

# Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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this issue



TWO WEEKS UNTIL  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
WAENDEL WALK  
RETURNS

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SCHEME TO ELIMINATE  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
LAUNCHES IN  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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news story or event at  
[www.nenevalleynews.co.uk](http://www.nenevalleynews.co.uk)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dog walkers urged to take the lead

The Wildlife Trust in Northamptonshire is calling on dog walkers to keep dogs on short leads to help ground-nesting birds this spring and summer.

Many people think of nests being high in trees, but a surprising number of species nest on the ground or just above in low bushes. At nature reserves, in fields or woodlands these can often be hard to see and so are at risk of trampling, disturbance and harm.

Birds such as skylark and meadow pipit – whose numbers are in worrying decline – make fragile nests tucked away safely in long grass. Willow warblers nest at the base of trees and bushes, while garden birds such as dunnocks and blackbirds may also nest close to the ground.

An exuberant dog, bounding through grass can all too easily disturb wildlife, possibly trampling eggs or scaring adult birds off nests.

The law states that you must keep your dog on a lead no longer than two metres between 1st March and 31st July, when on any open access land to protect ground-nesting birds. For safety, always keep dogs on a lead around grazing animals.

## Aldwincle Pre-School and Jollys Toys help bring smiles to Ukrainian children

Like so many other organisations looking for the right way to help the people affected by the crisis in Ukraine, they have been able to lend support via the Packed With Hope campaign.

Packed With Hope is the brainchild of Little Toller Books in Dorset and Blue Moose Books from West Yorkshire. Their aim was to raise £75,000 to send 10,000 backpacks filled with books, comforts and essentials, including head torches, toothbrushes, hot water bottles and socks, to the Ukrainian border for children displaced by the war.

Whilst the initiative attracted national attention, it was also backed locally by Jollys Toys in Thrapston, who learned of the campaign and wanted to get involved. Jollys is a popular destination for many pre-school families, and owner Charlotte Croser wanted to add as many soft toys as possible to the backpacks and so Aldwincle Pre-

School donated 27 toys on behalf of their 27 children on roll.

"As a committee and staff, we were looking for ways to make a meaningful contribution to this desperate situation. When we saw Charlotte promoting Packed with Hope, we were struck by how kind this was and knew it was the right way for us to play our small part and donate something our children are so fortunate to take for granted," commented Anna Watts, Chairperson of Aldwincle Pre-School Committee.

Children at the pre-school, aged between two and four years old, also drew some pictures to accompany the toys, which all carried a personalised message. Jollys also donated some extra goodies free of charge for every

soft toy purchased online or in-store.

"Our toy shop is a magical place for children, and we wanted to share some of that magic with children who are experiencing a very traumatic time, perhaps many having left home without their favourite toys. The idea of sending a small soft toy along with activities and books via Packed With Hope is to send a hug with love and kindness from our community to each of them," says Charlotte of Jollys.

The campaign has managed to exceed the fundraising target and you can keep up to date with the journey as the backpacks and other goods are distributed to those children in need. Follow on Facebook @littletoller or Instagram @littletoller dorset.



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# WILDLIFE NEWS

WORDS BY  
ROY BURRELL

Do you think that the 'countryside' is a quiet space where we can go to look at animals and flowers which do not (often) appear in our gardens, where we can see or hear wildlife we have watched on TV programmes? Or simply an open parking area?

The spring has now arrived, reminding us that gardens are 'unnatural' extensions of the countryside between our (ever-expanding) towns and villages.

Our local countryside does not have the rolling hills of other counties, or their impressive moorlands, but we do have the mix of plant and animal life along the river valley and drainage dykes blended together to give us the "wetlands". At this time of year, however quiet it may look as we pass through, it is also an area of hard work – both for animals and plants. The chase for food means that for two or three weeks the females have extra demands to produce their eggs, and other creatures also need this period to get their production under way, though perhaps

it is easier to imagine what is needed by the birds. Some, of course, are already living here, but others have journeyed many miles (thousands, actually) to find their summer home. They are not all colourful, but add to the country feel by the quality of songs, which are courting calls. By this stage of the process, from mid-May onwards, those sounds will fade away, but not before giving the general name of 'warbler'; a dozen or more different species can be seen in the hedgerows during a walk, especially along the river valley, but need alert eyes, as they blend easily into the surroundings. That ability to 'melt' into the background is why they are often referred to as "little brown jobs", or LBJs, though that includes a range of plumage, including gentle yellows and olive-greens, all with the basic brown. They are shy birds, not often gracing gardens, but if you do come across one or more, you will know the plants are well protected by this section of the insect-eating army, and be glad they made that very long journey to favour us with their (summer) presence.

# GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY  
JAN PEARSON

Many of our ancestors were law-abiding people, going about their business and working hard to make ends meet to feed their families. However, once in a while, up pops a criminal ancestor! I do love these as, if they have been in trouble with the authorities, then there is likely to be more documentary evidence about them that sheds some light on the people they were.

A couple of years ago, I was researching a family for someone and discovered that a several times great grandmother had a criminal history as long as your arm. However, the prison records were fascinating. They covered 17 years in total and started off with the woman being 5'1" tall with black hair and blue eyes. She had a "sallow complexion" and weighed just over 8 and a half stone. However, those 17 years took a toll on her and over the years lost her upper and lower back teeth, her hair went grey and she developed an abscess on one cheek. These are things that we would not know if it had not been for that prison record.

Similarly, as I have mentioned before in these pages, my great grandfather John Smith spent two weeks in Saffron Walden Gaol for threatening Farmer Hagger with a hayfork. John had been one of the ringleaders in the North Essex Agricultural Labourers' Strike of 1914 and was offered the choice between paying a fine or going to prison. Being rather short of funds, he opted for prison – which I am glad he did. Otherwise, I would not have known that he was 5' 8" tall, had fair hair and blue eyes. The only photograph that I have of him is in black and white and so does not provide these details.

Now that archives and county records offices are opening again. It could well be worth the trip to see if they hold records of any of your criminal ancestors.

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Copy dates for Nene Valley News

**Publication date: Saturday 14th May**  
**Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 4th May**

**Publication date: Saturday 28th May**  
**Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 18th May**



# PLACES ALLOCATED FOR PRIMARY-AGED PUPILS IN NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A total of 3,857 reception places have been allocated to pupils across North Northamptonshire.

This is the first year that places have been allocated specifically within North Northants, following on from local government reorganisation last year.

92.7% of applicants – 3,576 children – have been allocated a place at their first preference (94.3 % for Northamptonshire as a whole in 2021).

4.3% of applicants have been allocated a place at their second preference (3.8% in NCC in 2021) while 1.5% have been allocated a place at their third preference (0.8% in NCC in 2021).

98.5% of applicants have been allocated one of their preferred schools (98.9% in 2021). 98.8% of applications

were made online (up from 98.5% for NCC in 2021).

Families who applied for their primary school place online and within the deadline are able to check their offer on the council's website.

Looking at the figures for Junior School applications (Year 3), where there were 1,011 applications, 99.8% of pupils were allocated a place at their first preference (99.5% for 2021) while 100% were allocated one of their preferred schools (99.75% in 2021).

Cllr Scott Edwards, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, said: "I would like to pass on my best wishes to every pupil starting a new school in September and hope this is the start of an exciting new journey.

Supporting all children in their education is a priority for the council.

"We continue to work hard to create additional school places across North Northamptonshire to meet the demand caused by our growing population, through building new schools and expanding existing sites across the area."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Starting school is a huge step for all children to take and I wish them all the very best as they embark on their education."

Any parent has the right to appeal (through the independent appeals process) against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied.

The next round of primary school place allocations (for late applicants) will take place in May.

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# Two weeks until the International Waendel Walk returns

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, the International Waendel Walk will return to Wellingborough and the surrounding North Northamptonshire countryside next month and tickets are selling fast.

The prestigious event takes place from 13th to 15th May and the team at North Northamptonshire Council are working hard with partner organisations and a dedicated team of volunteers to ensure the event is a success.

The International Waendel Walk is the only event of its kind in the country and will start on the evening of Friday 13th May with two Friendship Walks of 5km and 10km. These walks are followed by a weekend of different routes through

Wellingborough and the surrounding villages ranging from 5km through to 42km. The weekend begins with live music on the Friday evening in the grounds of the Castle Theatre, prior to the start of the Friendship Walk.

