

**West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Councillor Update for
Parish Councils and Village Magazines
in Hackleton & Grange Park Ward**

15 October 2021

**Serving and supporting residents, business, groups and communities across the villages of
Brafield on the Green, Castle Ashby, Chadstone, Cogenhoe, Denton, Eakley Lanes, Grange Park, Hackleton,
Hartwell, Horton, Little Houghton, Piddington, Preston Deanery, Quinton, Salcey Forest,
St George's Fields Wootton, Whiston, Yardley Hastings**

This last month's activity has ramped up following the summer months with a number of Council, Committee, Ward, Parish and Group meetings, as well as attending and supporting the last of the summer village events across our H&GP Ward and supporting residents and business with their diverse queries, concerns and issues.

Here's a quick round up of recent news of relevance and interest to you.

WEST NORTHANTS COUNCIL (WNC)

Full council meeting

- **23 September** – view the agenda and minutes [here](#)
- **2 December** - If there is anything you would like to propose to Councillors and have your say at this meeting, please contact Democratic Services in advance to register to speak. You can also watch the meeting live or on demand – it will be live streamed and recorded and can be viewed on the West Northamptonshire Council YouTube channel.

Cabinet meetings

- **12 October** – view the agenda, reports and minutes/decisions [here](#)
- **9 November**
- **7 December**

Finances – Revenue monitoring shows balanced position

The first budget monitoring report, heard by West Northamptonshire Council's Executive in September, shows a balanced position for the current financial year 2021/22.

The annual budget covers spending across all council services including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the collection and disposal of waste, household waste recycling, leisure and community wellbeing, highways, planning, economic development, collection of council tax and business rates, housing benefit, council tax support, housing and support for the homeless.

The 21-22 budget was the very first budget created for this authority with inherent financial risks associated with the demand for services in the first year of a new organisation. This demand has also been subject to the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. *The report forecast a service overspend of £1.6million but this can be offset by contingencies held within the budget.* The report also shows that the provisional financial outturn position for last year for all of the predecessor authorities show small underspends against the budget in each area and that the level of reserves held have increased when compared to the estimated level of balances set out when the budget was formulated prior to the start of the financial year. Regular reports will appear before the Executive between now and the end of the financial year in March 2022.

Boundary Review

WNC Councillors have an online briefing session on 24 November, with the Commissioner appointed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, to explain the boundary review process and how to get involved as the process moves forward between now and summer 2023. Plans for a boundary review would then be implemented in 2025 after the first four-year term. We'll keep you posted following the briefing.

West and North Northamptonshire Councils sign the Armed Forces Covenant

West and North Northamptonshire Councils have signed a national Covenant showing their commitment to supporting members of the Armed Forces community to ensure they are treated with fairness and respect in all aspects of their life.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge to acknowledge and understand the needs of the Armed Forces community and aims to build a more open and honest relationship between employers, the Ministry of Defence and reservists. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. Additionally, each Council has appointed an Armed Forces Covenant Member Champion and a designated Senior Officer who will be building relationships with the local Armed Forces community and assisting the Councils to meet their duties regarding the principles of the Covenant. The Covenant's two principles are that:

- the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services in the area where they live;
- special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

For more about the Armed Forces Covenant, please visit www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Neighbourhood Plans get the green light to resident voting

People living in Overstone, **Hackleton** and Clipston could get to vote in December on plans designed to protect their communities. Three separate neighbourhood development plans have been created by a group of people from each area, and West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet decided on 12 October to support the proposed plans. Neighbourhood plans play an extremely important role in protecting the characteristics of neighbourhoods, allowing those who live in the areas some control over housing, local employment, infrastructure, community facilities and the environment. Now agreed by Cabinet, they will go out to referendum in Overstone, Hackleton and Clipston on **Thursday 2 December**, and we urge everyone with an interest in their community to have a say. Referendums operate very much like an election, so plans will now be finalised and communicated to each area on the next few weeks.

