



Town & Parish Briefing 47

Edition 47 - Friday 3 July 2026

Latest news



[Silverstone gearing up for F1 action](#)

The British Grand Prix has roared back into Silverstone ahead of this weekend, delivering world-class racing, big names and electric atmosphere right here in West Northamptonshire.

With more than half a million spectators expected, [this year's event is set to be the largest Formula 1 race weekend in the world](#), delivering an action-packed programme both on and off the track.

Britain's George Russell heads in riding high after his Austrian win, while fellow Brits Lewis Hamilton, Lando Norris, Arvid Lindblad and Oliver Bearman will all be pushing hard for valuable points - setting the stage for a thrilling showdown. Away from the circuit, fans are set to enjoy a standout music line-up featuring David Guetta, Rudimental and James Arthur.

Residents and visitors are advised to plan journeys in advance, as roads in and around Silverstone are expected to be particularly busy. A comprehensive traffic management plan is in place, including road restrictions, signed diversions and additional stewarding, to help keep traffic flowing and minimise disruption.

A local residents' British Grand Prix leaflet with the key information has been delivered to homes in the local area and [more information for residents can be found on the Silverstone website](#)



Improved app to make things easier

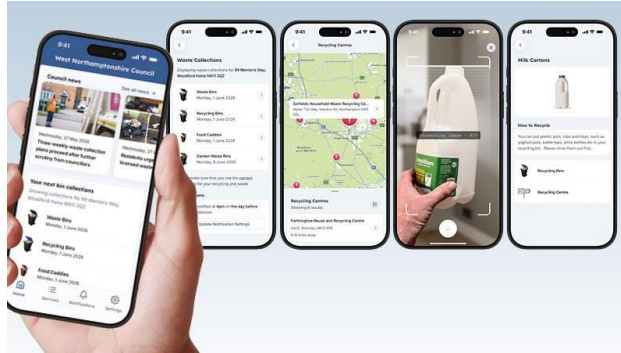
We're encouraging residents to download our newly revamped mobile app, which makes it quicker and simpler to access a wide range of local services.

The updated app has been redesigned with a clearer, more intuitive layout to improve people's experience while using it. A new home screen gives residents faster access to the services they use most, helping them to find information and complete tasks with ease.

One of the standout additions is a new AI-powered recycling scanner, allowing residents to check how to dispose of everyday items by simply scanning them with their phone. It provides instant guidance on whether an item can be recycled and the correct way to do so, supporting residents to reduce waste and recycle more effectively.

The app also introduces the ability to book a visit to one of our household waste recycling centres.

[Find out more and download the app here](#)



Big Conversation on adult social care

People who use adult care, along with carers and families, are invited to [share their views in a Big Conversation to help shape our future Adult Social Care Strategy](#).

The feedback gathered will help inform how services are designed, delivered and improved, ensuring that those who draw on care and support, along with family and friend carers, are at the heart of decision-making.

The deadline for comments is 30 July and people are also invited to take part in the conversation by joining one of our online sessions this Saturday, 4 July:

- [10am to 11am – Unpaid carers](#)
- [11am to midday – Adults who draw on care and support](#)



Digital screens helping you get about

Bus passengers will find it easier to plan journeys in West Northamptonshire thanks to [180 new electronic information screens being installed at bus stops throughout the area](#).

The new screens provide live timetable updates, service information and important travel alerts - helping passengers stay informed and make confident decisions about their journeys.

We are delivering the project as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The work is fully funded by the Department for Transport, meaning there is no additional cost to local taxpayers.



Fresh funding for voluntary groups

Local community groups in West Northants can now apply for grants of up to £15,000 to help run projects that support residents.

The funding is aimed at charities, not-for-profits and community organisations delivering services or planning new activities in the area.

[Applications are open until 28 July, so groups are being encouraged to apply soon](#) if they have ideas to make a difference locally.



Latest on parking charges

Car parking charges will not be introduced for blue badge holders, nor to Northampton's country parks, [following public feedback on our recent parking consultation](#).

It means that visitors will continue to be able to park for free at Hunsbury Hill Country Park, West Hunsbury Country Park (also known as Ladybridge), the Racecourse, Radlands Skate Park and Bedford Road Picnic area.

We will also keep enforcement arrangements unchanged at our Daventry and Towcester car parks, where there is already free parking but motorists continue to face being fined if they overstay or flout restrictions.

The decision not to introduce charges for blue badge holders and Northampton's parks follows a second round of public consultation that has further shaped the car parking proposals originally set out in our 2026-27 budget. More than 660 people gave their views during the latest consultation, ahead of finalising the Traffic Regulation Order so that new legislation could be made.

