

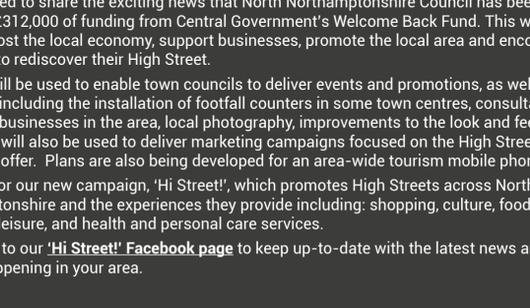


## Introduction and Welcome!

I was deeply saddened to hear the news of the tragic death of Southend West MP Sir David Amess. It is a stark reminder that alongside doing the jobs we all love, there are risks. I thought therefore, for those of you reading this, whatever your profession, I would include some guidance provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) on personal safety: [Personal safety | Local Government Association](#)

This week I have asked my colleague Helen Howell to join me in providing a short insight into some of the things she has been involved with during the last two weeks. I thought that it would be good to provide a bit more of a focus on members of the Council's Executive in the future. Do please remember though, if there are any items you would like to include, maybe an initiative in your area, organisation or service, let me know and I can look to include it in this Update. I would be particularly keen to help celebrate the planting of trees in the community but I will not steal Helen's thunder – find out more further below.

## Say 'Hi' to your local High Street!



I am pleased to share the exciting news that North Northamptonshire Council has been awarded a total of £312,000 of funding from Central Government's Welcome Back Fund. This will be used to help boost the local economy, support businesses, promote the local area and encourage residents to rediscover their High Street.

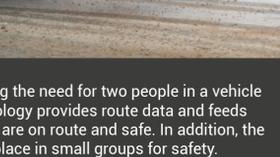
Funding will be used to enable town councils to deliver events and promotions, as well as other initiatives including the installation of footfall counters in some town centres, consultation work with businesses in the area, local photography, improvements to the look and feel of town centres. It will also be used to deliver marketing campaigns focused on the High Street and all there is to offer. Plans are also being developed for an area-wide tourism mobile phone app.

Look out for our new campaign, 'Hi Street!', which promotes High Streets across North Northamptonshire and the experiences they provide including: shopping, culture, food and drink, business, leisure, and health and personal care services.

Head over to our ['Hi Street!' Facebook page](#) to keep up-to-date with the latest news and see what's happening in your area.

## Visit the East Northants area Health and Wellbeing Festival 2021 this half-term

North Northamptonshire Council is joining forces with local leisure centres, sports clubs, healthcare organisations and wellbeing experts to deliver the East Northants Health and Wellbeing Festival this October half-term holiday. This week-long celebration of health and wellbeing will run from Monday 25 to Sunday 31 October. Check out what's on offer [here East Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Festival 2021 - Timetable](#)



## Gritting fleet ready to respond

A 20-strong gritting team is now officially on standby for when the cold weather hits and all three depots in Brixworth, Towcester and Wellingborough are fully stocked with tonnes of salt ready to spread to help keep local roads safe.

The team, which is fully resourced and will provide the service for North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council, is now prepared for the new season. Like last year, Northamptonshire Highways has made sure that drivers providing this essential service are as Covid-safe as possible.

The fleet of gritters has enhanced technology, meaning the need for two people in a vehicle is not required unless there is heavy snow. The technology provides route data and feeds information back to the 'snow desk' to ensure gritters are on route and safe. In addition, the usual group winter inductions have also been taking place in small groups for safety.

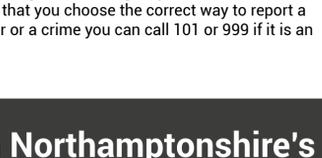
Weather stations and sensors along Northamptonshire's roads will be used to return temperature readings every 15 minutes and weather forecasts every hour. A team monitors the sensors 24 hours a day. Individual roads from the network will be gritted when forecasts predict the weather will drop below 0.5degrees C for that area. Additionally, 1,500 grit bins have been filled for use on public roads and footpaths. If you see a grit bin empty, please report it on [StreetDoctor](#) - [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor).