Local Enforcement Plan for West Northants

Proposals were approved at the recent Cabinet meeting to unify the Council's approach to planning enforcement across the different areas. The approach to planning enforcement across West Northamptonshire will be simplified following this week's Cabinet meeting. Three former planning authorities for Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire had slightly different approaches and these will be aligned and unified under West Northamptonshire Council. While creating a new local enforcement plan, we also aim to ensure it is presented in a style people can easily read and understand, and clear timescales are set for dealing with cases. As we have a limited number of staff to deal with cases, it's important that we prioritise those that are likely to cause the greatest concern to communities or the environment. We must also make sure we balance the views of complainants with the need for growth in both housing numbers and business premises. In many cases, developers will have breached the planning permission they've been granted but what they have built would have been acceptable had they applied for it. One thing we're aware of, though, is that the process can be a little difficult to understand and we want to remedy that and improve our responses to these complaints. The new plan sets out what the Council aims to achieve through planning enforcement, how breaches are investigated, and the powers available for enforcement.

New Spatial Option Strategic Plan open for consultation – help shape the future of West Northamptonshire

We are encouraging people to offer their opinions on areas which might become housing or business developments in the future. West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet agreed in September to proceed with a [consultation on its Strategic Plan](#), which sets out potential future areas for expansion. It is vital that we create a strong strategic vision for the area, to ensure sustainable growth which meets housing needs. We also have clear targets for future housing and delivery of business development to meet the needs of our growing population.

Possible areas for development

Potential areas for development identified, are as follows:

- Northampton north
 - o North of Buckton Fields
 - o East of Boughton
 - o West of Moulton
 - o North of Moulton
- Northampton south-east
- Northampton M1
 - o South of junction 15

- o South of junction 15a
- o Junction 16
- North and west of Daventry
- East of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal
- Daventry M1 junction 18
- North west of Brackley
- South of Towcester and the Racecourse
- South of Long Buckby
- North west of Milton Keynes at Old Stratford

We are also seeking views on the role that rural areas should play in meeting the housing and economic needs of West Northamptonshire

[The consultation is now live](#) with a range of ways in which people can get involved, from virtual forums to physical drop-in sessions.

Consultation options

The consultation will launched on Monday 11 October and **virtual public events** will take place between 6pm and 7.30pm on the following dates:

- [Thursday 21 October](#)
- [Wednesday 27 October](#)
- [Monday 1 November](#)

These will all be hosted on Teams, with booking via Eventbrite and questions can be submitted beforehand or through the chat function at the event.

Public **drop-in sessions** are planned to take place as follows but will depend on any changes to the COVID-19 restrictions by the Government:

- Tuesday 2 November – Wootton Community Centre, 2pm to 6pm
- Thursday 4 November – Saxon Suite, Daventry Leisure Centre, 1pm to 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9 November – Moulton Community Centre, 1pm to 5.30pm
- Wednesday 10 November – Brackley Methodist Church, 2pm to 6pm
- Thurs 11 November – The Forum, Towcester, 2pm to 6pm

Physical copies of the documents will be available to view at the following buildings:

- West Northamptonshire Council offices at:
 - o Lodge Road, Daventry
 - o The Guildhall, Northampton
 - o The Forum, Towcester
- All public libraries in West Northamptonshire

Anyone who needs further information can contact the Strategic Plan Team at strategicplan@westnorthants.gov.uk or on 0300 126 1900 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday during the consultation, which closes at 11.59pm on Monday 6 December.

COMMUNITY

WNC Grants and Funding for Community Projects

A number of Parish Councils have asked us if WNC has a budget provisions to support play and leisure equipment in their area. There is no provision for this however at this week's Cabinet meeting a new community funding grants policy and funding approach was approved. A new £232,500 Councillor Covid Support Fund will provide members with £2,500 each to allocate to community and voluntary groups that are in need of support or to help empower local residents to be active in your communities. The fund was agreed by Cabinet as part of a wider report seeking to harmonise the approach to community funding across West Northamptonshire. It includes a new community grants policy which enables West Northants Council to launch a community funding grants scheme. A pot of £433,401 will open shortly for applications from local community and voluntary groups. A total of £1,634,701 is to be made available by the Housing & Communities Team in order help local community and voluntary sector organisations during 2021/2. If you have a community project or support that you would like to discuss with us, please do get in touch.

Advice for residents with money worries

Residents with concerns about money or debt can take advantage of free advice services. People who live or work in the former South Northamptonshire Area can access the Money Advice Service - a free, independent and confidential service that provides advice about debt, budgeting and how to apply for benefits. Appointments can be booked by emailing moneyadvice.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk. In Northampton, the Citizens Advice Bureau has a presence in the One Stop Shop at The Guildhall, while Citizens Advice Daventry and District offers free advice and support from its offices at The Abbey, in Market Square, Daventry.