We will continue to proceed with plans to revise charges at a number of other car parking locations in Northampton. These are Albion Place, Campbell Square, Midsummer Meadow, The Ridings, St John's Multi-Storey, Upper Mounts, Wellington Street, Claret car park and Sixfields reservoir. Charges will also be introduced during weekends and bank holidays.

The new charges will take effect from 1 August 2026.



News round-up

Active Travel scheme entering next phase: Work is underway on [phase 2 of the Abington Active Travel Scheme](#), which will improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in Northampton.

Leisure centre improvements: A new [soft play area has opened at Daventry Leisure Centre](#) as part of a wider programme of improvement at leisure centres across West Northamptonshire.

Affordable homes boost: Dozens of new affordable homes are set to be delivered in West Northants after our Council agreed plans to acquire [47 properties at the Malabar development in Daventry](#).

Community campaign urges residents to take pride: Residents in Blackthorn in Northampton are being urged to come together, take a stand against fly-tipping and [show pride in their neighbourhood as part of a new campaign](#).

£2.3m investment to help people get active: Northamptonshire has [secured more than £2.3 million through Sport England's Place Expansion programme](#) to support long-term work tackling inequalities in physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Call for Northampton to benefit from rail project: We've written to the Secretary of State for Transport [urging the Government to include Northampton in the passenger service plans for East West Rail](#).

Best start in life: Children and families in West Northamptonshire will benefit from earlier help, better access to support and stronger local services under a new [Best Start in Life Plan](#), aimed at giving every child the best possible start and helping them thrive.

Do you know someone who deserves an honour?: HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders-Watson, is encouraging residents to [nominate people making a difference](#) within their communities for future King's Honours.

Illegal tobacco seized: A recent operation saw [illegal tobacco and vape products seized by West Northamptonshire's Trading Standards Team](#) from shops in Northampton and Daventry.



1 - Abington Active Travel work



2 - Daventry's new soft play



Find out more

- Read all of our news releases at westnorthyants.gov.uk/news
- [Sign-up to our newsletters here](#)

Town and Parish Council updates



Strengthening our partnership working

Our Council remains committed to building stronger and more effective relationships with parish and town councils across the area.

Following the success of last year's Parish Conference, which provided an important opportunity to discuss how we can work together more effectively, a number of initiatives have been progressing to support closer collaboration.

Preparations are now under way for the next Parish Conference in November this year, and you will be invited to help shape the agenda to ensure it reflects the issues that matter most to you.

A key outcome from the last conference was the development of a Parish Charter, which will set out our shared commitment to partnership working and provide helpful guidance for local councils. A cross-party working group has also been developing guidance for WNC ward members on effective engagement with parish and town councils. The charter is due to be launched at the 2026 conference.

Work is also progressing on a clearer and more effective process for the transfer of assets between WNC and local councils. Developed in partnership with parish clerks and the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC), this project aims to support stronger relationships and better outcomes for communities.

NCALC continues to play an important role as a critical friend, recently gathering feedback from local councils as part of a review of the planning service. WNC is now considering the findings and identifying actions to address the feedback received and improve services.

Your Highways questions answered

The Larger Parish Councils Forum recently compiled a list of questions following a conversation about highways issues. The answers to those questions can be found below:

Q: Reporting highways issues: How are we best to report highways issues? Some people use the Council website, while others use the fix my street website.

A: *Highways issues should be reported through to us via the Council website at <https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk> (rather than via the fix my street website). Reports can also be made via the West Northamptonshire Council app, which can be downloaded for free from your app store.*

Q: Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) Process: Applications come through parish/town councils now in the first instance and so members of the public must first approach their parish/council or the ward councillors about a TRO. What happens if the parish/town council and the ward councillors have a different view on a proposed TRO. Is there a flowchart?

A: *The process for applying for parking restrictions can be found on the Council website at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/parking/request-new-parking-restrictions> and there is information in the guidance notes that advises how to proceed. Ultimately, we advise members of the public to work with their parish council on any proposals because the parish council are a statutory consultee and if they don't support the proposal we generally won't take it forward. All of the information is on the WNC website.*

Q: Verge Parking: Parish/Town Councils often receive complaints about parking on highway verges, and the damage this can cause. What can West Northamptonshire Council do to tackle this? Highways say poor pavement parking is a police matter, but police say they have no resources to monitor poor parking.

A: *Verge parking is an issue for many of our communities and we simply do not have the financial resources to continually reinstate grass verges on the basis that they may look unsightly, as such we are unable to consider remedial works such as bollards, or other preventative measures to stop verge parking and we will only intervene in exceptional circumstances where the problem has become a serious safety concern.*

As a general rule we will not consider the installation of layby / parking areas. We receive capital funding for larger infrastructure schemes on an annual basis, and a scheme proposal would need to be prepared to bid for some of this funding. However, schemes of this nature are not a priority for the authority as they do not meet any of the priorities within our Local Transport Plan.

