

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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UNDERGOES A
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Annual inflationary uplifts discussed

North Northamptonshire Council's Executive discussed annual inflationary uplifts to current fee rates for its commissioned adult social care providers at a meeting on 13th March. The council has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to shape a diverse and sustainable residential and nursing care market.

The council has reviewed uplifts across the full range of adults and older peoples' community-based provision. The total uplift for 2025/26 amounts to £4.095m, with figures calculated based on current commitment levels, comprising the following uplift fee payments:

- 5% for older people's residential care
- 5% for older peoples' dementia residential care
- 17% for older peoples' nursing care (excluding funded nursing care)
- 17% for older peoples' dementia nursing care (excl funded nursing care)
- 5% for working age adults' residential care
- 3.5% for supported living providers
- 3.5% for day opportunities
- 3.85% Independent living framework (extracare)
- 6.73% for direct payments where personal assistants are employed

Fish population boosted

Rushden Town Council is pleased to announce that it has been working with the Environment Agency on a Fisheries Improvement Programme. The National Coarse Fish Rearing Unit at Calverton in Nottinghamshire breeds coarse fish for release into rivers and still waters across England to help boost fish populations.

In 2024, the fish rearing unit produced and stocked 510,488 fish into waterways around the country – an

increase of 6.5% on the previous year.

As part of this project week 600 young bream and roach

were put into the Mallards, off Centaine Road. Rushden's Mayor, Cllr David Colman was on hand to help, together with



his granddaughter Ophelia. Three of the young fish have now been officially named Peter Parker, Spiderman and Sebby by Ophelia!

As part of an 18-month project, further work is to be carried out to place bound willow bundles on the edge

of the ponds to help bank stabilisation, a traditional technique used for the prevention of bank erosion, known as spiling.

A programme of weed control will also be undertaken throughout the growing season.

If you would like any further information regarding this project, contact Paul@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01933 316216.

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Successful allocations of secondary school places in North Northamptonshire

Children starting Year 7 in England and Wales in September 2025 have been finding out about school places this month.

A total of 4,216 secondary school places for this academic year have been allocated to pupils across North Northamptonshire.

This shows a consistent trend in the number of applications received each year in the last three years, with 4,292 in 2024 and 4,225 in 2023.

The online portal remains the most popular method of applying, with 99% of applications submitted this way in 2025.

North Northamptonshire Council is pleased to announce that over 95.5% of applicants have received a place at one of their preference schools. This is

slightly fewer than the 96.5% of applicants from 2024, but more than 95.2% in 2023.

The following figures apply to applicants' first, second and third preferences:

- 83.16% of applicants have been allocated a place at their first preference – up 0.15% on last year.

- 9.98% of applicants have been allocated a place at their second preference – slightly fewer applicants getting second preference compared to 2024 10.51%
- 2.42% have been allocated a place at their third preference – slightly fewer applicants getting second preference compared to 2023 at 3.05%

Families who applied for their secondary school place online before the closing date of 31st October 2023 are able to check their offer online.

Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills said: "It really is good news to see a higher percentage of children in North Northamptonshire getting a place at their first preference school in 2025 compared to previous years.

"It is also very reassuring to

see that there is a consistency in the number of children being allocated one of their preferred schools year on year.

"I wish all the children every success with their journeys into and through secondary education."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "The council recognises the important role education plays in the development of every child, and I am very pleased that 95% of applicants have received a place at one of their preferred secondary schools.

"North Northamptonshire benefits from high quality school provision and we are committed to continuous improvement around access and quality standards to ensure children have the very best secondary education."

Parents have a statutory right to appeal (through the independent admission appeals process) against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied.

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

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY JAN PEARSON

One of the hardest things when researching your family history is to decide which line to follow first. We have 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, 16 great, great grandparents – and so on, and it is not difficult to become confused... especially if you have the same or similar surnames cropping up. It is very easy to get carried away and try to follow all of the lines at once. If you suddenly hit a rich seam of ancestors – one branch of my lot stayed in the same place for 400 years and so all their baptisms, marriages and burials were at the same church – it is very tempting just to steam ahead.

