

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cases on the rise

Northamptonshire Resilience Forum reports that while data up to 2nd July shows all district and borough area infection rates per 100,000 population continue to be 'significantly lower' than the national average, cases are on the rise.

The county's infection rate is now 42.5 per 100,000 as a rolling weekly average. This is lower than the national average of 138.4 – however, this is due to a sharp increase in the national case rate being driven by the more contagious Delta variant. Locally the highest rates are showing in the East Northants area (76.2), South Northants area (65.6) and Northampton area (41.9).

Lucy Wightman, Joint Director of Public Health – North and West Northamptonshire Councils says: "There are an increasing number of tools in our locker which can help us to reduce this spread. Firstly, the vaccination [...] Secondly, regular testing can pick up infections in those without symptoms and cut transmission. Finally, it cannot be underestimated the value of good hand hygiene, so keep washing your hands [...] Keep sanitiser with you so you can kill germs whilst out and about, and wash your hands thoroughly when you return home."

New audio tour of the Treasures of Higham Ferrers

An exciting new audio described walking tour has been launched that provides a fascinating glimpse into the history and main treasures of the beautiful medieval town of Higham Ferrers.

The tour is available for mobile phones by downloading the Higham Ferrers Audio Tour from Google Play or the Apple App Store. As you listen you will be skilfully guided on your walk around the town by three local narrators.

The audio tour app has been funded by private donation and the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the Town Charter Project between the Town Council and Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Partnership. The project, alongside the valuable charter conservation work, seeks to raise awareness of the town's history and the role the charters have played within this.

The tour gives a fresh insight and new way for local residents and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the treasures of the town.

The tour begins in the Market Square with its 14th-century Market Cross and important town buildings, including the Town Hall. Moving to St Mary's churchyard you will hear of the church, which began construction in 1220, and its later additions, the spire and west porch. The Bede House and Chantry Chapel sit within the churchyard and the tour has a dedicated section to both of these intriguing buildings and their functions both past and present. Leaving the

churchyard, the tour continues to the site of the former Higham Castle which had fallen into ruins by the late 15th-century. This was finally demolished in 1523 when Henry VIII granted permission for "as moche stone and lead" to be taken to build the new Tudor Wing at his castle in Kimbolton. The Dovecote remains along with fishponds and a warren.

The tour proceeds to Chichele College, founded with the Bede House in 1421 and the more recently created medieval style gardens. The notable historic buildings of Pear Tree Cottage and Ivy House mark your return to the Market Square.



Fancy learning more of the rich history of the town? Simply download the app, visit the Market Square and let the audio described walk begin. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour.

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COUNCIL'S REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD

The refuse and recycling team which covers Corby and Kettering has been recognised for its commitment to improving services.

The Corby-Kettering Shared Service (Borough Council) team was successful in the Best Performer in Refuse Collection category at the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Performance Networks Awards, held online on 8th June.

The awards, which show the commitment of teams to continually improve service and performance levels, are based on operational data, which is assessed against a range of indicators, including cost, quality, workforce development and value-for-money. The data is independently verified for accuracy and integrity following an initial assessment.

Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "I'm absolutely delighted for the team – they are very much the worthy recipients of this award, which goes to show how hard they have worked. A big thank you to them for their work.

"And this is great news for our residents too – I know how much people value a reliable collection service and this goes to show that our staff are prepared

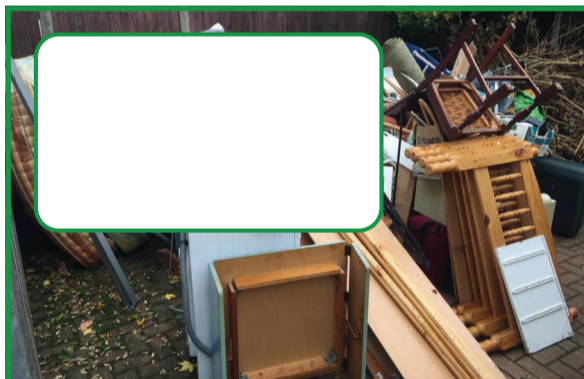
to put in that extra effort to deliver a quality service.

"I'm also delighted that as a new council, one of our services has been recognised at a national level. This tremendous accolade sets the bar high for the quality of services that we want to provide for residents."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council said: "What great news this is for the team and for them to keep building on an outstanding track record of service delivery. Many congratulations."

Over the past 10 years the team has been identified as a finalist in the best performer category for nine consecutive years, while, in four of those years, they also made the shortlist as most improved performer. The team have been winners of the best performer category five times, with four of those awards in the past four years.

The awards are designed to recognise frontline services, delivered to local communities, by local councils. APSE is a not for profit unincorporated association working with over 300 councils throughout the UK.



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