Annual canvass door knocking set to start

Residents who have not completed their electoral registration form yet will soon receive a visit from one of West Northamptonshire Council's canvassers. In July this year forms were sent to every household in West Northants as part of the annual individual voter registration canvass. Those who have not responded will receive a visit from one of the Council's canvassers from mid to late October. If people are at home when one of the canvassers visits they can complete their registration with them on their doorstep. Residents who are not in will receive a card to let them know the canvassers have been and to remind them to complete their registration form. All the canvassers carry identification.

Flags raised to mark Black History Month

A flag raising event at County Hall marked the beginning of Black History Month. The event was opened by the Council's Chairman Cllr Ann Addison and featured speeches from the Director of the Northamptonshire Black History Association, Morcea Walker, and Cllr Adam Brown. The Pan-African flag, which represents Black History Month worldwide, has also been raised at Council sites across West Northants. There are a number of events taking place to mark Black History Month, and the Council will also be raising awareness via WNC social media channels.

LEISURE

Northampton Bike Park

This week, Cabinet received an update on the project to develop a disused section of the Delapre Golf Course into a mountain bike park, and granted delegated authority for decisions including entering grant and lease agreements.

CRIME & POLICING

PFCC newsletter

Do you receive the monthly newsletter from the PFCC Office? If not and you would like to, visit the link below to view the four newsletters so far in 2021 and register to receive future ones.

[Newsletters 2021 – Office of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner \(northantspfcc.org.uk\)](https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk)

Neighbourhood Policing

Matt Taylor and Chris Bird, together with a new Sargent, are our dedicated Neighbourhood Policing team. We will be meeting with them at the end of October to discuss all crime related matters across our Ward. Ahead of this, we will contact the Parish Clerks to ask for input or items you would like to have included on the agenda for that meeting. This does not replace any individual activity you may wish to organise with the Neighbourhood Policing team specific to your Parish or resident issues, however, we do have many matters that are the same across all parishes in our Ward so this initial Ward meeting covering all Parishes makes more sense initially. Before the meeting we will send you the agenda so you have the opportunity to see that everything you have asked to be raised is on the agenda, and following the meeting we will send you a summary of the matters discussed, actions agreed etc.

Beat Bus

The new 'Beat Bus' initiative from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office (PFCC) commenced last week with our Neighbourhood Policing officer, Matt Taylor, visiting a number of villages across our Ward and engaging with local residents. We found out about the Beat Bus visiting our Ward this week (Wednesday) at very late notice and Matt has agreed to advise us with two weeks' notice in future when the Beat Bus will be in our Ward. There are two Beat Buses (minibus style vehicles) and one is allocated across 3 Wards (including Hackleton and Grange Park) – a full schedule is being developed to ensure it is shared equally and Matt has agreed to share the

final schedule with us asap so we can ensure the Beat Bus future presence in our Ward is properly promoted in advance so we make the most of it. As soon as we receive this we will share it with you.

Partners coming together for Hate Crime Awareness Week

West Northamptonshire Council and partners came together from 9-16 October to raise awareness of hate crime via a programme of activities marking the national Hate Crime Awareness week. The campaign aims to reinforce the message embodied by the slogan “Safe Place For All” and educate residents about the different types of hate crime, empower communities affected by hate crime and encourage the reporting of such incidents, whether it's just one isolated instance or repeated harassment by the same person or group of people. That safe place is our end goal, a place where we can all live in peace together, a place where there is no room for hate and prejudice. Partnership engagement events were held in the Market on Daventry High Street on 12 October and in the Northampton Market Square on 14 October, offering West Northants residents the opportunity to speak about hate crime with partners such as Northamptonshire Police and Northampton Partnership Homes. People can also #SpreadLoveNotHate and show their support during this hate crime awareness week and afterwards, by sharing their support messages on social media using the hashtag #WeStandTogether. To report a hate crime online, please visit www.northampton.gov.uk/hatecrime or ring Northamptonshire Police on 101 or 999 if it is a live incident.

