



District Councillor Helen Howell for Stanwick & Hargrave

The sunshine is now well and truly here, hope you are taking time to enjoy it with families and friends!

The news from East Northants Council is as follows:

Unitary programme re-designed to include transformation of services

Following the announcement that two brand new unitary councils will be established in Northamptonshire on 1 April 2021, the eight councils involved have agreed a way forward.

They will deliver a programme that will see better-quality service delivery across the county.

A transformation programme has been agreed now that Vesting Day has been set for 2021, allowing time for creating much more than just two 'safe and legal' authorities.

In a joint comment, the council leaders of Corby Borough Council (Tom Beattie), Daventry District Council (Chris Millar), East Northamptonshire Council (Steven North), Kettering Borough Council (Russell Roberts), Northampton Borough Council (Jonathan Nunn), Northamptonshire County Council (Matt Golby), South Northamptonshire Council (Cllr Ian McCord) and Borough Council of Wellingborough (Martin Griffiths), said:

“Now that Vesting Day is later than originally anticipated, we’ve re-visited our programme and built in transformational work that will ensure we can deliver better integrated services from day one, rather than after the creation of the new councils.

“Sustainability is key to the success of the two new unitary authorities and part of that is creating services that provide what residents need when they need it most and are flexible. We’re working with health, the voluntary sector and other key stakeholders to make it easier for residents to access the services they need and make sure the right people are working together to deliver that service.

“The programme will be delivered by a team made up of staff from all eight authorities as well as some external programme management support. A Chief Executive from each current authority will lead each of the projects that make up the programme, making it a plan that is owned and delivered by all Northamptonshire councils.”

Our vision for the new unitary authorities is set out in a prospectus for change, which can be found at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/prospectusforchange

North Northamptonshire Joint Committee to hold first meeting

The North Northamptonshire Joint Committee, which will pave the way for the shadow authority to deliver the new unitary council for the north, will hold its first meeting on Monday, 24 June.

Following a decision from the Secretary of State James Brokenshire last month, two new unitary councils will be created in Northamptonshire on 1 April 2021 (Vesting Day).

Elected members from the north authorities (Corby, East Northants, Kettering, Northamptonshire County and Wellingborough), who have been appointed to the Joint Committee, will meet at 6.30pm in the council chamber at Kettering Borough Council. The venue for meetings will rotate among districts within North Northamptonshire, using the respective Council Chambers.

The meeting will be open to members of the public, and papers for the Joint Committee are available on www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings

72% of people have been targeted by scammers says official figures

Statistics released by Citizens Advice have revealed that 72% of people have been targeted by scammers in the last 2 years, either via mail, phones calls, text messages, email, online or face to face.

The figures were released ahead of Scam Awareness Fortnight (10 - 23 Jun).

To coincide with the event, East Northamptonshire Council has issued a warning to residents across the district, especially the elderly and vulnerable, to be continuously wary and to report anything suspicious.

Cllr Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: "With nearly ¾ of us having been victims of scams, it is important that the public are vigilant and report anything suspicious. The elderly remain the most vulnerable, with criminals still using the more traditional techniques, alongside the recent rise in cyber scams. As a council, we continuously work with the police to tackle scammers, but we can't do so without the support of the general public. 7 out of 10 scam victims do not report a crime and we would like to use this fortnight to remind people to come forward."

When dealing with a potential scam, Citizens Advice has put together the following top tips:

If unsure, say NO!

Be wise to rogue traders.

Don't feel pressured to make a decision.

Be wise to postal scams.

Keep personal details safe.

Research the credentials of the company.

Be online savvy and check who you're communicating with online.

Talk to someone you trust if you're suspicious.

Report a scam

Know you are not alone. Anyone can be a victim, report it and get the right support.

If you think you or someone you know might have been the victim of a scam, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. For further advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

East Northamptonshire's pioneering project receives industry recognition

A proposed East Northamptonshire development has been recognised nationally for its sustainable environmental status at an industry awards ceremony.

The masterplan for Tresham Garden Village at Deenethorpe Airfield has been Highly Commended at the National Planning Awards in the category of Planning for the Natural Environment.

East Northamptonshire Council and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit Joint have worked closely with the promoters of the Garden Village and the design team at Charlton Brown Architects, to ensure that the natural environment is at the core of the proposals for the development. A detailed evaluation of the natural assets of the site by consultants Natural Capital Solutions and Lockhart Garratt has been used to shape the draft Masterplan.

