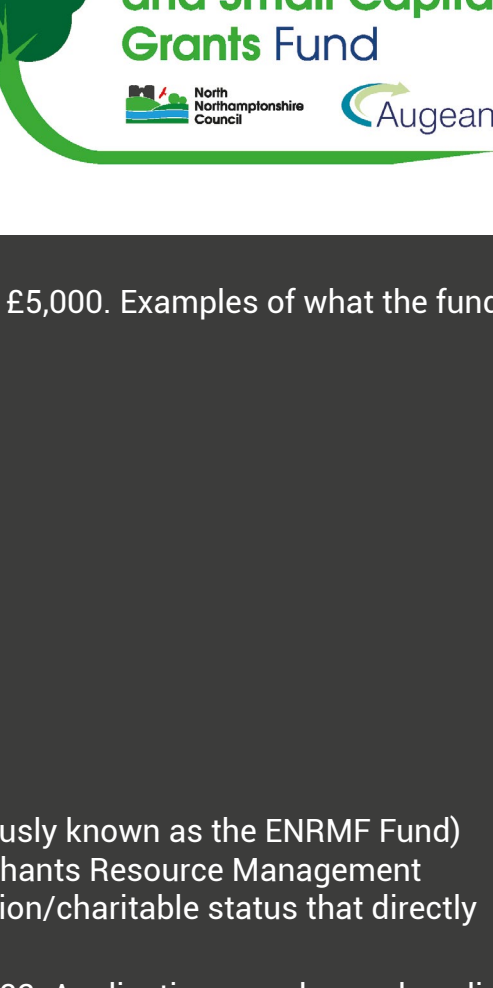
- **The King's Coronation Celebration, Thrapston**
- **King's Coronation Celebrations, Finedon**
- **The Big Lunch, Higham Ferrers**
- **Titchmarsh Coronation Celebrations, Titchmarsh**
- **The Royal Garden Party, Corby**
- **Coronation Big Lunch, Weldon**

If you're hosting your own public event, street party or other celebration, you still have time to add your event plans to the map.

We are particular keen to find out more about what people are doing for the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May. You can find out more about how you can take part here: **The Big Help Out**

Further information

Please visit the **Coronation** section of our website.



Community projects urged to apply for grant funding

Applications for the Augean revenue and small grants fund opened on 1 April 2023.

Augean plc manages landfill sites in King's Cliffe and Thornhaugh. As part of this, some of their revenue (Section 106 monies) is given back to fund local community projects.

The council administers the scheme to fund projects within a 10-mile radius of Augean's landfill sites. Before applying, projects and organisations should **check online** that they are situated within the radius.

Total funding changes every year and supports revenue projects up to £10,000 and capital projects of up to £5,000. Examples of what the fund can be used for can be found in the **criteria and guidelines**.

There are two funding rounds in the 2023/24 financial year.

Round 1

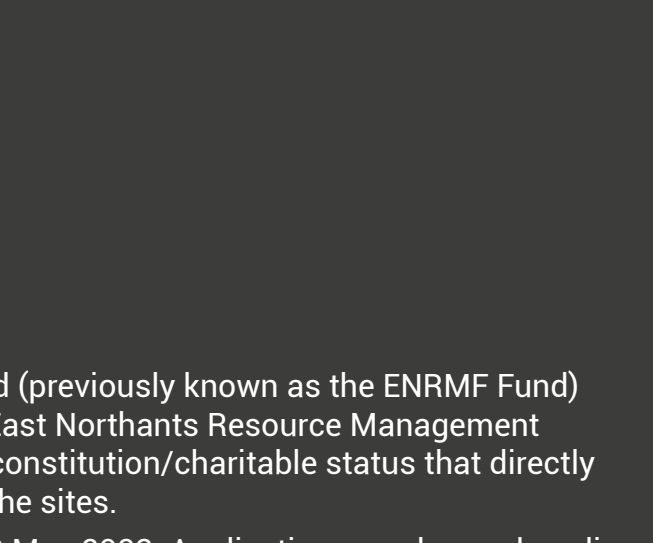
- Open: 1 April 2023
- Deadline: 12 May 2023
- Outcome: Mid-June 2023

Round 2

- Open: 2 October 2023
- Deadline: 10 November
- Outcome: Mid-December 2023

The Augean Revenue and Small Capital Grants Fund (previously known as the ENRMF Fund) was set up as part of the planning consent for the East Northants Resource Management Facility. It aims to support any organisation with a constitution/charitable status that directly benefits the community within a 10-mile radius of the sites.

The deadline for the first round of applications is 12 May 2023. Applications can be made online at **our website**.