SUSTAINABILITY

Mini Summits will help inform climate strategy

WNC is engaging with a range of people and organisations during October to help shape our new climate strategy, which will form part of a wider overarching Sustainability Strategy. As identified in our Corporate Plan, we have committed to being carbon neutral by 2030, in line with global and national commitments set out in the Paris Agreement in 2015, and we want to ensure we do all we can to help others achieve this too. To do this, we need to listen to what people are telling us, building new ideas into our strategy and provide the support that others need. WNC has organised a series of events throughout October which will allow us to hear a range of voices. It's important that we listen to businesses as their actions could have a huge impact on the environment, whether positive or negative. We also need to hear from young people who, unless we act now, are set to inherit many of the issues of past generations. And our work also needs to involve a range of community groups from our existing network to ensure we're considering what we can do individually to improve the situation. Invitations have been sent for each of the events, which will cover business, agriculture and the rural environment, transport, housing, communities and young people. The 'mini-summits' started on 4 October with housing developers, social housing providers and Homes England. The final event will take place on 21 October with environmental groups and organisations currently active in the West Northamptonshire area. These will help inform our climate change strategy and we will publish the outcomes for consultation, to help us develop the strategy further. The document will be published on Monday 15 November – following the COP26 global summit being held in the UK, Glasgow, this year. The consultation will last for eight weeks.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Vulnerable children to be supported during autumn half term and Christmas

The most vulnerable children in West Northamptonshire are set to receive lunch vouchers during school holidays for the rest of 2021. The scheme will support 9,500 families during the October half-term and the Christmas break by providing them with a £15 meal voucher per child per week, to pay for lunch during the three weeks of school holidays. Schools are currently being asked to provide lists of eligible families from which WNC will generate individual pupil vouchers that will be returned to schools for distribution. The initial period of voucher distribution will cover the October half-term period only. Schools with the largest number of eligible pupils will receive the vouchers first and the rest in descending order in time for the start of the school holidays next month.

Covid vaccine offered to Northants students

Students aged 12 to 15 have begun to receive the COVID19 vaccine as the Northamptonshire Vaccination Programme begins its rollout to secondary schools across the county. The programme is being led by the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) school-aged immunisation service, and parents or guardians of children aged 12 to 15 have begun to receive letters with details of when the vaccine will be offered. They will also be asked to provide consent for their child to receive the vaccination. This will be done either through an online e-consent process or via a paper form if required. Parents or guardians do not need to contact their local GP or other NHS services about getting the vaccine, and the local school-aged immunisation service has

put in place processes to exclude children who have already received a first dose of the vaccine under previous advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), for example if they are clinically vulnerable. Parents and guardians of home-schooled children in our county have been contacted separately to invite their children to receive their vaccine at the Northamptonshire Vaccination Centre in Moulton Park. At this time, the UK's Chief Medical Officers advise that healthy 12 to 15 year olds should be offered a first dose only, which will be the Pfizer-BioNtech (Comirnaty) vaccine, the only vaccine currently authorised for this age group.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Bus Service Improvement Plan

WNC's joint consultation with North Northants Council (NNC), which closed on 10 October, provided people with the opportunity to give their views on how bus services should operate in West Northants. The council is currently consulting on proposals to form an Enhanced Partnership Scheme with local bus operators to look at ways to improve bus services in the area. The partnership would enable the council to access Government funding to help put a new Bus Improvement Plan in place. A second bus-related consultation launches early next month (date to be confirmed) when the council will be seeking people's views on Northampton's Bus Lane Enforcement Scheme, as part of an autumn review of the arrangements. Enforcement of the bus lane rules has been in place since February last year, when the previous county council installed number-plate recognition cameras at the Weedon Road/St James' Road bus lane and at the Drapery, a bus-only street. The bus lanes are in operation 24/7 with motorists facing a fine of up to £60 if they break the rules. Although proving effective in reducing congestion for public transport, the scheme has also prompted concerns from some residents. The survey, once launched, will also be completed on our consultation hub. Those without access to the internet can request paper copies of these surveys by phoning 0300 126 7000. Cabinet (12 Oct) received an update on the work to develop a draft plan to improve bus services across West Northants and approved delegated authority for the final version to be agreed and submitted to the Department for Transport by the end of October.

