



## Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update. Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the Older People's Fair that took place in Kettering. There was an excellent turnout from voluntary and partner organisations who, together with our Council's staff, provided advice on a range of services aimed at helping older people. It was good to talk to some of those who attended the event. One gentleman I spoke to said that the advice he had received will save him hundreds of pounds which was very touching to hear. I am sure we will be arranging more of these events across the local area in the future. Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend and to those who helped spread the word about it in our local communities.

Next week, on Thursday 14 July at the Corby Cube, I will be chairing the Executive meeting. The Executive will consider a range of items including the Council's latest Performance Indicator Report and the Home for Ukraine Programme, to name but a few. You can view the full **agenda and reports for the Executive meeting on the website**.

I also wanted to shine a light on two events taking place soon:

Firstly, the **Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay** will be in Corby this Sunday (10 July). Shortly after 9am, the local Batonbearers will carry the baton through Corby's East Midlands International Pool. Do come along to cheer them on and see the baton. Spectators are welcome to watch from the swimming pool car park where there is a local cheerleading group will also put on a performance as the baton is leaving.

Secondly, North Northamptonshire Council will hold a **Festival of Social Care** at Wellingborough Library on Monday 18 July from 10am to 3pm. The festival will highlight the career opportunities within the sector. Across the event, residents will learn how a career in adult social care can be rewarding, the benefits of working for North Northamptonshire Council and the current roles available. Interviews will be available on the day from 3pm to 5pm. I will also be at the event to meet staff and hopefully some prospective future staff too! Please help spread the word and feel free to visit the festival to find out more.

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

## Changes proposed for Councils' school swim service

The way the council-run school swimming service is run across Northamptonshire may change. Accessing swimming lessons would become more streamlined for schools and more cost-effective for the Council.

In recent years there has been a decline in demand for the council-run school swimming service from schools. Currently only 33% of schools utilise the service. The majority book directly with pools and leisure providers.

A decision on the future of the council-run service is set to be taken by North and West Northamptonshire Councils' **Shared Service Joint Committee** on Wednesday 13 July.

If the recommendation is approved, North and West Northamptonshire Councils will no longer be providers of school swimming lessons, effective from 31 December 2022.

The change would:

- Allow schools to deal directly with pool providers to negotiate pool space and times that are accessible to them.
- Ensure schools can access pools that are nearest to them.
- Improve communication between schools and pool providers without having to go through a council-managed system.
- Ensure that the service does not run at a deficit for both councils.

The school swimming service is a traded service that was scheduled to disaggregate (break away from being a joint service provided to both North and West Northamptonshire Councils) by 1 October 2022.

It is a non-statutory function for local authorities as it is the responsibility of each individual school to provide swimming services for its students.

Schools decide how they secure their curricular school swimming either via direct arrangements with local pools or otherwise outsourcing from the countywide school swimming service, which links schools with pools and swimming instructors, to deliver swimming lessons at a pool in their area.

With fewer schools using the service, it has not always broken even financially and in 2021/2022 it ran at a forecasted deficit of £32,474.

If the recommendation is approved by the Shared Service Joint Committee, a full consultation with the staff affected by this proposal will be launched to provide them with the opportunity to raise any other suggestions that the councils may have not considered.

If the results of the consultation support this decision, where possible, staff will be supported to find alternative positions within the councils.



## New Kettering and Corby Armed Forces Community Hub sessions

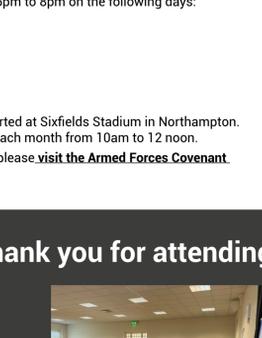
New evening sessions at the Armed Forces Community Hubs in Corby and Kettering will start soon, following a series of successful afternoon sessions which have been held monthly in the towns.