This is all very well but they were people with individual lives, not just a list of names. Take the time to explore them further to find out about them and any stories that you can, moving on to another line when you have exhausted all avenues... for the time being! I say for the time being as there will always be loose ends and, what might not be available to you at the moment may well be in a few years' time. I waited 7 years to find out about my great, great grandfather's suicide as the local newspaper that held the coroner's report



was too fragile for the public to handle. I had to wait until it was digitised.

So, which line do you pick? It may well be that you have heard interesting stories about a female in your ancestry and so decide to follow females down a particular line – your grandmother, great grandmother, great, great grandmother etc. Or maybe you have an uncommon surname. Growing up, the only Milsteads of which we were aware were us! Not a common name where we lived but upon researching I discovered that there were loads of them in Kent and Bristol! It certainly made researching easier than my grandmother's Smith family... Whatever you choose, take it steady and you will reap rewards.

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Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets blueprint for biodiversity

North Northamptonshire has become the first area in the region and the second in the country to publish its Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The LNRS serves as a blueprint for how biodiversity can be protected, restored and enhanced across the area. It links green spaces to improve wildlife movement and strengthen the area's resilience to climate change.

Through collaboration, it is intended that this strategy will help guide all in North Northamptonshire on ways to support nature recovery. It will provide landowners with options for what they could do on their land, and to better target investment and funding.

The remit of the strategy is not to tell people what they can do, or change what land is designated for, but will inform decision making through location and design of land use changes.

North Northamptonshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy was officially introduced at a launch event on 5th March, at Stanwick Lakes, with Council members, environmental experts and other key partners in attendance.

Cllr Helen Harrison, the council's Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment, opened the event, followed by presentations from Natural England and local partners.

North Northamptonshire Council, the authority responsible for producing the LNRS, has collaborated with local communities, environmental bodies, and stakeholders. By leveraging their expertise and local knowledge, they have identified priority areas for nature

recovery and designed practical actions that will have the most meaningful impact.

The strategy, which went out to public consultation in late 2024, focuses on key areas within North Northamptonshire, including Rockingham Forest, Nene Valley and Ise Valley.

Priorities include restoring ancient woodlands, protecting internationally important wetlands and supporting species such as the red-shanked carder bee, hazel dormouse, water vole and the curlew.

This initiative is part of a broader national effort driven by the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Act 2021, which mandates the creation of LNRSs across the country. In total, 48 responsible authorities are preparing strategies that will cover every place in England.

Natural England, the Government's adviser on nature, has a statutory quality assurance role and is working with all 48 local authorities to ensure that every strategy meets high standards.

The launch of the LNRS is just the beginning. The council's immediate next step is to use the strategy as a foundation for applying for funding, including grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other key sources.

Working in partnership with local environmental organisations and local stakeholders, the council aims to begin implementing key actions identified in the strategy.

North Northamptonshire Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be viewed on the council's website.

Ambitious strategy for economic growth across North Northamptonshire considered at Executive

A new strategy which looks at economic growth in North Northamptonshire is set to be approved.

Setting out the strategic outcomes and priorities in the local area for the next five years, the new strategy has been co-designed with representatives across the business sector and will help to deliver the Big50 vision for North Northamptonshire.

The strategy is founded on three 'pillars' for action, focused on:

- **Business:** Supporting business growth leading to the creation of sustainable employment with opportunities for progression and higher pay.
- **People:** Developing the workforce and supporting people into work including those disadvantaged.
- **Places:** Enhancing North Northamptonshire's offer for business, visitors and residents.

It also sets out specific priorities for action over the next five years and attendees at a Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce event, which took place on Thursday 6th March, had the opportunity to learn more about the strategy, ahead of approval by the Executive.

Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and

Regeneration, said: "The economy has changed substantially over the last few years and it is vital that we do all we can to support growth in North Northamptonshire by tackling challenges and seizing opportunities."

"This strategy sets out key priorities and actions on topics important to growth including the need to attract inward investment, raise skill levels, and help existing businesses to grow. It builds on our strengths but also seeks to develop our offer to other sectors such as digital technology."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "We have always had a strong vision for the local area, and this is highlighted within the work we are doing on Big50. But there is always more that can be done. This is best achieved by working together. That's why we have been working collaboratively with stakeholders, including local business leaders, and other partners on creating this document."

