



**District Councillor Helen Howell for Stanwick & Hargrave**

The news from East Northants Council is as follows:

### **“Guilty” Plea for Illegal Dog Sales**

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) has welcomed the prosecution of three individuals after they pleaded guilty to selling dogs without a licence in Lilford.

On Monday 14 October, Nigel Hockey, Maxine Thornton and Evangeline Proctor were sentenced to:

A twelve month community order and ordered to perform 80 hours unpaid work  
A disqualification order for 5 years from dealing in dogs (both selling and breeding) to commence immediately  
The defendants were also ordered to pay £3000 each as a contribution to the prosecution’s costs, plus an £85 victim surcharge.

Officers from East Northamptonshire Council had suspected illegal activity on the Lilford Estate for a number of years and evidence obtained in October 2018 led to a full investigation which resulted in the successful prosecution on Monday 14 October at Wellingborough Magistrates’ Court.

It is believed that ENC is the first local authority to prosecute under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

Councillor Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: “This case has highlighted that illegal dog sales can happen anywhere, especially in rural areas. We are delighted that the hard work of the team at East Northamptonshire Council has resulted in a conviction. We are continuously working to prevent illegal traders from selling dogs and would urge anyone considering buying a new puppy to be vigilant and report concerns to the Environmental Services Animal Licensing Team”.

Nicholas Truelove, Barrister, Kings Chambers added: “This was a good result following an intense and lengthy investigation. It demonstrates that the new regulations have sufficient breadth to require licences for advertising the sale of, as well as the actual sale of, dogs and puppies for profit.

“In turn, as was hoped at the introduction of these regulations in October 2018, this should lead to a significant improvement in the welfare of such animals. There may be a long way to go to achieve this nationally, but this is a significant step in the right direction.”

When buying a puppy, it is advised that you consider the following:

- Do...
1. Ask to see mum and puppy together
  2. Visit your new puppy more than once
  3. Get all your puppy’s paperwork before going home, including vaccinations, and ensure your puppy is microchipped
  4. Walk away if you are at all unsure
  5. Report suspicious sellers or breeders
  6. Take your puppy to your own vet for a health check as soon as possible

- Don’t...
1. Meet anywhere that isn’t the puppy’s home

2. Buy a puppy from anyone who can supply various breeds on demand
3. Buy a puppy that looks too young / small or underweight
4. Feel pressured to buy a puppy
5. Buy a puppy that you suspect has been illegally imported

If you are concerned about illegal puppy sales, you can speak to a member of the ENC Environmental Services Animal Licensing Team on 01832 742042.

If you would like to discuss anything with me or there is anything that I may be able to assist you with then please get in contact.

### **East Northamptonshire celebrates sporting heroes**

Sporting stars and physical activity champions from across East Northamptonshire attended the very first district wide awards ceremony on Thursday (17 October). Which celebrated the sporting achievements of people of all ages and abilities.

The very first East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity awards, held at the Rushden Historical Transport Society Goods Shed in Rushden, was attended by more than 150 guests including sports persons nominated from the eight awards categories, dignitaries and senior colleagues from Northamptonshire Sport, Freedom Leisure and East Northamptonshire Council.

Cllr Colin Wright, ward councillor for the Rushden Pemberton area, compered the evening and the eight awards were presented by dignitaries including chairman and vice-chairman of the council, Cllrs Dudley Hughes and Helen Howell.

Chairman of the Council, Dudley Hughes, said: "We are delighted to have delivered the very first East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity awards which saw talented men, women and children come together to celebrate their hard work and success. We are all overwhelmed with the talent in the district, and we look forward to continuing to work with partners and community groups to encourage everyone to become more active, more often."

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said: "We have a wide range of sport facilities across the district which are enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

"This event provided us with an opportunity to celebrate the sporting talent in East Northamptonshire with the very first awards ceremony and I would like to congratulate everyone who was nominated and won an award. We look forward to continuing to champion physical activity through our healthy and active lifestyles programme."

The awards recognised the vast talent of residents across the district, and celebrated the fantastic work they deliver in the community. However, there could only be one winner for each award:

Community Champion/Volunteer of the Year - Robert Phipps, Nassington Walking for Health group  
Community Club/Group of the Year - Eclipse Gymnastics, Rushden  
Community Coach/Activator of the Year - Ian Gow, Oundle Chatter Runners  
Primary Sports School of the Year - Newton Road School, Rushden.  
Secondary Sports School of the Year - Prince William School, Oundle  
Beat the Street Champion - Janet Brown, Rushden Walking for Health group  
Disabled Sports Person of the Year - William Roberts, Peterborough Special Olympic Swimming  
Sports Person of the Year - Rachael Lever, Fencing

East Northamptonshire Council delivered the event with its partners Freedom Leisure supported by Intelligent Health and Northamptonshire Sport.

All of the winners will now be included for the county-wide Northamptonshire Sports Awards taking place on 20 November 2019, and for the first time they'll be representation from clubs and individuals from East Northamptonshire District.