The outcome of this exercise saw the development become the first in the UK to employ Natural Capital Accounting and Ecosystems Services to ensure that the masterplan mitigates against water, air and noise pollution and reconnects ancient woodlands. This links with the 100,000 trees newly planted by the Deene Estate around the airfield.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said:

"Tresham Garden Village is anticipated to be a unique community with high-quality homes and facilities set against the background of dedicated green spaces and recreational areas.

“It is our aim to ensure that this development is sustainable and environmentally sound and this award recognises our commitment to ensuring that the masterplan has the natural environment at its core.”

To view the report, visit: www.nnjpdu.org.uk/publications/natural-capital-account-2019-natural-capital-assessment-2017

Have your say on where you cast your vote

The public is invited to comment on existing polling stations and locations, ahead of a review by East Northamptonshire Council.

Every four years, the Council must by law complete a review of all current stations, districts and places to ensure that the existing arrangements are suitable. ENC is required by law to divide the area into polling stations for the purpose of Parliamentary elections and to designate polling places for each of those districts.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council said: “With the district ever changing, it is important that we look at where our polling stations are located, every four years, to meet the needs of residents, ensuring that all are locations are still accessible and suitable for all.”

Anyone wishing to submit comments or observations before any new arrangements are agreed by the Council can contact elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01832 742113.

Alternatively you can write to the Democratic Services Manager, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ.

For further information about the polling district review, please visit: www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview

Local charity receives funding pledge from East Northamptonshire Council Chairman

A charity that supports young people in the area will receive additional funding over the next year.

East Northamptonshire Council’s new Chairman, Cllr Dudley Hughes, has chosen Service Six as his charity of the year for 2019 - 2020.

The local charity, founded in 1979, is based in Northamptonshire and works with hundreds of hard to reach disadvantaged children, young people, adults and families each year. It is hoped that this additional funding will allow the charity to further grow, develop its presence across the district and offer much needed support for vulnerable individuals.

Service Six’s Chief Executive, Claudia Slabon said:

“We are delighted that East Northamptonshire Council’s new Chairman Cllr Dudley Hughes has chosen us as his charity for the year. We are very excited to have this opportunity to unite our teams behind a worthwhile cause that everyone can identify with, feel passionate about and to continue working with ENC to make a difference in our communities.”

“We look forward to embedding our partnership with ENC within our organisational culture to deliver beneficial results with a lasting legacy, to change lives and create futures for the young people of Northamptonshire.”

East Northamptonshire Council Chairman, Cllr Dudley Hughes said:

“I have worked with the wonderful team at Service Six for many years, as nominated observer on the Board of Trustees, and have seen first hand the great work they do in the local community. As a former teacher, the work the charity does is very close to my heart and I hope over the next year we can raise lots of money, so that the good work Service Six does can continue.”

Over the next twelve months, Cllr Hughes has lots of fundraising events planned, starting with a dinner dance on 27 September with all funds raised on the night going straight to Service Six.

To find out more about the work of Service Six, please visit www.servicesix.co.uk

Keep up to date on the work of the ENC Chairman on twitter @ENCChairman

Work has started to deliver innovative enterprise centre

Start-up and growing businesses will soon have the opportunity to benefit from first-rate flexible workspace and business support when a new £8 million state-of-the-art facility opens next year.

East Northamptonshire Council has received £1.69 million funding from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) Local Growth Fund in order to deliver its flagship project, Enterprise Centre, East Northants as part of Enterprising East Northants, the council's economic plan for sustainable job creation and business growth.

The new purpose-built enterprise centre, which will be located at Warth Park in Raunds, will provide a range of flexible units, as well as virtual office support and access to on-site facilities including meeting space and shared office services. Construction has now started and it is anticipated that the centre will open in late spring 2020.

The Local Enterprise Partnership's role is to enhance and promote the area's sustainable growth and, through its local industrial strategy help unlock the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses. Through its capital investment programme, the Local Growth Fund, SEMLEP invests in a range of projects that improve business productivity, develop local skills in line with employers' needs and enhance the infrastructure – digital, physical and cultural– to create good quality places where people want to live, work and invest

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

“It is great news that we have received funding from the SEMLEP Growth Fund, which will enable us to deliver this innovative facility and firmly place enterprise and entrepreneurship at the heart of the local community.

“Work has now started to build this flagship centre, and we are excited to see this development take shape. I would encourage start-ups and small and medium enterprises to get in touch and register their interest today.”