Following approval, the strategy will be published on the council's website and a North Northamptonshire Economic Ambition Board will be established to help drive forward the strategy and actions.

As we went to press, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive was due to meet on Thursday 13th March.

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Fri 21 Royal Mews & Free Time
Thu 27 Canterbury OR Canterbury Cathedral
Fri 28 Stratford Upon Avon

APRIL

Sat 5 Norwich
Tue 8 Black Country Museum
Tue 8 Dudley Zoo
Wed 9 London Museums or Free Time
Wed 9 Tower of London
Thu 10 Fakenham & Sheringham
Thu 10 Little Venice to Camden Lock
Fri 18 Birdland Park, Gardens & Model Village
Sat 19 Banbury Market Day
Sun 20 Skegness
Mon 21 Great Yarmouth - Bank Holiday
Wed 23 Hereford Market Day
Wed 23 Hereford Cathedral
Sat 26 Oxford
Sat 26 Oxford Castle
Wed 30 Bury St Edmunds Market Day

MAY

Sat 3 Carriages of Cambridge with St Ives
Sun 4 Lincoln
Sun 4 Tina Turner
Thu 8 Les Misérables
Thu 8 Living Crafts Hatfield House
Fri 9 Stamford Market & Boundary Mills
Sat 10 Malvern Spring Show
Sat 10 Springfield
Sat 10 Spalding Flower Parade
Sun 11 Hunstanton
Mon 12 Derbyshire & Peak District
Wed 14 Wye Valley River Cruise & Lunch
Sat 17 Clacton on Sea
Sun 18 Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair
Sun 18 Camden Markets
Wed 21 Mystery Full Day & Lunch
Sat 24 Warwick Market Day
Sat 24 Hovercraft Experience to Ryde
Sun 25 Brighton
Mon 26 Twycross Zoo - Bank Holiday
Tue 27 Coventry Market Day
Tue 27 Coventry Transport Museum
Wed 28 Battersea Power Station Lift Tour & Shopping (New shopping Destination)
Fri 29 Family Seaside Mystery
Fri 30 Cannon Hall Farm
Sat 31 Call the Midwife Chatham Dock Yard
Sat 31 Rochester
Sat 31 Skegness

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Holidays

MAY

5-9 MAY
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18-22 MAY
A VICTORIAN STEAM JOURNEY - £659pp

The Winnock Hotel, Drymen. Half Board including excursions. Drymen is an attractive village located in the beautiful Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The park consists of 40 mountains ranging from 2500ft to over 3000ft, 22 lochs, 50 rivers and The Argyll Forest Park and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The Campsie Fells hills are to the west of Drymen. Excursions include 2hr cruise on Loch Katrine, boat on Loch Lomond, ride on Falkirk Wheel and Bo'ness and Kinnell Steam Railway with afternoon tea.

JUNE

8-14 JUNE
BANTRY AND THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY - £899pp

The Maritime Hotel, Bantry. Half Board including excursions. Bantry is in the heart of West Cork and is a region of lush vegetation, palm trees and semi-tropical flowers. Hemmed in by high mountain ridges, an azure blue sea and cascading mountain streams, it is a place of unparalleled beauty where the landscape changes with every mood of wind and sky. In this breath-taking mountain scenery, with meandering streams, lakes and woods, where megalithic monuments and ruins of monastic settlements dot the countryside, visitors can find peace and tranquillity.

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Spotlight on > Farmers' Markets

> HIGHAM FARMERS' MARKET

Higham Ferrers Farmers' Market is held in the historic Market Square between 9am and 1pm on the last Saturday of each month, except December when it is usually the last



available Saturday before Christmas.

The Farmers' Market is a very successful monthly event which is celebrating its 23rd birthday on 26th April. There are around 20 stalls providing a great variety of produce and many award

winning traders. Some produce varies depending on the season and farming schedules but always includes a great range of meat, poultry, eggs, pies, cheese, bread, cakes, sweet treats, honey, chutney, chilli sauces, olives, hot drinks and fruit and vegetables.