EV Charging

Electric vehicle charging points are set to be installed at seven sites across Northampton this autumn as part of the Council's partnership with the Virgin Park and Charge (VPACH2) project. The VPACH2 project is part of a wider set of UK Government sponsored initiatives to build an electric vehicle charging network to ensure a seamless transition from fossil fuels to electric power by 2030, when the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles will be banned. The VPACH2 delivery model for Northamptonshire is based on the Council acting as a facilitator and enabler. A private firm - Liberty Charge – will install, operate and maintain the charging points, with the Council having no liabilities associated with infrastructure, power, or maintenance. Over the last 18 months, WNC and North Northamptonshire Council, and previously the former Northamptonshire County Council (as project lead), have worked with the former borough and district councils and Liberty Charge to identify and progress suitable on-street locations for charging points. Seven sites in Northampton have been approved, in the following locations: 1 Oakwood Rd, 127 Upper Thrift Street, 40-28 Ardington Road, 55 Semilong Road, Barry Road, St. James' Park Road, Vicarage Road. Two charging points will be installed at each site, each serving up to four vehicles at a time. The chargers are 22kW Fast Chargers, which can charge a single car from empty to full in around 3 hours. Initially only two bays will be dedicated to electric vehicle charging only, with the remaining two bays being available for electric vehicle charging or non-electric vehicle parking. Work has started, with all sites set to go 'live' by the end of November. Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders will be used to suspend parking while the groundwork and installation takes place. More information about the project can be found at Smart Move Northamptonshire. [Home | Northamptonshire County Council \(smartmovenorthamptonshire.net\)](https://www.smartmovenorthamptonshire.net)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Natasha's law on labelling introduced

New laws governing the requirements for prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) food labelling was introduced on 1 October. The new labelling will help protect consumers by providing potentially life-saving allergen information on the packaging. Any food business that produces PPDS food will be required to label it with the name of the food and a full ingredients list. Allergenic ingredients must be emphasised within this list. The Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams have been supporting businesses to prepare for the change and will help to ensure the new rules are adhered to. The new regulations are also known as Natasha's Law, as they were brought about thanks to the actions of a lobbying group led by the parents of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, a teenager who died after suffering an allergic reaction to an undeclared ingredient in a prepacked meal. Affected businesses are encouraged to find out more on the Food Standards Agency website.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

This consultations update is prepared by the Consultation and Engagement Team (CET) to provide a quick monthly overview of consultation and engagement activities. You can sign up to receive an email through the West Northamptonshire Consultation Register when a new consultation opens on the Consultation Hub.

Recently opened activities on the Consultation Hub

- **Great Houghton Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16:** An opportunity for people to comment on the submitted plan before it goes to independent examination. **Closes: 25 Oct 2021**
- **Emergencies: How prepared are you?:** Annual survey to find out how prepared people are for emergencies that may happen, run as part of the national #30Days30WaysUK campaign. **Closes: 31 Oct 2021**
- **Article 4(1) Directions for conservation areas:** A consultation on proposed Article 4(1) Directions in Everdon, Flore, Kilsby, Little Everdon, Pitsford, Staverton, Weedon and Welford. **Closes: 9 Nov 2021**
- **Bus lane enforcement at Weedon Road / St James' Road Northampton:** The consultation is asking people's views on a number of options, including whether to: reduce the enforcement hours to a minimum period from 7.30am to 9.30am, reduce the enforcement hours to 7am to 7pm, leave the enforcement hours as they currently operate. The consultation is open to all residents, stakeholders and people representing organisations. **Closes: midnight 2 November.** If you have any questions or enquiries about the consultation, please contact Parkingenquiries@kierwsp.co.uk

Closing soon

- **Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation 2022 to 2023:** Seeking views on proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for West Northamptonshire Council for 2022 to 2023. **Closes: 17 Oct 2021**

Recently closed

- **Housing needs survey:** Braunston parish: An important study of the housing needs and requirements of all residents with a close connection to Braunston parish. The activity closed on 19 September and feedback is currently being analysed.
- **Overview and Scrutiny Committees:** What should they investigate over the next twelve months?: The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees asked for people to submit their ideas about what the committees should investigate over the next twelve months. The activity closed on 27 September and feedback is currently being analysed.
- **Bus back better:** How can we improve bus services across North and West Northamptonshire?: Seeking views on the improvements residents would like to see in Northamptonshire bus services. **Closed: 10 Oct 2021**
- **Oxford-Cambridge Arc - Have your say:** A Government consultation on future development across the Oxford Cambridge Arc, which includes Northamptonshire. **Closed: 12 Oct 2021**
- **Pitsford Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 consultation :** An opportunity to comment on the submitted plan before it goes to independent examination. **Closed 15 Oct 2021**

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub. If you have any questions about consultation and engagement or if you would like to tell us about how useful you find this consultations update, please contact via CET@westnorthants.gov.uk.

