

Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 24. Friday 26 June 2026. Featuring: Council prioritises safety during extreme heat. Statement on the Bedford train crash. Flags raised to mark the start of Armed Forces Week. And more...



Top story

Council prioritises safety during extreme heat

I would like to thank colleagues and residents for their patience during the recent period of extreme heat and apologise for any disruption to services. The health and wellbeing of our workforce and communities must always come first.

I'm pleased to say that, despite the challenging conditions, teams across the council worked together to maintain key services wherever possible. Household Waste Recycling Centres remained open when safe to do so, with temporary closures introduced to protect staff, while bin collections continued with crews adapting working hours to avoid peak temperatures. Staff were supported with heat-health advice, and updates were shared regularly on our website and social media channels.

We also ensured support was in place for vulnerable residents, including those experiencing homelessness, with access to water and cool spaces.

Where necessary, some activities or meetings were postponed or cancelled, including yesterday's Full Council meeting. These decisions were not taken lightly but were made with care and consideration. They reflect our commitment to putting people first and helping to keep everyone safe during the extreme heat.

You can find out more about service updates and tips for staying safe in the heat on our website: [Hot weather service updates](#).



Latest news

Statement on the Bedford train crash

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this tragic incident, and with the families and loved ones of those involved.

As both trains were travelling southbound – one from Corby and the other having called at stations across North Northamptonshire – it is likely that a number of those impacted will be from our communities.

At this deeply difficult time, we stand with all those affected and will continue to offer our support in any way we can.

Flags raised to mark the start of Armed Forces Week

As we mark [Armed Forces Week](#) (22 to 28 June), I am proud that the council is recognising and honouring the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces community, past and present.

This week's flag-raising ceremonies across our offices, including at the Corby Cube with Deputy Lieutenant Shah (pictured to the left) and colleagues from across the council, were a fitting tribute. They highlight the vital contribution made not only by serving personnel, but also veterans, cadets and their families.

Armed Forces Week provides an important moment to pause and reflect, but our commitment extends far beyond this week. As a signatory to the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) and a holder of the [Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award](#), we remain dedicated to supporting the Armed Forces community all year round.

It is always a privilege to attend a ceremony to commemorate the start of Armed Forces Week and this year was no exception. I encourage residents and colleagues to learn more and show their support wherever possible.



Community matters

Extended summer access to Wellingborough Splash Park

I'm delighted that the Splash Park in Wellingborough will once again be opening for additional days this summer, following the success of last year's trial. This free-to-use outdoor attraction offers a fantastic day out for families, with picnic tables, sheltered areas, food and ice cream vans, free parking, and toilet and baby changing facilities.

The extended programme includes pre-school sessions in July and September, as well as daily opening throughout the school holidays, giving even more families the chance to enjoy everything the park has to offer.

It continues to be a popular destination for younger residents, providing a fun and accessible way to stay active during the warmer months. I encourage everyone to make the most of the park while staying safe in the sun by using sunscreen and avoiding the hottest parts of the day.

Full opening times are available on our website: [Splash Park](#).

Active Families Fundays return this August

The [Active Families](#) project supports families across North Northamptonshire to move more and enjoy being active together.

I'm delighted that our Active Families Team will once again be hosting a series of free summer fundays across the area. Working with local organisations, these events provide

fun, inclusive activity for families of all ages and abilities. They offer a fantastic opportunity to come together, try something new and discover what's available in the local community. From climbing walls and trampolines to inflatables and arts and crafts, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

- Wednesday 5 August (12 noon to 4pm): West Glebe Park, Corby NN17 1SZ.
- Wednesday, 12 August (12 noon to 4pm): Castlefields Park, Wellingborough NN8 1LW.
- Wednesday, 19 August (12 noon to 4pm): Spencer Park, Rushden, NN10 6UL.
- Wednesday, 19 August (12 noon to 4pm): North Park, Kettering NN16 9JT.

I would encourage colleagues, residents and their families to come along and make the most of these free events – no booking is required.

Congratulations on British Empire Medal Honours

Congratulations to two inspiring women – Councillor Barbara Jenney and May Cardwell – on being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Honours.

[Councillor Jenney](#) has been recognised for her outstanding services to the community in East Northamptonshire.

[May Cardwell](#), a lifelong dance professional and much-loved figure in Corby, has been honoured for her exceptional contribution to dance and the local community.

Their achievements are a wonderful example of the difference individuals can make in our communities – many congratulations to both.



Your Voice Matters

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

- [North Northamptonshire Local Plan – Scoping Consultation](#) – Closes 1 July 2026.
- [High Street Rental Auctions – Proposal to Recommend Wellingborough](#) – Closes 19 July 2026.
- [Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control 2026 extension](#) – Closes 27 July 2026.

Please visit the [Your Voice Matters](#) hub for further information. Please share with family, friends, or others in your networks who may be interested in contributing their views.



More to explore

Keep up to date with our latest press releases

- [North Northamptonshire residents star in inspiring national 'We Are Undefeatable' campaign](#)

- [Works planned to futureproof roads in North Northants](#)
- [Removal of electric vehicle charging points](#)
- [New Signalong videos launched to support inclusive communication for children](#)
- [New Cancer Rehabilitation Programme Launches at The Nene Centre, Thrapston](#)
- [Share your views on community equipment services in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Full Council meeting on 25 June postponed](#)
- [Northamptonshire secures £2.3 million investment to help communities move more](#)
- [“There’s no place like home...” Kettering Library prepares to return home](#)
- [Raunds man prosecuted and fined for fly-tipping commercial waste](#)
- [Annual schools swimming gala makes a splash at Corby International Pool](#)
- [Residents invited to help shape £20m investment in Queensway](#)
- [How families are directly shaping SEND reform](#)
- [Director of Public Health issues warning over open water dangers as temperatures set to rise again across North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Essential resurfacing works completed on Steel Road, Corby](#)
- [Share your views in annual SEND surveys](#)
- [New guidance to protect Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits moves forward](#)

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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