From July, the following Hubs will take place:

**Corby - West Glebe Pavilion, Cottingham Road, Corby NN17 1SZ**

Sessions will be held from 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm on the following days:

- Tuesday 26 July
- Tuesday 30 August
- Tuesday 27 September
- Tuesday 25 October
- Tuesday 29 November
- Tuesday 13 December



**Kettering - Kettering Room, Corn Market Hall, 42 London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA**

Sessions will be held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and 6pm to 8pm on the following days:

- Thursday 11 August
- Thursday 8 September
- Thursday 13 October
- Thursday 11 November
- Thursday 8 December

Plus, a new Armed Forces Community Hub has started at Sixfields Stadium in Northampton. These hubs will take place on the first Monday of each month from 10am to 12 noon.

For more information about the support available, please **visit the Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire website**.

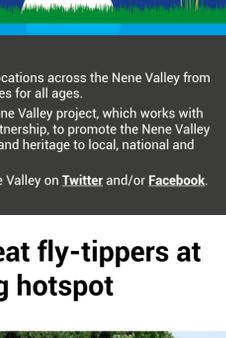
## Older People's Fair – Thank you for attending

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of attending North Northamptonshire's first ever Older People's Fair, held in Kettering's Corn Market Hall.

The event was well attended by exhibitors with a number of important local community organisations taking part including Age UK Northamptonshire, Accommodation Concern, Citizens Advice (Corby and Kettering), Marlow House, Northamptonshire Police and a range of services provided by North Northamptonshire Council from Adult Social Care to the Library.

The event was well attended and also made the ITV Anglia news on Friday evening, receiving praise from the programme's presenters.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event a success.

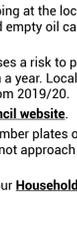


## Message from the Interim Director of Public Health for North Northamptonshire

John Ashton, North Northamptonshire's Interim Director of Public Health recently issued a statement outlining his concerns about the high rates of COVID-19 in North Northamptonshire.

Mr Ashton has urged people to continue with the sensible health behaviours of washing hands frequently, meeting outside where possible and ventilating rooms when meeting inside. His advice is to stay home if unwell and consider wearing face masks in crowded locations.

Mr Ashton has advised that it is vital to be as healthy as you can be to ward off infections. On this matter, the Council's Public Health can provide help and advice on a range of measures you can take, including stopping smoking, losing weight, increasing mobility and becoming more active. Our staff are out and about this Summer at various events so do go along for a chat and find out what services you can access. Please keep an eye out on our website and social media channels for more details about these events.

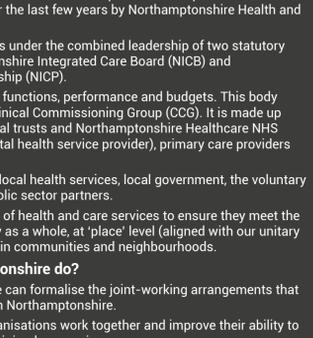


**Public Health Northamptonshire**

## Nene Valley Festival to return this September

People from across North Northamptonshire, and further afield, are invited to celebrate the rich heritage, wildlife and culture of the Nene Valley as the annual Nene Valley Festival returns this September.

From Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 September, as with previous years, the festival will offer a variety of activities for the whole family. With funding from Heritage Lottery, via Nenescape, this year's Nene Valley Festival will be bigger and better than ever.



Now in its 9th year, the festival will feature events at key locations across the Nene Valley from Northampton to Peterborough and a wide range of activities for all ages.

The festival is being organised through the Destination Nene Valley project, which works with local tourism partners, and the Nenescape Landscape partnership, to promote the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination offering wildlife and heritage to local, national and international audiences.

For the latest festival news please follow Destination Nene Valley on **Twitter** and/or **Facebook**.

## Earth bund installed to beat fly-tippers at notorious dumping hotspot

Preventative measures have been installed at a notorious fly-tipping hotspot on the busy A605 to combat the littering that has blighted the lay-by near Lilford Woods.

Waste Enforcement Officers from North Northamptonshire Council worked with Northamptonshire Highways to first clear the site and then build an earth bund which will restrict vehicle access.

