



Town & Parish Briefing 48

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Latest news



Work begins on new sustainable bus shelters

Modern, environmentally friendly bus shelters are set to be installed across West Northamptonshire.

The project is being delivered in partnership with Bauer Media Outdoor UK, one of the UK's largest Out of Home media and infrastructure companies, which will [install, manage and maintain all the council's shelters as part of a wider improvement programme.](#)

In total, the scheme will see 100 new shelters installed, offering accessible seating and improved space for wheelchairs and prams, motion-sensor lighting, and - at selected sites - digital screens powered by renewable energy. A further 125 shelters will be refurbished as part of the scheme.



[Successful parks continue to fly the flag](#)

Award-winning parks and green spaces across West Northamptonshire are celebrating another year of success after retaining a nationally recognised accreditation.

Abington Park, Bradlaugh Fields, Daventry Country Park, Delapré Park and Brixworth Country Park will all [continue to fly the prestigious Green Flag](#), reflecting the ongoing commitment to maintaining these outdoor spaces for residents and visitors.

Daventry Country Park achieved the award for the 27th time, while Bradlaugh Fields, Brixworth Country Park, Abington Park and Delapré Park have proudly held onto their accolades for the seventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth straight years, respectively.



[New permanent Chief Executive selected](#)

We have [selected Martin Henry as our new Chief Executive following a rigorous recruitment process this summer.](#)

His appointment is subject to approval at a meeting of Full Council on Thursday, 13 August.

Martin, who is the Council's Executive Director for Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, has been acting as the Interim Chief Executive since October last year following the departure of previous Chief Executive, Anna Earnshaw.

Having joined WNC from the beginning as Finance Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Martin has played an integral role in shaping the young unitary council, driving forward service improvements and efficiencies and navigating the authority's significant financial challenges.

With extensive leadership experience in local government spanning more than 30 years, Martin has previously held roles at every type of local authority and at several authorities across Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire. Martin also worked previously at the Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner's office, and in the private sector as director at Capita.



Executive Director appointed

We have also appointed a new Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment.

David Harris is currently Director for Property and Regeneration at Birmingham City Council and will be [joining WNC at the start of October](#), taking over from Stuart Timmiss, who will be retiring later that month.

David has a strong track record in place-based transformation, regeneration, economic growth, asset management and major capital programme delivery across the city, currently with responsibility for delivering major regeneration and housing projects such as the Smithfield and Paradise schemes.

A Chartered Surveyor and Registered Valuer, he brings extensive senior leadership experience from across local government, including roles at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, as well as private sector experience.



News round-up

Children's Services rated Good: Children, young people and families in West Northamptonshire are safer and better supported by good services with outstanding leadership, [according to Ofsted's inspection published earlier this month](#)

Land leases set to support communities: Cabinet has [given the green light to lease a section of land at Eastern Way Field to Daventry Hill School](#) to improve its open space and increase the number of places for students. A long term lease has also been agreed to [support Daventry Town Football Club to secure investment](#) to develop and improve its facilities.

Summer warning on the dangers of swimming in open water: As temperatures remain high across West Northamptonshire, local partners are [urging residents and visitors to think twice before entering lakes, rivers, reservoirs, pits, canals and other areas of open water.](#)

Libraries launch Summer Reading Challenge: Children and families across West Northamptonshire are invited to take part in this year's [Summer Reading Challenge, Read to the Beat](#)

Summer crackdown on town centre crime: We're working alongside Northamptonshire Police and partners to launch a [nine-week operation to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour](#) in Northampton town centre over the summer months.

Remembering former councillor Terry Gilford: We lowered our flags last week in [tribute to former Daventry councillor Terry Gilford](#), who has sadly passed away. Mr Gilford served as a Conservative councillor for WNC's Daventry West ward from May 2021 until May 2025, playing an active role in a number of committees and helped shape decisions affecting residents across the area.



Find out more

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

Town and Parish Council updates



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 with available slots will take place on:

- Thursday 29 October, 2pm to 4pm
- Tuesday 24 November, 11am to 1pm
- Thursday 17 December, 2 to 4pm

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

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



Events and activities



Bringing the beach to West Northants

We may be about as far from the sea as you can get here in West Northamptonshire - but we've joined with partners to bring the beach to residents this summer.

Northampton Market Square has been transformed into a seaside attraction for the school summer holidays, complete with a beach, deckchairs, fairground rides and more to enjoy through to 31 August.

The beach has been funded through a £4,500 contribution from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is completely free to visit, with buckets and spades for children to play with and deckchairs for parents and carers to relax on. Alongside the beach, visitors can enjoy a selection of paid fairground rides delivered by Café Continental.

[Find out more about the Summer on the Square](#)



Summer of Sport Roadshows

Children, young people and families are invited to get active this summer as our free Sports Roadshow tours West Northamptonshire.

Visitors can enjoy activities delivered by Northampton Saints, Northampton Town Football Club and Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, alongside a variety of local sports clubs and community partners.

Younger children can get involved in creative craft sessions, while families can also enjoy inflatables, games and interactive activities suitable for all ages.

The first two events were held in Northampton and Daventry earlier this month, and the fun continues from 1pm to 5pm at:

- Brackley – Wednesday 19 August, Town Centre Park
- Towcester – Friday 21 August, Recreation Ground.

[Find out more about the Summer of Sport Roadshows](#)



[A good reason to race across the region](#)

Citizen's Advice West Northants and Cherwell are inviting people to [join them for their 'Race Across Our Advice Region' – a fun-filled community challenge](#) that aims to bring together families, friends, local organisations, and businesses to raise funds for the charity.

Taking place on Saturday 22 August, the event challenges teams to travel across their advice region, solving clues, completing fun challenges, and visiting local landmarks. Teams can choose to start in Banbury or Northampton.

Families, local businesses, schools, community groups, voluntary organisations, and partner organisations are all invited to enter a team and join the challenge.

Every team that takes part will help the charity raise funds so that it can continue to deliver free, confidential, and independent advice to people across the communities it serves.

Follow the links below to submit your entry:

- [Families of 2 adults and up to 3 children - £30 plus £1 booking fee](#)
- [All other teams - £25 plus £1 booking fee per person](#)



Street art celebration returns

One of Europe's largest live street art events is set to return to Northampton this August Bank Holiday weekend, bringing together more than 330 artists from across the UK and beyond for a spectacular three-day celebration of creativity, culture and community.

[Taking place across Northampton town centre from 29 to 31 August 2026](#), Wall Games will once again transform the area into a creative open-air gallery, showcasing large-scale murals, live painting, music, workshops, competitions and interactive activities for visitors of all ages.

The free-to-attend festival has become a key fixture in Northampton's cultural calendar, previously taking place in 2020, 2021 and 2022, attracting thousands of visitors and helping to establish the town as a leading destination for street art and public culture.



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

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.



1 - Alan and Sophie