



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 16. Friday 6 March 2026. Featuring: Improving our roads: Pre-patching work begins. Council shortlisted for four national LGC Awards. A strong year for school admissions.

Top story

Improving our roads: Pre-patching work begins

We recognise residents' concerns about road conditions.

Despite limited funding, we are committed to maintaining our highway network in the most cost-effective way possible.

After a winter of prolonged wet weather, many roads in this area have deteriorated significantly.

To address this, our Highways Team are starting our annual pre-patching work ahead of an extensive surface dressing programme.

This preventative approach repairs cracks, potholes and worn sections before sealing roads later in the year, helping to prevent water damage, improve safety and slow the formation of potholes. The two-stage treatment can extend road life by up to 10 years and reduce future repair costs.

Please visit our website to view the full list of [Planned works](#).

Latest news

North Northamptonshire Council shortlisted for four national LGC Awards

North Northamptonshire Council has been shortlisted in four categories at the prestigious [Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) Awards 2026](#).

Alongside being named a finalist for Most Improved Council, we have also been recognised in three further categories:

- Large Team of the Year: Customer Experience.
- Small Team of the Year: Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing – Change Improvement and Delivery Team.
- Innovation: Transforming Temporary Accommodation: Cutting Costs While Driving Better Outcomes.

The LGC Awards are among the highest honours in local government, celebrating excellence, innovation and service improvement across the sector.

For such a young council, this breadth of recognition is a remarkable achievement, and I'm incredibly proud of all colleagues who work tirelessly every day to make our services the best they can be.

The next step will see teams present their work to a judging panel of senior local government experts before winners are announced at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 10 June, at Grosvenor House in London.

A strong year for school admissions across North Northamptonshire

Children starting Year 7 in September 2026 received their school place offers this week.

Across North Northamptonshire, 4,180 secondary places have been allocated, continuing a slight decrease in applications over the past three years.

96.6% of pupils secured a place at one of their preferred schools. Of these, 85.26% received their first choice, 8.57% their second, and 2.75% their third.

The online parent portal remains the most popular method of applying, with 99.3% of applications submitted this way.

I wish all the children every success with their journeys into and through secondary education.

Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day (Sunday 8 March) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

It is also a moment to renew our collective commitment to accelerating gender equality and ensuring that women and girls everywhere have the opportunity to thrive.

International Women's Day has been marked for more than a century, with the first gathering held in 1911 and supported by over a million people. Today, it is a truly global movement that belongs to everyone – not defined by any one country, group or organisation, but strengthened by the shared efforts of people around the world.

I want to acknowledge all the incredible women who work across the Council, those who serve as elected Members, and all the women and girls throughout North Northamptonshire. Your immense and invaluable contributions help shape the wellbeing and prosperity of our communities, creating a positive impact that will be felt for generations to come.

Council pledges to keep women safe by backing the Northamptonshire Women's Charter

North Northamptonshire Council is the latest organisation to sign up to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone's Northamptonshire Women's Charter, showing our commitment to creating inclusive and respectful workplaces for women.

The charter calls for employers to take steps towards improving women's safety at work and across the community, supporting her wider plan to prevent Violence against Women and Girls.

We join nearly 60 organisations and businesses across Northamptonshire that have already signed the charter.

Please visit our website to view the full article and video: [North Northamptonshire Council pledge to keep women safe by signing Northamptonshire Women's Charter](#).



Community matters

Bringing services closer: Customer Service outreach hubs expanded across North Northamptonshire

Our Customer Service outreach hubs are designed to make support more accessible within local communities.

They offer in-person advice on a wide range of services, including housing, adaptations and assistive technology, waste and recycling, council tax and adult social care.

The team can also help residents use their digital devices to access council services quickly and cost-effectively.

Alongside the five main receptions, the Customer Service Team now runs sessions in six community locations, including Kettering General Hospital.

For more details on our expanding outreach programme, please visit our website: [Customer Services outreach](#).

Celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026

North Northamptonshire Libraries/LibraryPlus are celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026.

The 'Go All In' campaign features events, workshops and activities to highlight how reading is not just about books, but also about curiosity, creativity and community.

The campaign offers something for everyone – from gardening and gaming to local history, music, crafting, climate activism, fashion and even Formula One.

As part of the celebrations, libraries are calling on local groups – including artists, hobby groups, heritage organisations and community-focused charities – to get involved.

For more information about the events, or to collaborate with a library, please visit our website: [Our libraries](#).



Local events

Roseshire Festival at Chester House Estate: Exclusive Local Residents Offer

The Roseshire Festival will debut at Chester House Estate in Irchester on Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 August, bringing a weekend of live music, entertainment and family activities to Northamptonshire.

The festival will feature chart-topping artists, iconic bands, family attractions, street food and a vibrant atmosphere in a scenic heritage setting.

Run by local people, the festival aims to involve the community from the outset, offering an exclusive Local Residents Offer at a rate lower than Early Bird tickets. The offer applies to Sunday 30 August – a relaxed family day with performances from Boyzlife, Eternal, Chris Moyles, The Hoosiers and The South.

For more information and to book your tickets, please visit the event website: [Roseshire Festival Tickets | Chester House Estate | Gigantic.com](#).

Philippa Forrester talk at Stanwick Lakes: Wetland wildlife

Philippa Forrester brings her expertise as a wildlife presenter and conservationist to North Northamptonshire for a compelling talk: 'Why is Stanwick Lakes so important for wetland wildlife?'

This event takes place on Tuesday 24 March, from 6pm, in the event marquee.

Learn about the remarkable species and habitats that call Stanwick Lakes home, and discover why protecting local wetlands matters globally. There will also be a live Q&A session and a book signing.

This promises to be an inspiring talk – ideal for anyone with an interest in wildlife, conservation and rewilding.

For more information and to book your tickets, please visit the event website: [Philippa Forrester | StanwickLakes.org.uk](#).



Your Voice Matters

View and respond to current consultations, and take part in engagement surveys and discussions

- [North Northamptonshire Leisure - Your Leisure, Your Future survey](#) – Closes 10 March.

- [Best Start in Life: Working Together to Help Your Child Thrive. Survey for Parents/Caregivers](#) – Closes 22 March.
- [Adult Learning Service – Learner Survey](#) – Closes 30 April.

View all consultations and engagement activities online at: [Your Voice Matters](#).



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [‘Clear and ambitious’ vision for improving adult services](#)
- [Opening of new independent living apartments welcomed](#)
- [New family help strategy shaped by local families](#)
- [Best start in life: Working together to help your child thrive](#)
- [Northamptonshire celebrates the winners of the first ever countywide Tourism Awards](#)
- [Council team hopes ‘people milestone’ will inspire others](#)
- [Jackson’s Lane car park, Wellingborough - clarification of the current position](#)
- [Regulator of Social Housing judgement](#)
- [The Good Grief Fair invites residents to a supportive day about grief and bereavement](#)

View all Council news and updates on our website at: [News](#).



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, please email executive@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Kind regards,

Cllr Martin Griffiths

Leader of the Council

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