Chief Executive of SEMLEP, Hilary Chipping, said:

“SEMLEP is committed to increasing productivity and promoting high value, entrepreneurial culture in the area.

“This funding will support East Northamptonshire Council to create a modern, flexible, diverse workspace where a range of businesses can thrive, interact and collaborate. This will help to deliver more high-quality jobs within the area.”

To register your interest or for more information please call: 0808 1787 060

Mural inspired by Rushden's history officially opens

A new mural commemorating the history of Rushden and the surrounding area has been officially opened by local school children during a ceremony hosted by East Northamptonshire Council.

Based on children's artwork, and adorning the Washbrook Road tunnel, the new mural has been designed to reflect the history and natural environment of the local area and has transformed the tunnel.

The completion of the tunnel artwork is the latest phase in the Out to Water, Into History project and the event also celebrated the hard working volunteers who continuously give up their time, alongside everything that has been achieved so far along the Greenway.

During the ceremony, Cllr Sarah Peacock, Chairman of the Greenway board, praised the project:

“We have been working hard on the Greenway project for the last 10 years and it is great to see this latest milestone completed. There is a lot of work still to be done along the Greenway, but everyone should be very proud of what has been achieved so far.”

“I would like to thank all of the schoolchildren who took part and inspired the mural that now adorns the Washbrook Road tunnel and look forward to working with all the local schools on future projects.”

The Out to Water, Into History project is run in conjunction with Nenescape with Heritage Lottery Funding and during the mural unveiling a new competition was launched, inviting locals to submit photos that showcase the area’s history and heritage. To find out more, ‘like’ the Out to Water, Into History Facebook page.

Local authorities pledge support to Armed Forces

To coincide with Armed Forces Day, ENC and other partners in the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership for Northamptonshire have reiterated to local military personnel the services available to them.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North said:

“We have a strong association with the British Armed Forces in Northamptonshire. As a council we are always looking at ways we can work with our partner organisations and are proud to support both ex and current service personnel in anyway we can, including offering guidance and advice.”

The Northamptonshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership is made up of local authorities, Police, the NHS, veterans’ support groups and the Military and provides support for local service personnel, those leaving the armed forces and their families. It was set up as part of a national promise that those who have served in the British Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

Current services offered by the partners includes welfare and benefits guidance, housing support for current and veteran service personnel and advice for local businesses looking to recruit someone with a military background.

In terms of business support, ENC was awarded the bronze level of the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, which means the Council will do everything it can to increase employment opportunities and support veterans and their families.

For more information on the support offered by the Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire, please visit www.afcnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Summer activities for children... coming to a town near you!

Children across the district will have a summer to remember as ENC teams up with Freedom Leisure and town/parish councils across the district to bring activities to local children from 5 - 23 August.

For three weeks during the school summer holidays, fully trained coaches will offer a variety of exciting sports, arts and crafts activities in towns and villages throughout East Northamptonshire, from Easton-on-the-Hill through to Higham Ferrers.

Each ‘Turn Up & Play’ session will run for two hours, cost £2 per child and a full list of locations and sessions can be found at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/tup.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council said:

“Following on from the success of previous events, we are delighted to be partnering with Freedom Leisure and local councils in East Northamptonshire to offer a series of exciting Turn Up & Play sessions across the district.

ENC is committed to getting its residents more healthy and we hope that lots of children will be able to come along and learn a variety of new skills, whilst making friends and getting active this summer.”

Johnathan Rudland, East Northamptonshire Active Communities Manager agreed:

“Each of the two hour Turn Up & Play sessions will be run by a fully qualified, DBS checked leader and will offer high quality activities aimed at children aged 8 - 13.

For the more adventurous, we will be kicking off the summer with a very special Xplorer session at Rushden Hall Park from 11am - 1pm on 31 July, and further Xplorer sessions will run alongside the Turn Up & Play sessions from 3 August.

Myself and the Turn Up & Play team can't wait to get out to as many towns and villages across East Northamptonshire as possible.”

For further information about the Turn Up & Play scheme, including locations and dates, please visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/tup

Think before you buy a new puppy urges Council

East Northamptonshire Council has warned people to think with their heads, rather than hearts when buying a new puppy following a rise in illegal puppy farms and smuggling across the region.

Cllr Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council said: “Buyers often think with their hearts when purchasing a new puppy and it can be an emotional time. We urge anyone who is concerned to put emotions to one side, come forward and talk to us before buying a puppy.

ENC work with animal welfare partners, like the Dogs Trust, and are committed to helping people who think they might be purchasing from a puppy farm.