Across Saturday and Sunday, the live music continues along with sports, fun activities for all the family and entertainment at the Castle Theatre – the start and finish point of all walks.

Cllr Helen Howell, the council's Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "The whole team have worked so hard, I want to thank and congratulate them on what is surely going to be a fantastic event. It's so exciting that the International Waendel Walk is back and now only a month away."

"The Friendship Walks on Friday 13th May are not to

be missed, with live music and activities in the grounds of the Castle Theatre before the walk starts. The live music and entertainment will continue into Saturday and Sunday and I am sure there will be a great atmosphere across the weekend."

"If you haven't signed up yet, registration is open until 3pm on 13th May and we also accept bookings on the day, so you have plenty of time to decide what route is best for you."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of NNC, added: "The team have been working hard alongside a dedicated team of volunteers and partners. We couldn't put the event on

without their help, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. All we need now is you, so please do join us on the weekend of 13th-15th May and take part in one, or more, of the walks."

"There really is a walk for everyone from the 5km walks which are suitable for buggies and wheelchairs through to the long distances which take you through our stunning North Northamptonshire countryside."

Further information about parking and more details about the arrangements over the weekend will be added to the Waendel Walk page on the NNC website and shared on the council's social media.

To find out more and register to take part, please visit [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/WaendelWalk](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/WaendelWalk) and follow the links.



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## APRIL

Thur 28 Southwold & Suffolk Tour  
Sat 30 Oxford or Oxford Castle

## MAY

Sun 1 Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair  
Mon 2 Bakewell Bank Holiday Market  
Mon 2 Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza  
Wed 4 Bury St Edmunds Market Day  
Sat 7 Lincoln  
Sat 7 Malvern Spring Show  
Mon 9 Derbyshire & Peak District  
Wed 11 Lion King or Only Fools & Horses  
Fri 13 Stamford Market & Grantham  
Sat 14 Hunstanton  
Sat 14 Keighley & Worth Valley Railway  
Tue 17 Springfield or Spalding  
Wed 18 Wye Valley River Cruise with Lunch  
Thu 19 London Museums or free time  
Fri 20 Savill Gardens  
Sat 21 Clacton  
Sun 22 Camden Market  
Tue 24 Mystery Tour - Full day  
Thu 26 Constable Country & Essex  
Sun 29 Brighton  
Mon 30 Cotswold Farm Park - Adam Hensons  
Tue 31 Family Seaside Mystery

## JUNE

Thu 2 Trooping the Colour, Queen's Jubilee  
Fri 3 Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport  
Sat 4 Skegness  
Sun 5 Jubilee Pageant for Queen's Jubilee  
Tue 7 Melton Mowbray Market Day  
Wed 8 Sheringham & NNRW  
Thu 9 Horse Sanctuary & Norwich  
Sat 11 Hunstanton  
Sun 12 Great Yarmouth  
Tue 14 Hyde Hall Gardens & Cream Tea  
Wed 15 Nottingham Cruise & Lunch  
Sat 18 Cromer  
Sun 19 Gardeners World & Good Food Show  
Tue 21 Salisbury Market Day  
Fri 24 National Arboretum & Lichfield  
Fri 24 National Arboretum  
Sun 26 Coronation Street Tour  
Sun 26 Swanage  
Tue 28 Windsor Luxury Afternoon Tea Cruise

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TAURUS Holidays

## JUNE

### 5th-9th - HISTORY WITH MYSTERY IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

New Lanark Mill Hotel, Half Board, includes excursions £539pp. New Lanark is an exceptional example of a purpose-built 18th century mill village, set in a picturesque Scottish landscape near the Falls of Clyde, where in the early 19th century the Utopian idealist Robert Owen (1771-1858) inspired a model industrial community based on textile production and formulated his Utopian vision of a society without crime, poverty, and misery. Includes guided tour of Drumlanrig Castle & Country Estate, and many more attractions.

### 12th-18th - RAIL & SAIL IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS

The Winnock Hotel, Drymen. Half Board, includes excursions £629pp. In the Trossachs and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park you will enjoy a 2-hour cruise on Loch Katrine. We visit the iconic Falkirk Wheel for a boat trip on wheel and canal, the heritage Bo'ness & Kinnel steam railway, the most scenic rail journey in the world and a day exploring Loch Lomond for shopping, followed by a 2 hour cruise on the loch.