## Halloween Advice

With Halloween just around the corner, we are sharing the message from Northamptonshire Police to encourage people to have fun, but to stay safe and respect those who may not want to join in the celebrations this Halloween. Here are some tips to help ensure your evening does not turn into a nightmare:

- All children should be accompanied by an adult when trick-or-treating.
- Only go to the houses of people who you know, and who are happy for you to call round.
- Never be tempted to go inside someone's house.
- Don't call at houses that have 'no trick or treat' posters on show. There may be elderly or vulnerable people living at these addresses who do not feel comfortable speaking to strangers.
- Keep to well-lit areas and don't take shortcuts through gardens or alleyways.
- Wear bright clothing or reflective strips, and always carry a torch.
- If you're driving, be aware of the increased foot traffic, drive slowly and be vigilant.

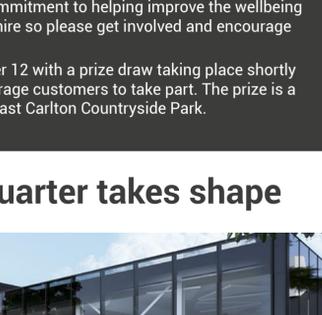


## Have your say on North Northamptonshire's Parks and Leisure

We are asking for people's views on our parks and leisure facilities in North Northamptonshire. The surveys, which are available at the parks and leisure centres, can be completed online or via QR code readers, although paper copies are also available. Additionally, the questionnaires can also be accessed from social media posts, which have been promoted since October 18. Details of our social media channels are at the end of the Update.

Questions within the survey include how helpful our staff were, the range of programme offered, car parking and cleanliness. Each survey is specific to the facility, so slightly different but they will all be used to assess how the services are performing. This sort of feedback is invaluable in driving forward improvements and shows our commitment to helping improve the wellbeing of those who live in, and visit, North Northamptonshire so please get involved and encourage others to have their say too.

The surveys are open until 9pm on Friday, November 12 with a prize draw taking place shortly after once all surveys have been collected to encourage customers to take part. The prize is a £100 food hamper from Foxy's Woodland Shop at East Carlton Countryside Park.



## Kettering's cultural quarter takes shape



Plans for a refurbished gallery and improved library in Kettering's town centre next to the Manor House Museum are picking up pace this month with builders laying steel foundations and the unveiling of the completed project unveiled.

It was back in August 2020 that funding was first approved for this project, with South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) awarding £3million from the Government's Getting Building Fund (GBF) to redevelop the town's Alfred East Art Gallery and Library which sit adjacent to the Manor House Museum.

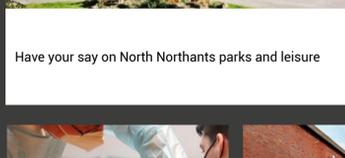
Since then, North Northamptonshire Council has provided an additional £1million of match funding. Construction is due to finish next Spring with the building set to reopen shortly after.

This development consists of a trio of cultural heritage assets situated within the town centre. It will include a two-storey contemporary extension connecting the Gallery and Library that will include a glass façade first-floor events space with views across Manor House Gardens to the Museum.

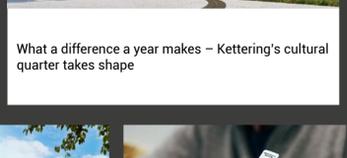
This is a flagship project for North Northamptonshire and I'm delighted that work is progressing well despite the challenges we have faced. This has been made possible with all of our partners coming together to deliver this culturally significant scheme in the heart of Kettering with some very dedicated individuals committed to creating a wonderful asset for the town and wider area. For more details visit: <https://thisiskettering.com/glam/>

## 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):



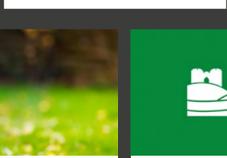
[Have your say on North Northants parks and leisure](#)



[What a difference a year makes – Kettering's cultural quarter takes shape](#)



[Northamptonshire residents urged to take up the offer of free flu vaccine](#)



[Four North Northants Parks awarded Green Flag status](#)



