

District Councillor Helen Howell for Stanwick & Hargrave

Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council 2020/21



New support for local businesses with the launch of Recovery through Enterprise website

A new website providing a one-stop resource for businesses in Northamptonshire requiring additional support has been launched today, recoverythroughenterprise.co.uk.

The Recovery Through Enterprise website, created by East Northamptonshire Council, the Borough Council of Wellingborough and Northamptonshire County Council, offers essential information, guidance and support for local businesses through the current economic difficulties resulting from the impact of Covid-19.

The support offered has been developed in partnership with a range of local and strategic partners including South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), the University of Northampton, the Oxford Cambridge Arc, Job Centre Plus, the Crown Estate, the Federation of Small Businesses, the local Chamber of Commerce and a number of local business support companies.

Included on the website is information regarding FastTrack JobMatch: a service for anyone needing access to advice and support to make the best choices in finding a new job, or training in the region. This service will launch on 3 December.

To celebrate the launch of recoverythroughenterprise.co.uk, we are offering a range of business support webinars and podcasts. Details about these can be found on the Stop Press page of the website.

These offer advice and support ranging from managing business challenges and business support for ambitious business leaders, to remote working and managing stress in the workplace.

In February 2021, a week long Business Festival will take place, packed full of presentations, workshops and must-attend events for businesses of all types, more details will be published nearer to time.

To find out more about Business Support Week 2020 and book a place on the webinars visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/destination-nene-valley-12812015685>

To find out more about the ongoing range of information, guidance and support available for local businesses visit <https://recoverythroughenterprise.co.uk/>

Council funding on offer to help communities during the coronavirus pandemic

Communities across East Northamptonshire have received much needed funding boosts to help with their coronavirus support efforts thanks to East Northamptonshire Council's Member Empowerment Fund.

Every year, each ENC district councillor is allocated £1,000 to spend on small community based projects. The money can be awarded to parish/town councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities who work in East Northamptonshire.

Over the past few months, a growing number of projects have benefitted from additional monies to support their coronavirus support efforts, including:

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- A deep clean of a community facility in Irthlingborough to ensure that it could re-open to the public for community activities
 - To provide free packed lunches to school pupils during this year's summer holidays
 - To purchase food supplies for the newly formed community food bank in Thrapston
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Cllr Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, explains more:

"Since we launched the Member Empowerment Fund in 2011, communities across the district have benefitted from over £300,000 of grant funding and this year the fund seems more important than ever with funds being used for a variety of projects related to the coronavirus effort.

"If you, or someone you know, has a community project which will help at this difficult time, but needs a little bit extra push make it happen, then please do have a chat with your local councillor."

This will be the last year of MEF, with the new North Northamptonshire Council coming into existence in April 2021.

To find out more about the scheme and/or to apply for funding, please visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/mef or speak to your councillor, contact details can be found at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/councillors

Councils supporting local businesses to trade online over vital Christmas period

East Northamptonshire Council and Borough Council of Wellingborough are supporting local businesses to launch an ecommerce presence for the first time.

Retailers and businesses affected by lockdown and who don't already trade online are to receive a significant boost thanks to a partnership between the councils and small business support network, Enterprise Nation.

Funding for a total of 50 businesses across the geographies of the two councils has been allocated to enable them to take part in Enterprise Nation's online Christmas market initiative, Gifted. Those who successfully apply for the funded places will also receive a 12 month membership to Enterprise Nation's support network.

Cllr Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: "Small businesses and high street retailers need more support than ever, so I am delighted to be able to help our local entrepreneurs."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, said: "We are all too aware of the impact that the pandemic has had on our high streets, so this initiative is a much needed boost for our hardworking local small businesses and retailers."

Emma Jones, founder small business support network Enterprise Nation, said: "We've heard from our small retail members. They have told us they need support to help them get online and increase sales over the vital Christmas shopping period. It's why we've launched our online Christmas market initiative, Gifted.

"This is the best Christmas present that small businesses could wish for after a catastrophic year that's seen them unable to trade in the normal way over some the most critical shopping periods of the year.