Following recent activity in the local area, we would like to take this opportunity to remind people to follow official guidance from the Dogs Trust and to not be lead by emotions.”

If you are thinking of buying a puppy, the Dogs Trust urges you to consider the following before making any decisions:

Do...

- Ask to see mum and pup together
- Visit your new pup more than once
- Get all your pup's paperwork before going home including vaccinations and ensuring your puppy is microchipped Walk away if you are at all unsure
- Report suspicious sellers or breeders
- Take your puppy to your own vet for a health check as soon as possible

Don't...

- Meet anywhere that isn't the pup's home
- Buy a pup from anyone who can supply various breeds on demand
- Buy a pup that looks too young/small or underweight
- Feel pressured to buy a puppy
- Buy a pup that you suspect has been illegally imported

There is further support for buyers as from April 2020, those wishing to add a four-legged friend to their home can do so with greater confidence thanks to a new law. Lucy's Law will mean that commercial pet shops and breeders will only be able to sell dogs (and cats) if they have bred them and would-be owners will have to deal directly with breeders.

The new law is named after Lucy, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who was rescued from a puppy farm having suffered horrific injuries. She had been kept in a cage most of her life and had a curved spine, fused hips, bald

patches and epilepsy. Lucy was re-homed and went onto lead a happy but short life and her story has led to the new law.

If you have any concerns about where a dog was purchased from or would like further information, please contact the Animal Licensing team on 01832 742042.

Vote for your local sports heroes

East Northamptonshire Council and Freedom Leisure have joined up to celebrate the local sports clubs and personalities across the district and the excellent work they do in local communities.

The East Northamptonshire Sports & Physical Activity Awards will take place at the Goods Shed in Rushden on Thursday, 17 October and nominations are now open in the following categories:

- Community Club/Group of the Year
- Community Coach/Activator of the Year
- Community Champion/Volunteer of the Year
- Primary Sport School of the Year
- Secondary Sport School of the Year
- Disabled Sports Person of the Year
- Local Sports Person of the Year
- Beat the Street Champion - sponsored by Intelligent Health
-

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council said:

“Across East Northamptonshire, we have an abundance of brilliant sports clubs and people and at ENC, we are delighted to have partnered with Freedom Leisure to celebrate the wonderful work being achieved.

ENC is committed to supporting health and wellbeing, and are looking forward to celebrating all the hardworking, local sports clubs and personalities in East Northants at the ceremony in October.”

Johnathan Rudland, East Northamptonshire Active Communities Manager for Freedom Leisure said:

“The nominations for the East Northamptonshire Sports & Physical Activity Awards are now open and this is your chance to shout about your local sports club and personalities! From big clubs to individuals, we want to hear about all of the wonderful work that is being done across the district.

Anyone from East Northamptonshire can be nominated across the categories, and we can't wait to crown the winners on 17 October.”

To submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/enssportsawards> before noon on Monday 9 September and complete the form and the winners will be announced during the ceremony on Thursday 17 October.

Register to vote - annual canvass reminder

All East Northamptonshire residents have been sent a form checking who is registered to vote at their address.

The Household Enquiry Form (HEF) will come from East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and is sent to every home across the district. It's addressed to the occupier and will contain the details of all those in the household who are registered to vote. Residents are being asked to confirm that these details are correct.

Confirming details are correct takes less than five minutes and can be done via text, telephone or post. But the quickest and easiest way to confirm or update your household's details is to visit:
www.householdresponse.com/eastnorthants

If the details on the form are wrong, for example, someone has moved away or moved in, you need to let ENC know by either going online or completing the form and returning it by post in the pre-paid envelope. The envelope will be addressed to a London address, rather than East Northamptonshire Council.

The HEF is vital for local authorities to keep their electoral registers up-to-date, but not providing correct details could affect you too. Not being registered can affect your applications for loans, mortgages and even mobile phone contracts. You will also lose the right to have your say at the ballot box.

The information requested on the HEF is required by law and not responding or providing false information on the form can result in a £1000 fine.

A canvasser will visit the homes of residents who do not reply to collect the information on your doorstep during August.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council said: "Residents should not ignore the form when it lands on their doormat, as the annual canvass is an essential part of local democracy. So avoid a knock on the door when you are settling down in front of the TV and complete your HEF straightaway - it'll take less than five minutes."

For more information about the electoral register visit www.gov.uk/electoral-register/overview

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.

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 home visits or wherever it is convenient.

Best wishes



Cllr Helen Howell