## AUGUST

### 8th-12th - EDINBURGH TATTOO

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Nene Education Trust's focus is raising aspirations and developing character in a positive environment.

*The Nene Education Trust is a local network of schools based within East Northants & Wellingborough.*

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## Who we are



## School visits to Nene Park

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## North Northamptonshire Council

**Notice is given that the following applications have been received by North Northamptonshire Council – Thrapston Office together with the last date for making representations:**

> **FOTHERINGHAY**

Internal and external alteration works to allow for conversion of two dwellings to singular dwelling; demolition of existing rear extension; addition of single storey extension, and changes to fenestration at 26 Main Street Fotheringhay Peterborough PE8 5HZ (**LBRegs**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00397/LBC (24 May 2022)**

Conversion of two dwellings to one dwelling; addition of single storey extension, internal and external alterations including changes to fenestration at 26 Main Street Fotheringhay Peterborough PE8 5HZ (**Info**) (**LB/CA**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00396/FUL (24 May 2022)**

> **RUSHDEN**

Erection of a 4 storey building to provide 12 flats. Ground floor area to provide allocated underground and external car parking at 29 Fitzwilliam Street Rushden NN10 9YW (**Info**) (**Part3**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00039/FUL (24 May 2022)**

Creation of 33 Flats and 3 Townhouses, combination of new build and conversion. Demolition of some buildings on site. Change of use of the majority of the site from retail to residential at 4 Higham Road Rushden NN10 6DZ (**Info**) (**Part3**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00432/FUL (24 May 2022)**

Change of use (from E offices to C3 residential) creation of 3no. 1-bedroom flats, replacement

of existing windows and doors with timber sash units (first floor rear windows to include juliette balcony); replacement of front window with timber entrance door, new timber doors to refuse and cycle store and external alterations (Re-submission of NE/21/01675/FUL) at 15-17 Church Street Rushden NN10 9YU (**Info**) (**LB/CA**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00442/FUL (24 May 2022)**

> **BULWICK**

Replacement of existing timber fence with stone wall at 12 Main Street Bulwick Corby NN17 3DY (**Info**) (**LB/CA**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00480/FUL (24 May 2022)**

(**LBRegs**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00481/LBC (24 May 2022)**

> **EASTON ON THE HILL**

Internal and external alteration works to make dwelling habitable including essential repairs to the roof; addition of new roof lights; re-instatement of original blocked windows; new kitchen and bathroom; new boiler and under floor heating; demolition of garage and outbuildings at 3 The Lane Easton On The Hill Stamford PE9 3LP (**LBRegs**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00468/LBC (24 May 2022)** (**Info**) (**LB/CA**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00525/FUL (24 May 2022)**

> **KINGS CLIFFE**

Change of use of land to the west of Jacks Green at Rockingham Forest Park to provide a range of tourist accommodation (caravan lodges) along with the construction of a facilities building, with supporting infrastructure, including hard standing bases with drainage and service provision and landscape planting at Rockingham Forest Park Wansford Road Kings

Cliffe Peterborough PE8 6FR (**Info**) (**Part3**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00266/FUL (24 May 2022)**

> **HARRINGWORTH**

Installation of No.20 solar panels, one garage door and one air conditioning unit to a curtilage listed building at Lime Grange Barns Wakerley Road Harringworth Corby NN17 3AH (**LBRegs**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00460/LBC (24 May 2022)**

Remove modern front door and glazed side panels. Build porch extension. (Revised resubmission to NE/21/00914/FUL) at Limes Farm House Wakerley Road Harringworth Corby NN17 3AH (**Info**) (**LB/CA**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00431/FUL (24 May 2022)**

Remove modern front door and glazed side panels. Build porch extension. (Revised resubmission to NE/21/00920/LBC) at Limes Farm House Wakerley Road Harringworth Corby NN17 3AH (**LBRegs**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00425/LBC (24 May 2022)**

> **OUNDLE**

Demolition of the existing sports hall, creation of a new landscaped plaza opposite the main entrance, a new sports hall for school and community use including school exams, alterations to the existing car park for school buses and cars, including a new traffic island, pupil drop-off and collection area, and safe crossing points at Prince William School Herne Road Oundle Peterborough PE8 4BS (**Info**) (**Part3**) (**Info**) **NE/22/00305/FUL (24 May 2022)**