"It's wonderful to see East Northamptonshire Council and the Borough of Wellingborough Council wholeheartedly backing our campaign and offering local businesses the opportunity to trade on a national level."

The Gifted small business online market takes place on December 4 and 5. To apply for a free place to sell at the market, visit <https://enterprisenation.typeform.com/to/MbLMYACu>

The deadline for applications is 27 November. Please be aware that there are limited places available and sellers will be selected on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

Alternatively, to book tickets head to enterprisenation.com

Help for East Northamptonshire businesses during COVID

East Northamptonshire Council has announced a further business support funding package to support businesses that have had to close or have been severely impacted due to the recent lockdown measures.

These grants differ from those offered earlier in the year, in amounts available and eligibility criteria. Previous schemes are now closed.

The new Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme supports businesses that were open as usual, providing services in person to customers from their business premises, but which were then required by law to close for 28 days due to national lockdown restrictions imposed by Government.

From 5 November to 2 December 2020, a single grant to cover the 28 day period will be paid to each eligible business and the grant amounts will be fixed:

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- If the business is eligible and has a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or under, it will receive a cash grant of £1,334 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.
 - If the business is eligible and has a property with a rateable value of above £15,000 and below £51,000, it will receive a cash grant of £2,000 per 28-day qualifying period.
 - If the business is eligible and has a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, it will receive a cash grant of £3,000 per 28-day qualifying period.
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A new Discretionary Grant Scheme has also been developed to support businesses that are not eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant but have been severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19.

Cllr Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said:

“We know life has been tough for many of our businesses and want to get this help out as quickly as possible. I would urge anyone who thinks they qualify to complete the online application form so that we can confirm they are eligible and that they get the correct payment.

“I’d also urge local businesses to take a look at the range of business support available via our Recovery Through Enterprise plan. This includes support with financial planning, business development and mental health.”

For details of eligibility and how to apply, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/COVIDbusiness

Details of further business support can be found at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/COVIDbusiness including the council’s economic recovery plan – Recovery Through Enterprise.

Acting on Climate Change in North Northamptonshire – give your views

Members of the public are being encouraged to give their ideas and suggestions on how the new North Northamptonshire Council should tackle climate change and improve the local environment.

<https://futurenorthantsnorth.org/acting-on-climate-change-in-north-northamptonshire-give-your-views/>

Council and police hold joint patrols to support pandemic restrictions

Patrols by officers from East Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Constabulary have shown that most people and businesses are complying with coronavirus restrictions.

Teams of officers have been giving out advice on how to comply with the emergency regulations, answering questions from businesses and reminding people about wearing face coverings and keeping social distances.

The vast majority of individuals and businesses are complying with the government restrictions with only one Fixed Penalty Notice issued to date in East Northamptonshire.

Environmental services officer, Kieran McCoach explains:

“Councils and the Police have different powers for helping to manage the lockdown so it makes sense that we work together to cover the broader set of issues as well as pick up on any other problems that might be cropping up in neighbourhoods.

“Our residents and businesses really seem to understand the importance of working together to protect our community and we’ve had a positive response from business owners who welcome the support in ensuring that customers wear face masks and maintain social distancing. Where there are issues, we’re working with the businesses and residents to ensure everyone understands what is required of them. “

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said:

"It has been heartening to hear how the vast majority of retailers, businesses and public have been working together to keep the community safe and I welcome these patrols to provide support and advice and help limit the spread of infection."

Superintendent Elliot Foskett, from Northamptonshire Police, said:

"We have been provided with funding by the Home Office to help enforce the Covid-19 legislation and as a result have been working closely with our local councils to patrol our towns and villages.

"Throughout the pandemic we have followed an engage, explain, educate and enforce approach, where we have prioritised speaking to the public, reminding them of the legislation and only taking enforcement action as a last resort.

"The vast majority of people are following the guidelines and I thank them for that, however, we will not shy away from taking enforcement action when it is clear a breach has taken place, including any businesses that have broken the law."

So far, patrols have taken place in Rushden, Higham and Irthlingborough with future visits planned for Raunds and the north of the district.

My usual contact details are: 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 virtual visits via Zoom if it helps.

Best wishes



Cllr Helen Howell

Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council