Buying from local producers means you can ask them direct questions about their products and get advice or even recipe ideas from these friendly and helpful traders.

The market creates a lovely atmosphere in the town throughout the year and there are often extras such as craft stalls, charity stalls and a Christmas band and hog roast in December.

> FRESH PRODUCE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Oundle Farmers' Market is held in the Market Place on the second Saturday of each month between 8am and 2pm. The market supplies a wide range of fresh, local produce including meat, fish, eggs, cheese, sourdough, vegan baked



goods, Turkish street food, stuffed flatbreads, pies, cakes, hog roast, locally roasted coffee and much more.

There's a lot on offer to tempt you and all the stall holders are ready to answer any questions you have about their goods.

Why not make a day of it and visit one of the many



independent cafés, shops and restaurants, take a stroll along the River Nene or follow the Heritage Trail. With free car parks, and a convenient and regular bus route on the X4, there is lots to enjoy. Take a look at loveOundle.org to find out how you can make the most of your visit.

> THRAPSTON FARMERS' MARKET

Thrapston Farmers' Market is held on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm, on the vibrant and historic High Street in Thrapston. Visit for local food producers including Brockleby's Pies, Welsh Bakes, Replete Flatbreads, The Confectionist and Nature's Fayre, as well as a fresh fish van straight from Grimsby fisheries. Fairly new to the market is Country Kitchen which serves huge, handmade Scotch Eggs, sausage rolls and quiches – perfect picnic fare.

One of the most loved stalls is The Square Choux which serves authentic Caribbean curries, plantain parcels and an impressive range of choux pastry desserts. For those following a gluten-free diet, Bakeworks Co. offers sweet and savoury bakes to suit. In season you can find Perky Plants, a plant nursery from Mears Ashby. Ideal for Saturday nights in, Alvi's Indian Food serves authentic curries, giant bhajis and samosas. You'll discover more stalls when you visit.



JANUARY	25th	JULY	26th
FEBRUARY	22nd	AUGUST	30th
MARCH	29th	SEPTEMBER	27th
APRIL	26th	OCTOBER	25th
MAY	31st	NOVEMBER	29th
JUNE	28th	DECEMBER	20th



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2025 DATES

11 January	12 July
8 February	9 August
8 March	13 September
12 April	11 October
10 May	8 November
14 June	13 December



STALLS INCLUDE:

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Sarah Whiteside, Donna Thomas, Charlotte Croser and Lindsey Burch

The market is known amongst the traders for being one of the friendliest in the region, thanks to it being a community-run market. All proceeds from the market go back into the town in the form of supporting good causes, High Street renovations and community events.

Join us? Thrapston Farmers' Market is actively

seeking more stallholders! Do you produce, rear or grow food or drink in the region? They offer a free trial and competitive rent, a well-attended market with good footfall and a helpful organising team.

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Thrapston High Street First Saturdays 9am-1pm

THRAPSTON FARMERS MARKET

2025 Dates

April 5th	August 2nd
May 3rd	Sept 6th
June 7th	October 4th
July 5th	November 1st
December 6th	

Locally produced food & drink stalls on a High Street packed with independent shops & eateries. A lovely morning out!

NEW STALLS WANTED!

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Council trials out-of-hours service for reporting unauthorised encampments

North Northamptonshire Council is undertaking a trial of an out-of-hours service to attend to reports of unauthorised encampments within the local area.

Unauthorised encampments are temporary accommodation, such as caravans and other vehicles or tents, on land without the landowner or occupier's consent and constituting trespass. Residents can now report unauthorised encampments on council-owned or managed land outside of the council's normal working hours (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday).

The trial is being managed by the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit (NTU) and uses the services of a contractor.

Out of hours, any unauthorised encampments that are reported will be

attended. The contractor will then conduct a full assessment, including statutory health and welfare checks on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council. This will enable the NTU to make a prompt decision on how to manage the encampment the next working day. This will also allow the NTU to refer or signpost any occupants requiring health or welfare support to partner agencies more quickly.

Cllr David Howes, the council's Executive Member for Rural Communities and Localism, said: "The NTU works extremely hard during normal working hours, alongside partners, to provide a one-stop point of access for the public, businesses and agencies and occupants of encampments across North Northants.