Q: Road Markings: Parish/Town Councils often receive complaints about faded road markings. How often are the road markings repainted? We have a painter/decorator in Duston who has offered to paint the road marking in his street free of charge.

A: *Faded road markings need to be reported through to us at <https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk> and they will be inspected, should works be required they will be programmed in accordance with our maintenance policies. We absolutely would not allow a painter and decorator to remark a faded line.*

Q. 20mph Limits: What are the criteria for having a 20mph restriction?

Any new request for a change of speed limit would be referred to our Speed Limit Review Panel for consideration. The Panel is keen that any new 20mph restrictions should be self-enforcing, in order to deliver the expected benefits to residents. Reports of excessive speed indicate that people feel that drivers are not adhering to the current 30mph limit, simply introducing a lower limit will not change the behaviour of those drivers. We would be wary of introducing a 20mph limit which is not self-enforcing, and there is no funding for traffic calming at this time.

Simply lowering a speed limit may seem like the easy solution to a speeding problem, and we receive regular submissions for 20mph speed limits where there is no realistic prospect of compliance. This is usually based upon the mistaken notion that a pair of terminal signs, without associated infrastructure, will be enough to ensure that motorists observe the posted speed limit. This often results in a community expectation for the local authority to retrospectively install physical calming measures or the police to carry out enforcement activity. Northamptonshire Police does not routinely enforce 20mph limits and hold the view that they should be self-enforcing.

In taking a pragmatic view, we therefore remain cautious in terms of implementing widespread 20mph speed restrictions and consider any requests on their own merits

Q: Plantings Trees on verges: What distance do the trees need to be from the carriageway and what species of tree is permitted?

We allow certain species of trees to be planted within the highway but the distance from the edge of the carriageway or buildings depends on the species of tree. Details about tree planting can be obtained from our Regulations Team at Regulations@westnorthants.gov.uk

Q: Public Rights of Way. Do WNC Highways continue to maintain at public expense footpaths that are on the definitive map but not on the Highways Register?

A: *As the highway authority WNC has to:*

- Keep the surface of public rights of way which are maintained at public expense in a fit state for public use*
- Make sure obstructions are removed*
- Maintain some bridges over natural watercourses, including farm ditches*
- Make sure there are no notices that prevent or discourage the use of a public right of way*
- Add signs where a public right of way leaves metalled roads*
- Make sure the public's rights to use a public right of way are protected*
- Make sure landowners carry out their duties, and take action if they don't*

Q: Extent of the Public Highway: Where does the highway boundary end? I think this is commercially sensitive as WNC get an income from it. However, can it be used when a parish council needs the info on a community issue?

A: *There is no definitive answer to where the public highway ends, and it is not as simple as a line on a plan. Our Investigation and Searches Team hold this information. There is no charge to a Parish Council for this information, but developers etc have to pay for it. Any highway boundary queries can be sent through to Helen.Howard@westnorthants.gov.uk*

Chance to discuss planning matters

Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks are invited to book dedicated sessions with Stephanie Gibrat, Assistant Director for Planning to discuss current planning matters, upcoming proposals, or any issues where guidance would be helpful.

These sessions are designed to provide the opportunity to ask any questions on the planning process and allow two-way conversation relating to planning matters.

The next sessions takes place on:

- Thursday 23 July 2pm to 4pm

If you would like to raise a specific topic or explore planning considerations for your area, please book a slot by contacting Leanne.Howells@westnorthants.gov.uk

Please note spaces are limited and are allocated on a first come basis.



Spotlight on...



Our Environmental Crime Team

Our Environmental Crime Team works tirelessly to keep our communities clean and safe, from tackling fly-tipping and littering to pursuing offences linked to vehicles, land or property.

The support of Town and Parish Councils makes a real difference in this work, and the close relationships you have within your communities means you are often the first to notice when something isn't right.

By supporting suspicious activity, you can help the team act quickly and effectively, build stronger cases against offenders, prevent repeat issues and keep our neighbourhoods clean and welcoming for everyone.

So please help us by reporting any of the following:

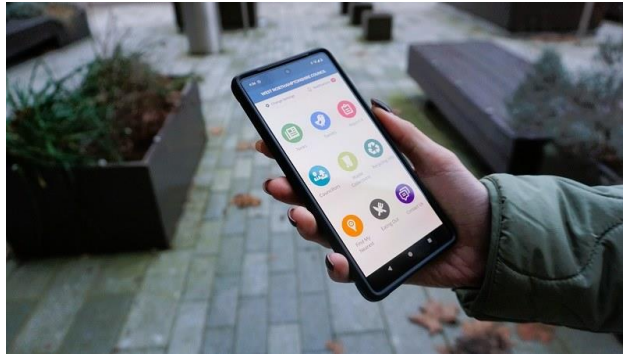
- Fly-tipping or suspicious waste dumping
- Littering, including offences from vehicles
- Breaches of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
- Commercial waste issues or businesses not disposing of waste responsibly

- Witnessing individuals, vehicles, or activity linked to environmental offences

Reports can be [made on our website](#), via [the WNC app](#) or directly to envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk

Please also encourage residents in your communities to do the same.