Collections started for subscribers to our new garden waste service

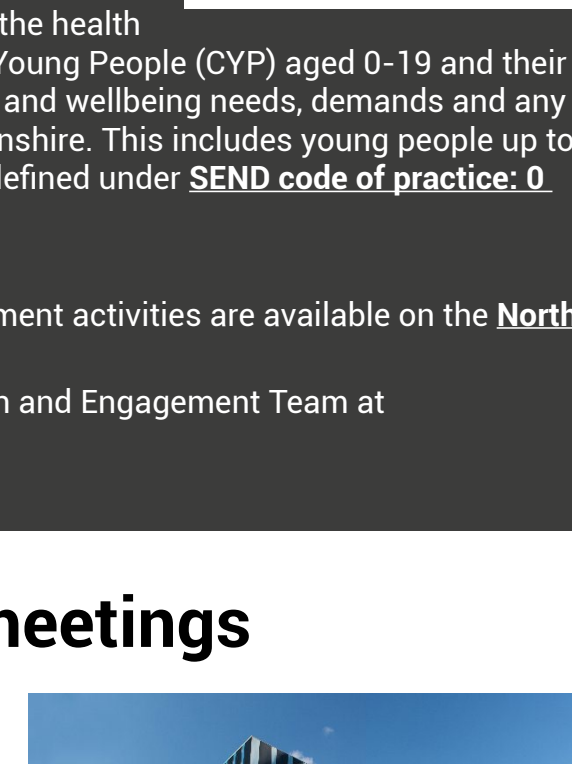
Garden waste collections have started for residents who have signed up to our new subscription service.

The annual charge for the fortnightly service is £40 per bin and can be paid online via debit or credit card. A subscription will last 12 months from the point of purchase. People can sign up any time and, once payment is processed, will receive a new garden waste permit for sticking onto their bin so collection crews know to collect it.

Residents unable to go online can subscribe to the service by calling customer services on 0300 126 3000. Lines are open from Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

Further information

More details about the service and how to sign up are available on the **garden waste** section of our website.



Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of two of our current consultations. I would welcome your feedback.

- **East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2**. North Northamptonshire Council is consulting on proposed modifications to the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2. Closes 21 April 2023. Details of the Local Plan and the schedules of proposed modifications can be found via the **East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 - Examination**.
- **0-19s CYP Health Needs Assessment - Parents and Carers**. Closes 28 April 2023. The North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Public Health Team is assessing the health and wellbeing services which support Children and Young People (CYP) aged 0-19 and their families, to gain understanding of the current health and wellbeing needs, demands and any improvements in those services across Northamptonshire. This includes young people up to age 25 where there is a statutory responsibility (as defined under **SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**).

Further information

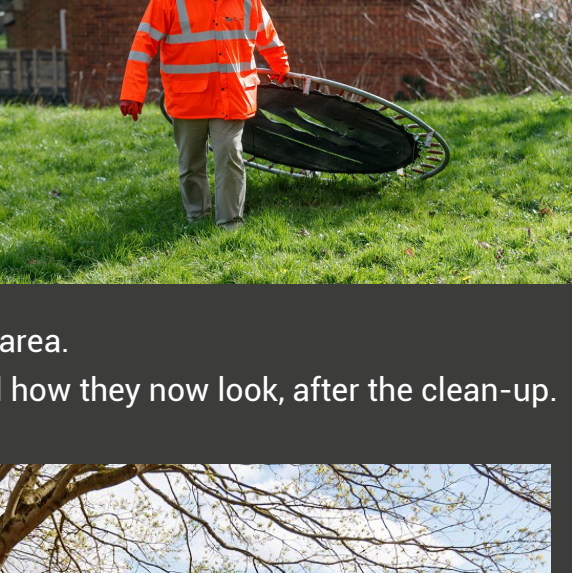
Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the **North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub**.

If you have any questions, please email the Consultation and Engagement Team at **CET@northnorthants.gov.uk**.



Forthcoming meetings

- **Executive**: Thursday 20 April from 10am.
 - **Full (Annual) Council**: Thursday 25 May from 6pm.
- The agendas will be displayed on our **website** the week before the meetings.



40 tonnes of rubbish removed from Hemmingwell

The Big Clean Up Day saw over 40 people from different organisations remove rubbish, abandoned electrical goods and litter from the area.

Greatwell Homes, led the event on 3 April in four fly-tip hotspots on the Hemmingwell estate; Fulmar Lane, Gannet Lane, Kestrel Lane and Nest Farm Crescent.

Our Officers and Cllr Graham Lawman also attended on the day to help with the clean-up and educate on the impact of fly-tipping.

30 tonnes of rubbish was collected on the day itself, with an additional 10 tonnes collected the day after due to the phenomenal amount of waste on the area.

The photos show how certain hotspots looked before and how they now look, after the clean-up.



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):

- **Update on Stanton Cross development**
- **NNC teams shortlisted for prestigious MJ Awards**
- **Sponsorship opportunities - North Northamptonshire Active Communities Awards**
- **Funding injection to boost North Northamptonshire electric vehicle infrastructure**
- **New toilet facility opened in Corby to support people with disabilities and their carers**

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**

Or follow Twitter **@NNorthants** and/or Facebook **@NorthNorthants**

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**

With Best Wishes,
Jason



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Contacting North Northamptonshire Council

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