[Public Health Officials remind all contacts of a positive COVID-19 case to take an urgent PCR test](#)



[Have a spooky half term in Kettering](#)



[Works to extend Corby's Shire Lodge Cemetery to commence](#)



[Time is running out to apply for a Year 7 place to start in September 2022](#)



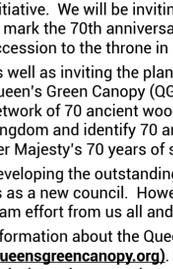
[Corby bonfire and fireworks spectacular to go ahead on November 5](#)



[Council and partners tackle hate crime as part of national campaign week](#)

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](#)



## Update from Cllr Helen Howell

*Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Sport*

On Monday 11 October I was delighted to attend an event hosted by Danny Moody from Northamptonshire Councils Association Of Local Councils (NCALC) and attended by a number of town and parish councillors and clerks.

I thought the session was really well hosted and attended and we had some excellent discussions about the plans taking shape for planting a tree for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. I thought there were some really interesting questions and also some exciting plans taking shape too.

For those of you who weren't there, I have provided some information below about the Queen's Green Canopy which may be of interest.

## Queen's Green Canopy

North Northamptonshire Council, along with a number of town and parish council and local community organisations, are pleased to be supporting the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative. We will be inviting people to plant a tree to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne in 2022.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will dedicate a network of 70 ancient woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 ancient trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Developing the outstanding natural environment of North Northamptonshire is a key priority for us as a new council. However, it is also something that everyone can play their part in. It is a team effort from us all and schemes likes this really make a huge difference to our area.

Information about the Queen's Green Canopy can be found [here Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](#). More information about what we are doing to support the initiative and what others can do to get involved can be found [here Queen's Green Canopy | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)



## Chester House

This evening I am delighted to be joining Jason in attending an event to say thank you to all those involved with the £14.5 million heritage restoration project of Chester House Estate. This has been a long and exciting project for all of those involved and Jason and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work on getting us to this point.

Entry to Chester House Estate is free and visitors can enjoy all that it has to offer. Although Chester House will be open for the public to visit from 10am on Saturday 23rd October, it is already fully booked for this weekend. There is however still some availability for next week. You can pre-book your visit online at: [Chester House Estate](#)

There is a plenty to do at Chester House Estate. There are publicly accessible archaeological archives, already with over 20,000 boxes of archaeological material, an education centre where local children and visitors can learn in a setting steeped in history, and acres of green space where you can walk atop the Roman walls across the fields.

I am pleased that we are also showing our support of local businesses with a café and restaurant selling locally produced food and drinks and the artisan shopping courtyard which is full of Northamptonshire small businesses promoting goods within the county. If you get the chance to visit, please do!

Visit the Chester House Estate website for more information: [Home - Chester House Estate](#).



## Social media: Top stories

To follow our social media account you can find us on [Facebook North Northamptonshire Council](#) - Home | Facebook and Twitter by following [@NorthNorthantsC](#)

**Top tweets and posts for week commencing 18 October:**

**Facebook: (measured by reach and post clicks)**

- [Gritting ready to respond](#) (7,736 reach, 583 post clicks).
- We're seeing reports of delays on the A14 westbound between Kettering and Thrapston. Drivers are warned to avoid this route with diversions in place via A45 and A6 (posted 10am 17/10). (5,102 reach, 803 post clicks).
- [Four North Northants Parks awarded Green Flag status](#) (2,912 reach, 216 post clicks).

**Twitter: (measured by impressions and engagements)**

- [1/2 In a world where you can be anything, be kind!](#) Even though we would like to think we are superheroes, just a reminder that are staff are only human, just like you, and see all the comments and replies on our social media channels. (1,371 impressions, 112 engagements).
- [Today is #AntiSlaveryDay. Modern slavery victims are forced to work long hours for little or no pay. Labour can be exploited in areas such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture and more.](#) @NorthantsPolice (726 impressions, 7 engagements).
- [Gritting ready to respond](#) (640 impressions, 54 engagements).

## 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*