Money for the project came from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner from funding set aside for landowners who are suffering from fly-tipping.

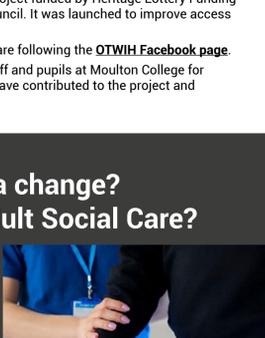
Since 2018, there have been 21 complaints of fly-tipping at the location. In this instance, the team cleared waste including hundreds of full bin bags and empty oil cans, which look unsightly and potentially put lives at risk.

Fly-tipping is a crime which blights communities, poses a risk to public health and the environment, and costs, nationally up to £392 million a year. Local authorities dealt with 1.13 million fly-tipping incidents in 2020/21, up by 16% from 2019/20.

Please report any incidents of **fly-tipping on the Council website**.

Please log any local fly-tipping hotspots and note number plates of vehicles seen dumping waste. However, please ensure that you remain safe and do not approach or photograph fly-tippers or investigate the waste yourselves.

To dispose of waste responsibly, please visit one of our **Household Waste Recycling Centres** or find out about our **bulky item collection service**.



## Welcome to Integrated Care Northamptonshire!

On 1 July, Northamptonshire formally established a new statutory integrated care system. This is a new legal requirement not just for our county, but for the whole of England across 42 local areas.

An integrated care system is a partnership of local health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in the area.

Our integrated care system is called Integrated Care Northamptonshire. It replaces and builds upon the partnership work undertaken over the last few years by Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership.

Integrated Care Northamptonshire operates under the combined leadership of two statutory (legally required) bodies: NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (NICB) and Northamptonshire Integrated Care Partnership (NICP).

NICB is responsible for local NHS services, functions, performance and budgets. This body replaces the old NHS Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It is made up of local NHS trusts (our two general hospital trusts and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, our community and mental health service provider), primary care providers (including GPs), and local authorities.

NICP is a statutory committee made up of local health services, local government, the voluntary and community sector, as well as other public sector partners.

Together these bodies oversee the delivery of health and care services to ensure they meet the needs of local populations – for the county as a whole, at 'place' level (aligned with our unitary council boundaries) and even more locally in communities and neighbourhoods.

**What will Integrated Care Northamptonshire do?**

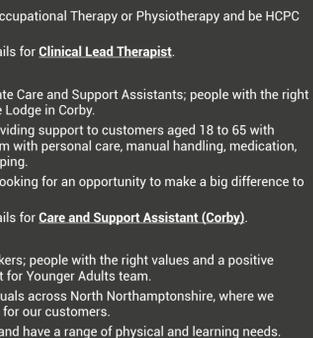
Being an integrated care system means we can formalise the joint-working arrangements that have already been in place for some time in Northamptonshire.

It will simplify the way health and care organisations work together and improve their ability to make decisions, providing better and more joined-up services.

The four aims of Integrated Care Northamptonshire will be to improve health for all, to reduce health inequalities, to make the best possible use of public funding, and to contribute to the economic and social development of Northamptonshire.

**How can I find out more?**

Visit our new **Integrated Care Northamptonshire website**. It has lots of information about who we are, what we do and about health and care services in our county. You can also register to receive updates on our work or sign up for engagement and involvement opportunities.



## Full steam ahead as new Greenway gateway opens in Rushden

A new gateway to reflect Rushden's railway history has been unveiled by North Northamptonshire Council and partners organisations along the Greenway.

The final piece of the **Out to Water, Into History** project has been co-designed and created in collaboration with the community and students from Moulton College.

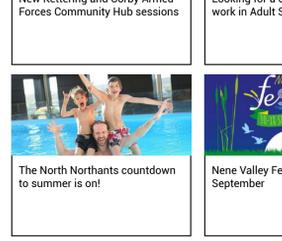
Level 1 and Level 2 Construction students based in Higham Ferrers have worked with the Council since initial scoping with the public started last September to design and create the new gateway. The gateway reflects the heritage of the section of the Greenway that follows the former Wellingborough-Rushden-Higham Ferrers line.

