

Rural South Northamptonshire Ward Newsletter

October - November Edition

Finance & Budget

Like all councils across the country, we continue to face significant financial pressures annually and have already found £115m of savings since our creation over four years ago. But the level of funding we receive has not kept pace with our growing population and we see the continued rise in demand for services supporting our most vulnerable, such as children's and adults social care, temporary housing for homelessness and SEND school transport.

We are currently forecasting a £50million shortfall in our revenue budget for 2026-27 – that's around 10% of our overall budget – and as with previous years, this means we have to find more efficiencies to balance our budget. And because we benchmark well in terms of our cost of delivery, this makes closing next year's budget gap even harder and possibly the most difficult to date.

WNC CEO

Anna Ernshaw has resigned for personal reasons and we wish her all the very best for the future, she has been instrumental in managing the formation of WNC and her position is about to be advertised.

Housing & Development

The new Local Plan is currently being developed and will be consulted on later this Autumn.

Education

At the Council meeting in September it was agreed to ban mobile phones in WNC schools; given most of the schools are run by Academy Trusts this will require them to adopt and adhere to the proposal; the detail of how this and the timing will be communicated. Fiona Baker was responsible for making this happen.

Community

ICE RINK COMING TO NORTHAMPTON FOR CHRISTMAS: A [covered ice rink will open in Northampton](#) town centre from 4 December to 4 January (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day), supported by festive events.

Northampton Museum

The latest exhibition to open at Northampton's Museum & Art Gallery which explores our county's history in 100 objects; well worth visiting.

BOOKING SYSTEM FOR RECYCLING CENTRES

Starting 3 November, residents must [book slots to visit West Northants recycling centres](#).

The introduction of this new system will:

- Prevent long queues, especially during busy periods like bank holidays
- Reduce disruption to nearby homes, businesses and highways
- Ensure fair access for West Northamptonshire residents

Maggies Centre

The new Maggies Centre opens in Northampton on October 20th which will provide support for anyone with cancer and their families—from treatment help to money advice. Get Information from professional staff or join groups to make coping with Cancer easier.

HS2

We continue to liaise with HS2, WNC and local Parish Councils along the route to mitigate the impacts. Road closures and the impact of traffic on the road surfaces continue to be the main issues.

We plan to submit another report after the next Council meeting at the end of November. However if you wish to make contact, then don't hesitate to do so

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Ward Councillors – Rural South Northamptonshire Ward.