> **TITCHMARSH**

Addition of solar panels to existing buildings. 4x on valley gutter facing south behind front section of main house roof; 5x on low garage facing into

# NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

**The reason for applications being advertised is as follows:**

**Part3 – Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.**

**Part16 – Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015.**

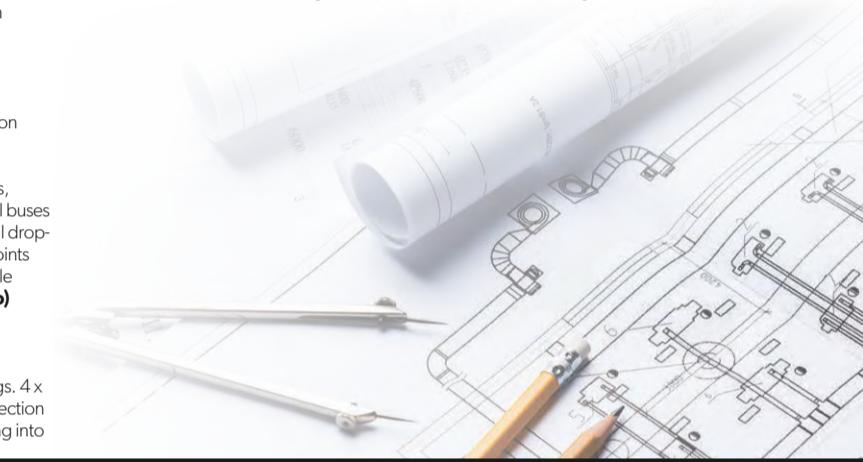
**Info – Non-statutory – included for information only.**

**LB/CA – Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990).**

**LBRegs – Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990.**

**Rob Harbour, Assistant Director Growth And Regeneration**

Dated 30 April 2022



**Consultation deadlines will differ for each application. You can see details of these applications at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications).**

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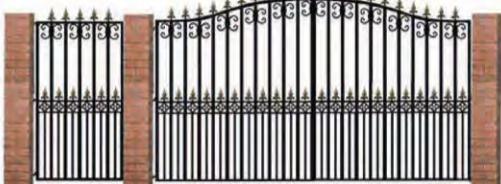
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## Family NOTICES

Nene Valley News can help you make those important family announcements.



Walker, Aaron/  
Hunt, Nicola  
Married on April 2 2014,  
at St Andrews Church.  
The couple had their  
honeymoon in Paris.

Happy 1st  
Birthday



Chloe Booth have a  
wonderful day.  
Love from Mummy, Daddy,  
Nanna & Grandad xxx

For help and information to place your notice please call  
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
(RINGSTEAD/KINGS CLIFFE / ACHURCH)

(30 MPH, 40 MPH & 50 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order under Sections 82, 83, 84 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit any motor vehicle from travelling at a speed exceeding 30 mph or 40 mph or 50 mph along those lengths of roads as specified in the Schedules below.

A COPY of the Order may be inspected at Northamptonshire Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 883445. A copy of the Order can also be obtained on request by emailing pgill@kierwsp.co.uk If you wish to question the validity of the Order or of any provisions contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act, or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may, within six weeks from the date of this Notice apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The Order become effective on 2nd May 2022.

Dated this 30th day of April 2022

DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES

Executive Director, Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd

P/1846

SCHEDULE 1 (30 mph Speed Limit)

1. Station Road, Ringstead – which extends from a point 44 metres west of the centre of its junction with Kinewell Close for a distance of 85 metres in a westerly direction.
2. Blatherwycke Road, Kingscliff – which extends from a point 52 metres west of its junction with Wood Lane for a distance of 77 metres in a westerly direction.

SCHEDULE 2 (40 mph Speed Limit)

1. Lilford Road, Achurch – which extends from a point 660 metres south west from its junction with Pilton Road for a distance of 496 metres in a south westerly direction.
2. Church Lane, Achurch – for its entire length.

SCHEDULE 3 (50 mph Speed Limit)

1. Denford Road, Ringstead – which extends from a point 248 metres north-east of its junction with Back Lane to its junction with Ringstead Road, Denford.
2. Ringstead Road, Denford – from its junction with Denford Road to a point 172 metres south of School Lane.

### NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(CHILDS STREET, DENFORD)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Child Street, Denford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Child Street, Denford from High Street to Front Street.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of new mains.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 8th June 2022 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted until 8th June 2022.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use High Street and Front Street.  
If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 - N569 on 01604 651072.

PKG/T22/254

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14  
(VARIOUS ROADS, WOODFORD, GREAT ADDINGTON, RINGSTEAD,  
DENFORD, THRAPSTON & ISLIP)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Thrapston Road, Woodford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Thrapston Road, Woodford from the junction with Alledged Drive to the junction with Kettering Road, Islip.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during new water connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 3rd May 2022 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted until 5th May 2022.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Thrapston Road, High Street, Addington Road, Woodford; Woodford Road, Main Street and Ringstead Road, Great Addington; Addington Road, Station Road, Church Street and Denford Road, Ringstead; Ringstead Road, High Street, Thrapston Road and Midland Road, Denford; Midland Road and Bridge Street, Thrapston; Kettering Road, Islip.

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp ref:- 21/22 - N569 on 01604 651072.

PKG/T22/190

Dated this 30th day of April 2022

DEBBIE CARTER-HUGHES

Executive Director, Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd

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# Scheme to eliminate sexual harassment launches in Northamptonshire

The first bars, pubs and clubs in the county to have achieved Shout-Up! certification have been announced.

**Shout-Up!** will be delivered by Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and funded by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold.

The scheme seeks to upskill those working in Northamptonshire's night-time economy so they can identify sexual harassment and intervene safely.

The Picturedrome, The Old White Hart, and NB's Cocktail Bar and Club in Northampton are the first venues to have had all their staff complete Bystander Intervention Training to be able to spot sexual harassment and make situations safe. The training comes ahead of a wider campaign by the commissioner to target violence against women and girls.

Certification, which lasts for two years with six-

monthly assessments, also requires establishments to have a publicly available sexual harassment policy, to implement practices that protect staff and patrons from sexual harassment and have a documented procedure for dealing with incidents.

And it is anticipated that this trio of bars will be the first of many to fulfil these requirements and declare themselves 'sexual harassment-free zones'.

As part of Shout-Up! (which originally started in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2017, with Northamptonshire the first area outside the North East to adopt it), certified venues must:

- have all staff complete Bystander Intervention Training
- write and share sexual harassment policies

protecting staff and patrons have a publicly available procedure for dealing with incidents of sexual harassment commit to making their venue a sexual harassment-free zone display visible signage explaining their participation in the scheme and what patrons can expect to happen in the event of sexual harassment

- commit to undertake six-monthly reviews on policies, procedures and training that they must pass to retain their certification.

A total of 40 individuals have been through the rigorous process so far, and more are due to complete shortly.

Commissioner Mold said: "I'm really happy to support in the funding of this Shout-Up! training and it comes

ahead of a wider campaign we have coming up that specifically targets and tries to prevent violence against women and girls.

"Sexual harassment has a huge impact on the lives of those who have suffered from it, and as the commissioner I need to ensure we make Northamptonshire as safe as it can be for everyone who lives or works here.

"This training will help hospitality staff to recognise the potential signs and trigger points of sexual harassment, to intervene in a safe manner and offer appropriate support to victims. Ultimately, we hope it will help Northampton to provide a safer and more enjoyable night out for everyone."

Suzi Keeping, Director of both The Picturedrome and The Old White Hart Inn said: "We're thrilled to have our venues be the first to take part in the Shout-Up! campaign.



We have a zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment in our venues and are proud to be able to celebrate that by becoming Shout-Up! verified.

"It is so important to us that all our customers and staff come into the venue feeling safe, with nothing else to think about but the great night ahead. There is no place in Northampton's nightlife scene for sexual harassment.

Everyone should get on board to show it's not welcome in this town.

"Shout-Up! training also enables pubs and venues to understand how they can intervene for their staff too, as too often harassment of staff is normalised. We look forward to working with venues in the coming months to protect their staff and patrons from harassment."

**Any venue that wishes to become part of Shout-Up! can find out more about joining at [shoutup.org/venues](http://shoutup.org/venues)**



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