Tutors have worked exceptionally hard over the past few months with pupils on the bricklaying, carpentry and plumbing teams to create the new installation including a new 'Welcome to Rushden' sign and planters in the shape of a train.

The **Out to Water, Into History** project is a five-year project funded by Heritage Lottery Funding through Nenescape and the North Northamptonshire Council. It was launched to improve access between Rushden and the Nene Valley.

For the latest updates on the project, make sure you are following the **OTWIH Facebook page**.

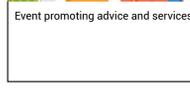
The OTWIH team would like to thank the teaching staff and pupils at Moulton College for embracing the project, all the local businesses who have contributed to the project and Nenescape.



Full steam ahead as new Greenway gateway opens in Rushden



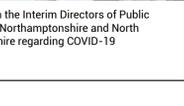
Changes proposed for councils' school swim service



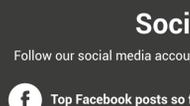
New Kettering and Corby Armed Forces Community Hub sessions



Looking for a change? Want to work in Adult Social Care?



Message from the interim director of Public Health for North Northants



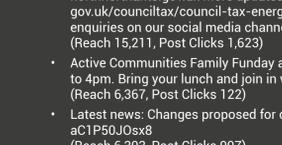
The North Northants countdown to summer is on!



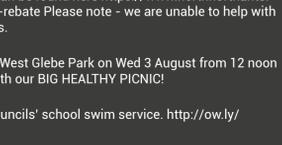
Nene Valley Festival to return this September



Earth bund installed to beat fly-tippers at notorious dumping hotspot



Event promoting advice and services for older people



Messages from the Interim Directors of Public Health in West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire regarding COVID-19

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](https://twitter.com/NNorthantsC) and/or Facebook [@NorthNorthants](https://www.facebook.com/NNorthants)

## Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts on **Facebook** and/or **Twitter**.

**Top Facebook posts so far this week (4-6 July 2022)**

- Council Tax energy rebate update: Letters have now been sent to all customers who don't pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit regarding the £150 rebate. Please respond within 1 month by either applying online or returning the slip at the bottom of the letter. If you don't reply or apply, then the £150 will be credited to your Council Tax account. If you have not received your letter, please contact us by emailing [energyrebates@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:energyrebates@northnorthants.gov.uk) More updates can be found here <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/counciltax/council-tax-energy-rebate> Please note - we are unable to help with enquiries on our social media channels. (Reach 15,211, Post Clicks 1,623)
- Active Communities Family Fund at West Glebe Park on Wed 3 August from 12 noon to 4pm. Bring your lunch and join in with our **BIG HEALTHY PICNIC!** (Reach 6,367, Post Clicks 122)
- Latest news: Changes proposed for councils' school swim service. <http://gov.ly/aC1P50JOx8> (Reach 6,303, Post Clicks 997)

**Top Tweets so far this week (20-22 June 2022)**

- 1/3 Council Tax energy rebate update: Letters have now been sent to all customers who don't pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit regarding the £150 rebate. Please respond within 1 month by either applying online or returning the slip at the bottom of the letter. (Impressions 620, Engagements 19)
- Active Communities Family Fund at West Glebe Park on Wed 3 August from 12 noon to 4pm. Bring your lunch and join in with our **BIG HEALTHY PICNIC!** (Impressions 491, Engagements 8)
- Download the DiscoverNN app and start exploring North Northants this summer! Plan days out, and find offers just for you from local shops and businesses, all in one handy and easy to access place. It's free to download and simple to use. Find it at <https://t.co/H5BeGw6GRU> (Impressions 437, Engagements 6)

## 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*



Follow me on Twitter [@SmithersJason](https://twitter.com/SmithersJason)

Contacting North Northamptonshire Council

0300 126 3000

[www.northnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk)