

# Leader's Update

18 October 2024

Issue: 85

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## Introduction and welcome

Welcome to my latest Update.

This issue includes:

- Traffic enforcement measures on George Street, Corby.
- NNClimate24 - How will North Northamptonshire face up to a changing climate?
- Council teams win award for Health, Safety and Wellbeing project.
- Hi Street! campaign: Wellingborough - 5 stops to love local.
- Two child safeguarding reviews published this week.
- Bluetongue restriction zone extended into North Northamptonshire.
- Halloween fun at the Chester House Estate.
- SEND student's passion for cooking lands him internship at Chester House Estate.
- New Civic Protocol for Northamptonshire.
- Consultation launched on Corby Rail Station parking costs.

In addition, you will find below some useful information about forthcoming meetings, Your Voice Matters (our consultation and engagement hub), all the latest press releases and our top social media posts.

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

## Traffic enforcement measures on George Street, Corby

The grace period for traffic enforcement measures on George Street came to an end on Tuesday 15 October.

Anyone not permitted to drive through the section will now receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

Anyone found to be breaching the order faces a PCN of £70 (reduced to £35 if paid within 21 days).

Only taxis, buses and cyclists are permitted to enter the main crossing section between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Saturday.

The measures were first introduced in April this year to improve safety for pedestrians crossing the road. The previous traffic regulation order (TRO) was replaced with one that enables North Northamptonshire Council to enforce vehicle access restrictions, using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).

## NNClimate24 - How will North Northamptonshire face up to a changing climate?

Our annual climate conference, [NNClimate24](#), will take place on Thursday 21 November. It will be virtual to reduce the carbon footprint of the event.

Anyone can watch the live broadcast on our [YouTube channel](#) from 9:30am.

The main themes will be:

- How will the people of North Northamptonshire prepare for the effects of climate change?
- What can be done to reduce our carbon emissions?

We have some really engaging sessions lined up:

- **Session 1: Health effects of climate change (9:50am to 10:50am)** - Adopting a public health approach to tackling climate change. Keynote speaker: Dr Ebenezer Laryea, Associate Professor of Sustainable Development Law, University of Northampton.
- **Session 2: Sustainable living (11:30am to 12:10pm)** - The power of the circular economy and sustainable waste management. Keynote speaker: Dr Margaret Bates, Head of UK EPR Scheme Administrator, Resources and Waste, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- **Session 3: Engaging communities for climate action (12:30pm to 1:50pm)** - From grassroots to local impact. Keynote speaker: Mark Thomas, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead, St Peter's School, Kettering. Matilda Crane, Regional Hub Manager (East Midlands) for the Climate Ambassadors Scheme, University of Nottingham, will also present.

Each session will be followed by a panel discussion. This is the fourth such forum that we have convened, building on the success of the past three years.

We're already making terrific progress in working towards our ambitious carbon reduction targets and I look forward to this good work continuing.

## **Council teams win award for Health, Safety and Wellbeing project**

Congratulations to teams from across the council (Environmental Health, Communities and Public Health) for winning the Health, Safety and Wellbeing category at the Northamptonshire Logistics Awards last week.

The aim of the project was to get health and safety messages out to otherwise unreachable drivers at the Welcome Break Rothwell Truck Stop on the A14.

North Northamptonshire Council has been working with Welcome Break for two years, focusing on the health and wellbeing of HGV drivers travelling through the area and hosting wellbeing events at the truck stop.

Previous events have seen attendees having blood pressure, cholesterol and weight checks, and partners have been on hand to provide information and advice on diabetes prevention, health and wellbeing and mental health.

This achieved national recognition and was Highly Commended at the MJ Awards in 2023. The team has built on this success by hosting an [online HGV drivers health and wellbeing conference](#) in April this year.

The truck stop project has been well received, and the team continues to spread awareness of the initiative across the UK by talking to the Department for Transport Working Group and Transport Focus.

The Welcome Break Rothwell Truck Stop has also implemented several new initiatives including suicide awareness training for staff, a room on-site to promote the health and wellbeing of HGV drivers, and cycle and walking routes from the site.

As part of the project, council officers wrote a [quest blog for PTSD UK](#) on tackling post-traumatic stress disorder amongst HGV drivers.

## **Hi Street! campaign: Wellingborough - 5 stops to love local**

Shopping local matters, and we can all do our bit to support the independently run shops, cafés, restaurants, salons and other small businesses.

[Hi Street!](#) and [Business and IP Centre Northamptonshire](#) (BIPC) have teamed up to spotlight five 'Hi Street Heroes' that you won't want to miss.

- **DebAce:** Wellingborough's best smelling gift shop.
- **The Healthy Hair Company:** Vegan and eco-friendly haircare on Market Street.
- **Bewiched:** Wellingborough's home-grown coffee spot.
- **FOUND.:** Stand out style on Market Street.
- All aboard **Wellingborough Trains and Models Shop** on Market Street.

Every small spend makes a big difference because you are supporting the small businesses that make your town special, the local economy and local communities too.

Read the full blog at: [A wander in Wellingborough: 5 stops to love local](#).

## Two child safeguarding reviews published this week

This week, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) published Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews into two cases of child sexual abuse in the county.

The purpose of these reviews was to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Much of the detail in each report was anonymised to protect the identities of the children involved. To this end, one report was provided as an executive summary, to avoid jigsaw identification of the victim.

In both cases, there were a number of common themes which have been fed back to all relevant organisations, along with a series of recommendations.

A full list of the recommendations from each review can be found within the [relevant documents on the NSCP website](#).

## Bluetongue restriction zone extended into North Northamptonshire

On Friday 4 October, the bluetongue restriction zone was widened to incorporate North Northamptonshire. This means that farmers in the area must now follow restrictions on moving their animals.

Farmers can check whether they are in the restricted zone on the [APHA Bluetongue Interactive Disease Map](#) on the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) website.

Bluetongue is a notifiable animal disease spread by midges which affects ruminants (animals including sheep, cattle, goats and deer), as well as camelids (llamas and alpacas). Cases of the viral disease (BTV3) have been confirmed across the East of England. It does not affect humans, horses or pigs.

If farmers suspect a case, they must report it to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) immediately by calling 03000 200 301. Symptoms vary across susceptible species but include fever, lesions, redness of the mouth, eyes, nose, reddening of the skin above the hoof, excessive salivation and nasal discharge. Some animals may show few or no clinical signs.

This is worrying time for farmers across the country and I would urge anyone who might be impacted to take a look at the guidance on the [GOV.UK](#) website, check if you are in a restricted area and keep an eye out for updates.

## Halloween at the Chester House Estate

Halloween fun returns to the Chester House Estate next weekend.

A wide range of activities is on offer, including pumpkin carving, snakes and spiders and a Halloween ball.

- Saturday 26 to Thursday 31 October: Spooky Halloween Passport.
- Monday 28 October: Creepy Critter Show.
- Tuesday 29 October: Falconry Day.
- Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October: Villain Ball.
- Friday 1 and Saturday 2 November: Murder Mystery Evenings.
- Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November: Autumn Food Festival.

The Chester House Estate is renowned for their SEND friendly sessions. This year they have organised a 'quiet hour' every day of their programme where individuals can carve and paint pumpkins, enjoy the scarecrow trail and take part in the costume competition. There is also a SEND slot for the Creepy Critters event on Monday 28 October.

Find out more about [Halloween at the Estate](#) on their website.

## **SEND student's passion for cooking lands him internship at Chester House Estate**

A student from a SEND college has secured a supported internship within the Chester House Estate's catering team.

After his two years at the [Creating Tomorrow College](#), student Zec Taylor has progressed into his supported internship in [The Farmhouse](#) kitchen, working alongside professional chefs to make, present and serve food and drinks to customers.

Currently, Zec supports day-to-day tasks including making barista-style coffee, preparing and cooking items on The Farmhouse popular menu and perfecting presentation skills on dishes.

The estate provides work experience for students at the Creating Tomorrow College on their Pathway to Employment study programme within its marketing, events, facilities and administration departments. The aim is to help equip them with employability skills to progress into jobs after their studies.

## **New Civic Protocol for Northamptonshire**

A new [Civic Protocol for Northamptonshire](#) has been published under the auspices of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.

The aim of the protocol is to establish a countywide approach to the civic function and how it is delivered across Northamptonshire.

The protocol seeks to celebrate and preserve Northamptonshire's rich history and civic tradition.

It outlines the roles and responsibilities of various civic figures, such as the Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, the Chairs of West and North Northamptonshire Councils and all the Mayors and Chairs of town and parish councils across the county.

It provides for a consistent approach to civic matters, such as the order of precedence at civic engagements and events.

Additionally, it aims to support local businesses and charities, to promote the visitor economy, and to recognise deserving individuals and organisations within the county.

The Civic Protocol has been developed by the Northamptonshire County Civic Working Group; a group originally established by the Lord-Lieutenant in 2021 as the Platinum Jubilee Committee. Chaired by the Lord-Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson, it includes Father Oliver Coss, Rector of Northampton and representatives from Northants CALC, North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, and Northampton Town Council.

## Consultation launched on Corby Rail Station parking costs

A consultation has been launched on proposed changes to car parking costs at Corby Rail Station to bring them into line with other stations in the local area.