COMING UP

Diwali celebrations to light up Northampton town centre – 30 October

Family entertainment, delicious food and the annual lantern procession are set to light up Northampton town centre on Saturday 30 October, for the 21st year running. The annual Festival of Lights celebrations are organised by the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation with support from West Northants Council and will open with food and community stalls on the Market Square from 10am. There will be family-friendly activities such as henna painting, Karom board game and sari dressing, with performances, music and stage entertainment beginning at 1pm. The much-anticipated lantern procession will begin at 6pm on the Market Square, with two pedal-powered puppets of Harminder the elephant and Shanti the giant bird leading the way. These old favourites will be joined by puppets of Hanumanji, Rama, Sita, Ravana and Ganesh, as well as pupils from local schools, as they make their way up Abington Street, along St Giles' Terrace and down St Giles Street. The procession will then take a loop of All Saints Church before returning to the Market Square. During the procession, a light will be offered to the Leader of West Northants Council, Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Town Mayor Councillor Rufia Ashraf and Councillor Jane Birch, Chair of Northampton Town Council at the steps of The Guildhall and another light at the All Saints Church,

received by Father Oliver Coss. At 7pm dignitaries will take to the market stage for speeches and to countdown to switching on the Diwali Lights, before bhangra music and dancing close the event at 8pm. This even has become a great tradition of the town and welcomes the great involvement from a variety of community groups. Please consider supporting this great event and celebration on 30 October.

Northampton's Christmas Frost Fair (Sunday 28 November) – Traders Wanted

The popular Frost Fair will be returning to Northampton's Market Square on Sunday 28 November and is now inviting traders who would like a stand to get in touch. Organised by WNC the event is aiming to celebrate the town's creative makers, artists and traders and promote their unique or seasonal offer, including food, drink, arts and crafts. Taking place between 11am and 4pm, the Christmas themed market will provide a festive showcase of the town's local producers and crafters during December's busy shopping period. The market is part of wider Christmas celebrations that day including on stage festive entertainment throughout the day and a Christmas parade at 1pm. The Frost Fair is one of the most popular events in Northampton's Christmas calendar. The unique offering and festive entertainment are a great way to draw people into the town, support local traders and bring the Christmas buzz to the town. In previous years it attracted more than 70 stalls to the market, and we look forward to welcome even more local craftspeople and traders to this year's fair. The price for a stall is £20. Local traders and craft people who would like to have a stall at this year's Frost Fair can book it at [Market Request - Frost Fair Trader - West Northamptonshire Council - Northampton Area](#)

OTHER NEWS

InBusiness feature outlines Council's business ambitions

The Council's ambitions for supporting businesses to thrive in West Northamptonshire are outlined in the latest edition of InBusiness – the magazine produced by the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce. The two-page article covers the opportunities offered by the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the ongoing work to help the area recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, proposals for an employment support hub, the ongoing regeneration work in our WNC main towns.

WNC Council website an 'outstanding achiever'

The Council's website has been placed fifth in an audit of more than 830 public and private sector websites. Sitemorse, which independently audits and ranks 836 websites across the UK, named the Council's site as an 'Outstanding Achiever' in its Rockstar of the Year Award. The auditor scores websites on their digital capability, which includes factors such as: user experience; site performance such as page loading times; and compliance with national standards including accessibility requirements. Marstons PLC came first, while seventh place went to the former South Northamptonshire Council website, which WNC's site still links to for some area-specific information and services. North Northamptonshire Council ranked third for accessibility alone. WNC's strong performance is recognition of the hard work to develop and constantly improve the website undertaken in the run-up to Vesting Day last May as well as in the months since.

To ensure we are updating you, and canvassing views, about the things that are most important to you, we very much welcome your feedback about our updates and work we are undertaking across our Ward in general. And please do get in touch if there is a matter you believe we can support you with.

With warm wishes

Fiona, Andrew and Steve

To get in touch with us, and also keep up to date about local matters, you can reach and follow us at:

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