

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

July 2021

Since our last update in June, we've

- had the second West Northants Council meeting
- attended various Council Committee meetings
- attended the 10 separate Parish Council meetings across the Ward to hear and support with your local village/areas matters
- heard from many local residents and businesses about matters of concern or curiosity, and
- been out visiting various local groups, community activities and sites.

Here's a quick round up from some of those activities of interest for you across our Hackleton and Grange Park Ward community:

Council Meeting (15 July)

- **Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO)** – concerns raised by a member of the public and councillors about the planning approvals of, and regulations governing, HMOs. Do you have any feedback (positive or negative) about an HMO in your street or local area which would help us add to the conversation as this goes forward?
- **Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board** – established in April 2013 as a statutory committee of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) following legislation in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The report has been published for 20/21 and this is the final report, as each Unitary Authority will now establish their own Health and Wellbeing Board. The report is an interesting read and can be found at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk.
- **Mental Health Response Hub** – 24/7 mental health helpline for the county, dealing with approximately 6,000 enquiries per month. The phone line is able to take self referral, professional referrals and support partners in the police and other organisations. The aim of the Hub is to reduce the gaps in services, draw together community service providers and provide a combined approach that prevents service users repeating their story and being moved from service to service. There is the ability to provide a range of responses from simple phone based validation and listening through to community assessment and support of partners at incidents. The Hub can be contacted on 0800 448 0828.
- **Climate Change commitment** – wide ranging climate conference will be organised for later this year, to listen to the views of residents, business and community groups across West Northants, to contribute to plans already in place to achieve a carbon neutral region by 2030.
- **Motions passed within the previous 4 authorities in the West Northants catchment area** – it is crucial that any democratic decisions are retained and flow through into the present day thinking of WNC. The Council agree to 1) instruct the Democracy & Standards Committee to collate any motions passed in the last 6 years within the previous authorities, 2) once collated, forwarded to the relevant scrutiny committee to pass comment on, 3) once the process is complete, a report containing all legacy matters will be brought to the full council with the target of Dec 2021, laying out all motions which should be voted on individually for acceptance or any minor modifications however which must not seek to alter the fundamental principle previously passed.
- **Equality of access to WNC services for all residents** – motion agreed to make it easier for all non internet users / those with lack of access to the internet, to interact with the council. The Council will now review all of its service access points to ensure that individuals with internet access are not being discriminated against and that alternative means of access are readily available and communicated to residents.
- **View On Demand** – the council meeting was live streamed and recorded and can be viewed On Demand on West Northamptonshire Council YouTube channel.

Other News

- **Pride Northampton** has opened applications for its 2021 event, encouraging performers, food vendors, stallholders, volunteers and community groups to support the town's Pride event which will take place in the Market Square on Sunday 12 September. For more information and to apply visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk.

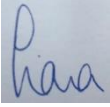
- **Fly-tipping** - this continues to blight the whole country. As elected members we encourage you to keep an eye out for the perpetrators and are grateful to community minded residents who report incidents. All reports are treated carefully and any evidence gathered, such as photographs and vehicle registrations are really very useful to the Council's investigators. All incidents are thoroughly investigated, and those caught face a £400 fixed penalty notice. On occasion offenders can be prosecuted at Magistrate's Court and can face an unlimited fine, or even six months imprisonment on conviction. As a Council we will always do our level best to ensure any incidents are cleared away as quickly as possible. Fly-tipping can be reported online at www.westnorthants.gov.uk (search Fly-tipping) or by calling 0300 126 7000.
- **Northampton Museum and Art Gallery** - reopened to the public on Saturday 10 July, following an extensive £6.7 million expansion and redevelopment programme, which began in 2017. The museum in Guildhall Road, **which is open from 10 am – 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday and 12 -5 pm on Sundays**, has more than doubled in size, with the addition of a nine-metre-high glazed atrium extension linking the original building to brand new galleries and activity space. The spectacular atrium includes a café and spacious outdoor terrace, which sits above the new Shoe Gallery, showcasing Northampton's internationally important shoe collection and the town's shoemaking heritage. Northampton museum refurbishment funded by statue sale 'money well spent' - 10 July
- **Grassroots football regeneration** - West Northamptonshire Council is excited to announce it has joined forces with The Northamptonshire FA and the Football Foundation to improve the quality and accessibility of grassroots football facilities across West Northants. The partnership has been established to support the Football Foundation's ten-year Local Football Facility Plan, which maps out the football facilities needed across every local authority area in England. The news comes at a time when the country has a deep sense of pride at the achievements of the England Squad in the Euros 2021. The Government committed £25million of new funding to support the growth of grassroots football in its spring Budget, the first part of a £550million commitment over a ten-year period and Councillors will be working to support turning this vision into reality. The first stage of the project will be to identify viable locations for new and improved 3G football pitches. The project also aims to improve the quality of grass football pitches and create more accessible changing facilities. Over 700 grassroots teams play in West Northamptonshire so we're looking forward to helping to deliver these projects for the benefit local community. Grassroots football is thriving in Northants thanks to the tireless work of the hundreds of club and league volunteers. Hopefully together we can deliver facilities that they can be proud of.
- **New Litter Charter** – WNC has developed a litter charter to ensure that West Northamptonshire has a coordinated approach to tackling litter across the whole council area. Litter can be a sign that people do not respect their local environment and it can lead to other issues. Tackling litter is a wider issue than just clearing it up. Education programmes in schools and communities are required along with strategic plans for infrastructure, regular monitoring on litter bin usage and emptying schedules as well as regular cleaning. The objectives of our charter are to:
 - Improve the local environment
 - Remove litter efficiently and quickly to provide a good visual image of the area
 - Work with community and partners to support them in their activities
 - Educate the public into the detrimental effect of littering
 - Use the enforcement tools available to us, where appropriate

In conjunction with the litter charter and recognising the hard work of many community litter picking organisations, WNC has also produced a guide to organising a community litter pick (Litter Champions Community Toolkit). This covers what support WNC can offer, and how groups can organise a safe and successful litter picking event. The Litter Charter 2021 and guide to organising a community litter pick can be found at www.westnorthants.gov.uk. To borrow equipment for your event, and to arrange collection of the sacks you have collected, please contact waste.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk.
- **Rogue Traders** – our Police have recently run a targeted successful campaign to clamp down on rogue traders across West Northants. If you have any concerns about a caller at the door or who suspect may be rogue doorstep traders or distraction burglars, or any other potentially rogue trades person, please contact the dedicated Doorstep crime Action Network (DAN) by calling 0345 23 07 702. For more information about Buy With Confidence, the Trading Standards approved trader scheme, visit <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk> or phone 01392 383430. Trading Standards in partnership with Northamptonshire Police can also provide No Cold Calling stickers on request by calling the Citizens

Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. They can also provide consumers with information about their legal civil rights.

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 in general. And please do get in touch if there is a matter you believe we can support you with.

With warm wishes



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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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 @Hackleton and Grange Park Conservatives