Keep an eye out for more information about the future East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity awards at: [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)

You can view all of the photos on our Facebook page here: <https://bit.ly/2W2af9S>

### **Northamptonshire County Council - Ditchford Road Bridge: Work to start on scheduled ancient monument**

Work to strengthen Ditchford Bridge near Rushden will start on Monday, November 4, with a road closure put in place.

A temporary weight restriction was put in place from March this year to protect the historic bridge which is a scheduled ancient monument. The bridge was also damaged following a road traffic accident. A full closure is needed for work to take place safely on the structure.

These works were due to start sooner but were delayed to ensure they were not clashing with the works on the Highways England road, the A45, which are being carried out by Network Rail for the electrification of the rail line.

By starting on November 4 it will allow all works to be completed before any other works start in the area, including the improvements works on the A45 at Chowns Mill by Highways England.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Northamptonshire County Council Cabinet member for highways and place, said: "I'm delighted that we're now in a position to start these very important works on this bridge which is a scheduled ancient monument. "We've worked closely with our partner organisations to ensure that disruption to the travelling public has been kept to a minimum."

A contraflow system has been in place on the nearby A45 since the start of 2019 so a bridge could be re-built. The contraflow was removed on the night of Tuesday, October 8 and lane closures have been in place since. The entry slip onto the A45 at Rushden A5001, Northampton Rd has also remained closed.

There will be some full night closures for the completion of the A45 bridge works and parapet works until November 3rd.

Westbound full closures – October 28 to November 1

Eastbound full closure – November 1, 2 and 3

Any further work will be carried out under current lane restrictions but there will be access for traffic both east and west.

### **Government lays unitary legislation before Parliament**

Government legislation required to create two new unitary councils in Northamptonshire has been laid before Parliament.

The document, known as the Northamptonshire Structural Changes Order 2019 (SCO), sets out how the two new unitary authorities will be formed to replace the existing eight councils on 1 April 2021.

The Draft Order will now be considered and debated by both Houses of Parliament and if approved, should become legislation by the end of the year.

The Structural Changes Order confirms the following details:

The names of the new unitary authorities will be North Northamptonshire Council (covering Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough) and West Northamptonshire Council (covering Northampton, Daventry District and South Northants areas)

The existing eight councils will be wound up and abolished on 1 April 2021 when the two new unitary councils come into effect

Two temporary Shadow Authorities – one each for the North and West – will be formed in May 2020 with responsibility for delivering the new unitary councils and setting their first budgets and council tax. Until then, the

joint committees currently in place in the North and West will continue to take responsibility for putting unitary plans in place.

Elections for the unitary councils will be held in May 2020 – councillors will serve a five-year term, with their first year on the shadow authorities. There will be 78 councillors elected for the North and 93 for the West.

Parish council elections will go ahead in May 2020 too but the district and borough elections will not take place so current members will serve until their existing councils are abolished.

The draft Order also makes it clear that future governance arrangements, including overview and scrutiny, will be for the new councils to decide once they go live on 1 April 2021.

To view the full Order visit <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111190968/contents>

Northamptonshire's county, district and borough councils are working together with partners on a programme to ensure the two new unitary authorities are delivered on 1 April 2021 with better quality, integrated services for residents across the county.

The Future Northants programme involves councillors and staff from all eight authorities working together to prepare for the new unitary councils and ensure the transformation of public services across the county.

To find out more about and keep up-to-date on Northamptonshire's unitary preparations, visit [futurenorthantsnorth.org](http://futurenorthantsnorth.org) or [futurenorthantswest.org](http://futurenorthantswest.org)

### **East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part Two – Update**

East Northamptonshire Council is carrying out a two-week consultation on its call for sites.

As part of the district-wide Local Plan part two.

Land owners and developers across the district, who previously made submissions on the Local Plan and third parties which would like to put forward new sites are being urged to provide their views using the online form by Friday 15 November.

Preparation of the District-wide Local Plan Part Two started in January 2017, included a "call for sites" and landowners and developers were invited to put forward potential land for development. This informed the first draft Local Plan Part Two, which was published for consultation in November 2018.

Feedback from the first draft Plan consultation (2 November 2018 – 18 February 2019) raised a broad range of concerns and issues, including a possible need to allocate further housing land at one or more of the urban areas to the south of the A14.

Please note that the council is particularly interested in potential development sites for between 100 and 450 dwellings, around Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough and Raunds. The council will also seek information and guidance from statutory consultees, which will help to inform the site assessment process for any potential submissions of interest. If there is a need to allocate further sites, this will need to be accompanied by a six week consultation, which will be carried out early in 2020. Further details about the Local Plan timetable are set out in the Local Development Scheme.

### **Notification of improvement works - A45/A6 Chowns Mill roundabout**

The below information is directly taken from a letter received from Highways England (HE). If you have any questions about this work, please contact HE directly.

I am writing to let you know that we will be carrying out improvement works to the existing carriageway on the A45 / A6 Chowns Mill roundabout. The scheme involves improving Chowns Mill roundabout where the A45 crosses the A6 and where access is provided into Higham Ferrers via the A5028.