No piece of information is too small, what might seem like a minor detail could be the missing link in an investigation. Thank you for your support - it is appreciated.



3 - Environmental crime can be reported on our app

Events and activities



Join the celebrations at Northampton Pride

Northampton Pride returns to Market Square on Saturday 11 July, [bringing a packed programme of live performances, community stalls and family-friendly activities.](#)

A colourful parade will wind through the Square, setting the tone for a day of celebration. On stage, a lively music line-up - headlined by Late Night Talking, a Harry Styles tribute - promises plenty of energy and feel-good moments.

Expect a vibrant showcase of West Northamptonshire's LGBTQ+ community, uniting residents and visitors in a joyful, inclusive atmosphere.



[Invitation to join service of Remembrance](#)

Everyone is invited to attend a [remembrance ceremony at the Guildhall on Thursday 9 July](#), to honour the victims of the Srebrenica genocide.

The ceremony will include reflections and readings, culminating in a one-minute silence at 12.40pm, offering an opportunity for attendees to stand together in remembrance of those who lost their lives.

Following the formal proceedings, those attending are invited to stay for light refreshments in the Great Hall.



[Digital memorial to our late Queen](#)

Local people, communities and organisations are being invited to [share their memories and stories of Queen Elizabeth II](#) for a special project.

The Queen Elizabeth Digital Memorial is a new website set-up to map the key moments in the life and reign of Britain's longest serving monarch, as a permanent record for future generations.

People can share their memories of Queen Elizabeth direct via the [Queen Elizabeth Digital Memorial](#)

Town and Parish Councils are also encouraged to share the link among their networks to encourage residents share and map their memories of Queen Elizabeth. Please make use of the social media graphic in this article to help you if you wish.

Organisations can also organise online or in-person gatherings where people can share their memories together and capture these so they can be submitted to the website.

Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson, said: "Every memory submitted makes the memorial richer and more representative of Queen Elizabeth's global legacy - and helps create a unique historic record preserved for future generations."



Discover more events and activities

- [Visit the events page on our website](#)

Have your say



Details of some of our current consultations are listed below, but don't forget [you can visit our Consultation pages](#) throughout the month to discover and take part in all of the consultations and engagement activities run by the Council

[Current consultations](#)

Parks survey

We're inviting people to [have a say on the Council's 16 major parks across](#) West Northamptonshire.

- The deadline for comments is 30 August

Big Conversation on Adult Social Care

People who use adult care, along with carers and families, are invited to [share their views in a Big Conversation to help shape our future Adult Social Care Strategy](#).

- The deadline for comments is 30 July.

Inclusion and Intervention Support Team

Parents and carers are invited to [share their views on our Inclusion and Intervention Support Team service](#) as part of a review to ensure the service continues to meet the needs of children, young people and families.

- The deadline for comments is 3 July.

Integrated Community Equipment Service

We would like [feedback on community equipment services supporting independent living](#), to improve future provision and user experience.

- The deadline for comments is 19 July

Your Home and Your Support – tell us what you think

People who [receive support from our Specialist Support Younger Adults Service](#) are asked to [complete a survey](#) as part of a review. This includes support at Eleanor Lodge, in shared supported living homes, and in your own home or out in the community.

- The deadline for comments is 9 September

Your Day Service – Looking to the Future

We want to [hear about people's experience of our day service](#), what matters to them, and what they think we should consider when we look to the future of providing these services.

- The deadline for comments is 9 September

Have a say on the future of Obelisk House Care Home

We are [looking at how Obelisk House Care Home in Northampton is used](#) now, and how it could be used in the future. We want to hear what people think about our ideas.

- The deadline for comments is 9 September

Have a say on the future of Southfields House Care Home

We are [looking at how Southfields House care home in Northampton is used](#) now, and how it could be used in the future. We want to hear what people think about our ideas.

- The deadline for comments is 9 September

[Town and Parish Council Help Centre](#)



Our Connected Communities Coordinator Alan Burns and Community Cohesion Officer Sophie Ellidge have a remit to maintain and enhance good working relationships between our Council and Town and Parish colleagues.

Help and support for your council

Find out more on the [Town and Parish Council help centre on our website](#), or email alan.burns@westnorthants.gov.uk or sophie.ellidge@westnorthants.gov.uk for more information.

Clerks are also encouraged to [use the self-service options on our website](#) to ask questions and access Council services.



4 - Alan and Sophie