



Town & Parish Briefing 49

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[Latest news](#)



[Residents urged to recycle electricals responsibly](#)

Residents across West Northamptonshire are being asked to make sure electronic and electrical items with batteries are recycled rather than thrown in the bin.

This follows a sharp rise in battery-related fires linked to waste collections, putting crews at risk and disrupting bin collections.

The number of waste-related fires has increased dramatically over the past three financial years, rising from just one incident in 2023/4 to 35 in 2025/26.

The increase mirrors a growing national concern about lithium-ion batteries being placed in household waste and recycling bins, where they can be crushed or damaged during collection and processing, and then catch fire.

During the same period, the Council has seen a huge increase in vapes – the majority of which contain lithium-ion batteries – being thrown into household waste.

Instead, residents can recycle small electrical items, including vapes, from home [by placing them in a bag on top of the appropriate bin or recycling sack on collection day](#). For Northampton use the blue recycling bin, for Daventry use the black waste bin and for South area use either blue or black bin.

Many everyday household products contain batteries, including electric toothbrushes, wireless earbuds, mobile phones, toys, mini fans, solar lights, electric shavers and cordless power tools.

When these items are placed in household waste or recycling bins, batteries can become damaged or crushed, increasing the risk of fires in waste collection vehicles and causing disruption to collection services.



[Action being taken to tackle in-year financial pressures](#)

We're working hard to address budget pressures this year despite ongoing challenges and increasing demand for services that protect the most vulnerable.

In February we approved a revenue budget for the current 2026/27 financial year of £464.3m (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant), having initially started the budgetary process with a significant funding gap it worked hard to close.

At their meeting this month, Cabinet members will consider an update of the Council's budget position four months into the current financial year (Period 4).

These latest figures forecast a £13.1m overspend by the end of the financial year, representing approximately 2.8% of the Council's overall revenue budget. Members of the Council's Place and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the position from finance officers at their meeting earlier this week (2 September) ahead of more detailed information and discussion at Cabinet.

The forecast reflects continued financial pressures from the ongoing high demand for children's services, adult social care and home to school transport, in line with councils across the country. Work is ongoing towards addressing the projected overspend by the end of the financial year in March 2027. WNC also continues to make steady progress towards a £29m savings target within the current budget. This follows £115m of budget savings already made to date since the authority was formed in 2021.

Cabinet members will receive a detailed budget monitoring update at their meeting on Tuesday, 15 September in the Forum, Towcester, from 6pm. The report, along with the meeting agenda and other items to be discussed by Cabinet, [will be published on the Council's website from next week.](#)



[Annual canvass underway](#)

Annual canvass emails and letters are going out - and we're encouraging residents to respond to help ensure they remain registered to vote and that household information is kept up to date.

Every household will receive a message, either by email or post, asking a resident to confirm who lives at the address and is eligible to vote. Those who have previously shared an email address with the Council should look out for an official email from

elections.wnc@notifications.service.gov.uk. On some devices or email providers, the sender may appear simply as Elections.wnc.

Communications will be clearly identifiable as coming from West Northamptonshire Council and will include a secure code enabling residents to check and confirm their details online. Residents receiving a paper form will also be able to respond online using the security details provided.

If someone in a household needs to be added to the form, they will also need to register to vote. Registration forms will be issued where required, but residents can also register quickly and securely online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

This year, some households will see a message on their canvass form if a postal vote linked to the address is due to expire, giving voters plenty of time to reapply if they wish to continue voting by post.

Anyone unsure about a message they've received is encouraged to call [0300 126 7000](tel:03001267000) to check.

More information about the [canvass process can be found here](#)



News round-up

Enforcement leads to court action: A Northampton business has been [hit with a £40,000 fine](#) for repeatedly dumping commercial waste illegally.

Back-to-school support on offer: With children starting to return to the classroom this week, we've put together a range of [tips, advice and support for young people and their parents or carers](#) to help make the transition easier.

Families encouraged to apply for free school meals: Families across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to [check whether they are now eligible for free school meals](#), following changes to the national eligibility criteria.

West Northants joins regional discussion on Universal UK Resort: We recently joined local authority leaders, government ministers and regional stakeholders to [discuss the significant opportunities that the proposed Universal UK Resort](#) will bring to the region.

Census to help shape support for female rough sleepers: The Council will take part in the national [Women's Rough Sleeping Census](#) for the first time this year, [helping to build a clearer understanding of women's experiences](#) of homelessness and shape specialist support across the area.

West Northamptonshire Council has appointed its new Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer: [At the recent meeting of Full Council](#) Martin Henry was formally confirmed as the unitary authority's Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, with James Smith appointed to the position of Section 151 Officer.

Free skills information event: Residents looking to gain new skills, retrain for a new career, or move closer to employment are invited to attend a free [Skills Bootcamps Information Event](#) at Northampton Guildhall this month.

Pupil's winning designs for Northampton's electric buses: A Year 4 pupil from Bridgewater Primary School has been announced as the winner of [West Northamptonshire Council's 'My Great Electric Bus Day Out' artwork competition](#), with their winning design helping to celebrate the launch of Northampton's new electric buses.

Donate pre-loved baby items: A new partnership between FCC Environment, our Council and Baby Basics Northampton is set to [make it easier for residents to donate essential items to families in need](#), while reducing waste across West Northamptonshire.





Find out more

- Read all of our news releases at [westnorthants.gov.uk/news](https://www.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



[Uncover hidden gems at Heritage Open Days](#)

Residents and visitors are invited to explore the stories, places and people that have shaped West Northamptonshire as Heritage Open Days returns from 11 to 20 September.

This year's festival theme celebrates the everyday lives of working people, bringing local history to life through a diverse programme of walks, talks, exhibitions, open days and guided tours.

More than 60 attractions and organisations across West Northamptonshire have registered events for this year's festival, including Delapré Abbey, Lamport Hall, Old Black Lion, Sulgrave Manor, 78 Derngate, the Guildhall, Weedon Depot, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Phipps Brewery, Towcester Museum and many more.

- [Discover Heritage Open Days](#)



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

Shape PSPOs in Daventry and Northampton

Residents, businesses, community groups, and visitors are being encouraged to share their views on proposals to [extend two Public Spaces Protection Orders \(PSPOs\)](#) covering Northampton and Daventry town centres.

- The deadline for comments is 22 September

Active Travel in Brackley

We're asking Brackley residents their views on [proposals to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer and easier](#) across the town.

- The deadline for comments is 11 October

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