A pre-consultation held this Summer received 90 responses. The revised proposals include an off-peak rate, extra parking spaces and to make a section of the entrance/exit one way.

It is important that people have their say on issues that impact them. We know that a lot of people use Corby Rail Station every day and often travel in by car.

We want to hear from residents, businesses and visitors about the proposed changes.

Please visit our website for more information and to share your views: [Final consultation: Proposed changes to car parking charges at Corby Rail Station](#).

Alternatively, please email [trafficeenforcement@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:trafficeenforcement@northnorthants.gov.uk) or post your comments to Corby Rail Station Charges Consultation, The Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG.

This consultation closes at 23.59 on Sunday 3 November 2024.

Once the consultation has closed, all responses will be reviewed by North Northamptonshire Council. Any changes would be introduced from Monday 2 December 2024.

## Your Voice Matters

Please find below details of our other current consultations and engagement activities. Please use the links below to provide your feedback and inform council decisions and share with family and friends who may be interested in shaping future plans.

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub, [Your Voice Matters](#).

- [Climate change attitudes and behaviours](#). Closes 20 October 2024.
- [Climate Change Framework - have your say](#). Closes 20 October 2024.
- [Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024](#). Closes 25 October 2024.
- [Wellingborough and Rushden Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Final stage](#). Closes 27 October 2024.
- [Calling all Northamptonshire pharmacies - we need your views](#). Closes 3 November 2024.
- **NEW:** [Independent Living Schemes - new builds for 2026](#). Closes 10 November 2024.
- **NEW:** [Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy review](#). Closes 17 November 2024.

## Forthcoming meetings

### Executive

- Thursday 14 November from 10am.
- Thursday 19 December from 10am.

### Full Council

- Thursday 5 December from 6pm.

The agenda and papers will be published on the [Council meetings](#) section of our website in the week before the meeting.

These meetings will be live streamed on our [YouTube](#) channel.

## Press releases

To help you stay abreast of the key things the council has been doing, I have included some links to the latest press releases below (starting with the most recent):

- [NNClimate24 – how will North Northamptonshire face up to a changing climate?](#)
- [Winner of young artist competition crowned](#)
- [Full line-up confirmed for spooky fun at the Chester House Estate this October](#)
- [Your Voice Matters... consultation launched on Corby station parking costs](#)
- [From work experience to employment: SEND student's passion for cooking lands him internship at North Northamptonshire Estate](#)
- [Council teams reach the finals of Northamptonshire Logistics Awards for wellbeing project](#)
- [Bluetongue restriction zone extended into North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Reminder - enforcement measures on George Street, Corby](#)

## Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts and share our [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) posts when you can.

### Top Facebook posts so far this week (14 to 16 October)

- A big congratulations to teams from across the council who won the Health and Wellbeing category at the Northamptonshire Logistics Awards last week! We have been working with Welcome Break at its Rothwell Truckstop for two years, looking at the health and wellbeing of HGV drivers travelling through the area with wellbeing events held at the Truckstop. Previous work at the site received national recognition with the work being Highly Commended at the MJ Awards in 2023 and you can find out more in our recent press release: <https://ow.ly/oUmV50TLi0C> (Reach 3,041, Link Clicks 4, Engagements 230)
- Is your child currently in Year 6? Apply for a Year 7 place at a Secondary School by midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024 <https://ow.ly/mLm450TpSwJ> (Reach 2,502, Link Clicks 4, Engagements 132)
- Reminder: enforcement measures are now in place along George Street in Corby, with the grace period coming to an end this Tuesday. From Wednesday, anyone not permitted to drive through the section will receive a Penalty Charge Notice. Find out more: <https://ow.ly/51My50TGxMa> (Reach 2,299, Link Clicks 5, Engagements 54)

### Top Tweets so far this week (14 to 16 October)

- Reminder: enforcement measures are now in place along George Street in Corby, with the grace period coming to an end this Tuesday. From Wednesday, anyone not permitted to drive through the section will receive a Penalty Charge Notice. Find out more: <https://ow.ly/51My50TGxMa> (Impressions 377)
- Looking for a new job? Have you considered a career in local government? Are you the final piece of the puzzle to make our team the best it can be? Check out our latest vacancies, and we look forward to welcoming you to NNC! <https://careers.northnorthants.gov.uk> (Impressions 324)
- It's #RecycleWeek and we'll be shining a light on those items that can be saved from the bin. Metal lids from bottles and jars are made of high-quality steel or aluminium and can be put in your recycling bin. But how about reusing the jars for other bits and bobs or homemade jam! (Impressions 311)

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any ideas for items to include in future updates, please email me at [executive@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk).

With Best Wishes,  
Jason

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