During our scheme of work, we will:

widen all approaches and exits to the roundabout  
build an 'outer' circulatory to separate traffic movements and improve capacity for trunk road traffic  
install new controlled pedestrian crossing points, covering all arms of the junctions  
install traffic signals  
upgrade street lighting  
install overhead gantries  
install new signing  
implement a 40mph speed limit throughout the junction  
Once completed, all road users will benefit from improved road safety which will help to prevent congestion and collisions at peak times.

When will the work take place?

Work is due to start in early February 2020 and the scheme is scheduled to last approximately 22 months. To minimise disruption, wherever possible works will be carried out during the day but some overnight works and full weekend closures will be necessary.

Please note that all our planned roadworks may be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

How will the work affect traffic?

To maintain a safe environment for our workforce and customers, sections of the A45 / A6 will be closed and narrow lanes will be introduced with a 40mph speed restriction.

During these closures fully signed diversion routes will be in place, which have been agreed with the Local Authority.

How will the work affect businesses and residents?

We will make sure that access to businesses and residences is maintained wherever possible.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and will do our very best to complete the work as quickly as possible, keeping disturbances and noise to a minimum.

### **Council teams up to tackle drugs in East Northants**

Illegal drugs in East Northamptonshire have been sniffed out during an operation by East Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Police and Alpha K9 Security Services.

On Friday 8 November 2019, ENC ran their most recent drug dog operation and a suspected Class A substance was recovered from one premises. During the evening, the team visited 15 licensed premises in total across the district and 11 stop searches were carried out by Northamptonshire Police of people who had been identified by the drugs dog. The majority of these searches confirmed drugs had been used by the individuals in the hours prior to being searched.

A Council spokesperson said: "We are proud to have joined up with Northamptonshire Police and Alpha K9 Security Services on these successful operations. Everyone involved has worked hard to ensure this was a success and a special mention should go to Raunds Town Council who funded the operation and are clearly taking proactive steps to keep their residents safe.

"The success we had wouldn't have been possible without the help of the local community. This is an example of community engagement at its finest. We would like to thank local residents for the large amount of intelligence we have received concerning drugs and to those who were supportive whilst our staff were on the operation."

DC Jane Manning of the East Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team, who led the operation, said: "By increasing both our visibility and visits to licensed premises, we are making it harder for those involved in the supply of drugs in our towns and villages.

"Having the resources of Alpha K9 Security Services available to us was invaluable to the operation, and we must thank Raunds Town Council for their support in providing the funding for the specialist drugs dog and handler.

"As a result of being able to take the dog into the licensed premises, we spoke to a number of people who confirmed they had used drugs earlier that evening, and enquiries are on-going into the possession of a suspected Class A drug.

“Detecting and preventing the use and sale of illegal drugs in our communities is a key part of our work, and it was great to speak with people during this operation to explain what we were doing and why – the general feedback we had from the public, patrons and landlords were positive.

“We will continue to work in partnership with Licensing Officer Rita Groves and her team at East Northamptonshire District Council, and the night time economy to provide a safe environment for visitors of all ages to enjoy.”

If you suspect drug activity in your area, and would like to report it, please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101.

### **Ask for Angela and stay safe this Christmas**

If you are planning a kiss under the mistletoe this Christmas,

East Northamptonshire Council, working in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and National Pubwatch have a scheme to help keep you safer on dates.

If you find yourself on a date with someone who isn't as they seemed online, for example they look nothing like their profile picture or their behaviour is unusual and making you feel uncomfortable, simply go to the bar and 'Ask for Angela'.

By asking for Angela, you will alert staff members and they will immediately know that something isn't right and you need assistance, whether it be keeping an eye on you throughout the evening or even taking you to a safer room and calling a taxi.

Across the district, staff at pubs and clubs have been trained on the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and the following businesses across East Northamptonshire currently take part:

Higham Ferrers - The Queen's Head, Joe's Bar, The Carriage House, The Griffin, The Green Dragon

Rushden - The Rose and Crown, Cheers, The Welcome Inn, Rushden Bowls Club

Stanwick - Stanwick Club

Raunds - Raunds Town Cricket Club, Snooks, The George and Dragon, The Red Lion, The Globe

Thrapston - The King's Arms, The Court House

Islip - The Woolpack Inn

Oundle - Onkar, The Ship, Brewbabu, The Talbot Hotel, The George Inn

A Council spokesperson said: “We are very proud to continue to work in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and National Pubwatch to ensure all our residents are kept safe. However in order for this scheme to be even more successful we would always encourage more pubs and clubs to take part, especially as we approach the festive period.”

If you are on a date and don't feel safe, at any time - go to the bar and 'Ask for Angela'.

My usual contact details are: [hhowell@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:hhowell@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk) Please include the suffix **(action)** in the subject heading. You can also leave a message for me at ENC on 01832 742000.

I am happy to make home visits or wherever it is convenient.

**Best wishes**



**Cllr Helen Howell**