"This trial will, hopefully, allow the team to work quicker to resolve any issues that might come through out of hours and reduce the problems typically associated with encampments."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "As a council, we have a duty to consider the needs of all residents, both temporary and permanent, and in this case, it means the NTU balancing the needs of the occupants of the encampment with the impact on the surrounding area. Officers always consider a variety of factors and removing an encampment is always seen as a necessary last resort."

The out-of-hours service is currently being trialled between the hours of 5pm and 8pm on weekdays, and between 8:40am and 5pm during weekends and Bank Holidays.

For more details on the service and how to report unauthorised encampments, please visit the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit (NTU) page on the council website.



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Skate Park grand opening

Raunds Town Council is excited to invite the community to the grand opening of the brand-new Raunds Skate Park and Pump Track on Saturday 22nd March, from 11am to 4pm at Amos Lawrence Park. This long-awaited facility, which opened at the end of February 2025, marks a significant investment in the town's recreational offering.

The opening event will feature thrilling sports entertainment, including competitions for skateboarders, BMX riders, and scooter enthusiasts, with prizes to be won. Professional demo riders will showcase their skills before the main competitions, and an MC and judging panel will ensure an exciting experience for all.

Adding to the excitement, Tokyo 2020 Olympic BMX freestyle bronze medallist Declan Brooks will be in attendance until 1.30pm to perform tricks and participate in a meet-and-greet with fans.

Mayor of Raunds, Councillor Paul Byrne, expressed his

enthusiasm for the event:

"The grand opening will be a momentous occasion for Raunds. Our new skate park and pump track provide an incredible space for young people to get active, hone their skills, and build friendships. It has been a long journey, but the result is a fantastic facility that will benefit the community for generations to come."

In addition to the competitions and demos, the event will also offer free skateboard coaching at 11am for children and families who want to give it a go. A dedicated team will provide all the necessary equipment.

Freedom Leisure will also be present with a stand promoting their fantastic local leisure offerings. Attendees will be able to collect free vouchers for family swims at Splash or Nene Centre and racquet sports at Pemberton Centre, perfect for the school Easter Holidays.

Councillor Ollie Curtis, Chairman of the Environment, Leisure, and Recreation Committee, emphasised the



community impact of the initiative: "The Town Council has worked tirelessly alongside the community to bring this skate park to life, and the result is outstanding. It's a facility that will serve local riders for years to come, helping to make Raunds an even better place to live, work, and play. The grand opening event will be a great opportunity for the local community to come together, celebrate this fantastic new facility, and enjoy some friendly competition."

Safety Reminder: All riders participating in the competitions or coaching sessions must wear appropriate protective gear.

Don't miss this historic event. See you there!

Council continues climate change work with further projects in the pipeline

Having committed the £1m earmarked to support North Northamptonshire Council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030, projects continue to progress at pace.

In recent weeks, a project to reduce the carbon emissions at Redwell Leisure Centre and a proposal to assess the council's supply chain emissions have been given the internal go-ahead.

The supply chain assessment will help quantify the council's wider carbon footprint in relation to emissions from its supply chain, also known as Scope 3 emissions. The analysis will identify key areas for improvement and how the council can actively reduce such emissions.

The works at Redwell Leisure Centre in Wellingborough will see 273 halogen light fittings replaced with LED alternatives, this work will reduce energy consumption and costs to the council.

Other projects that have been delivered include the purchase of 300 battery-operated tools for the council's ground maintenance team and funding to support a Public Sector Decarbonisation bid, which leveraged £3.8m in external funding.

These projects follow on from the recent adoption of the first Climate Change Strategy for North Northamptonshire, in February 2025, which outlines its vision, approach, and key areas of focus to address the effects of climate change locally over the next five years. Feedback from stakeholder interviews and the formal public consultation last autumn was used to shape the Strategy.

Now the Strategy has been approved, funds will

be committed to help ensure that the development of a roadmap to net zero action plan is delivered at pace.

Alongside the approval of the Strategy, and continuation of internal projects to help reduce the council's carbon footprint, Glamis Hall was awarded £31,000 through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for local Green Skills training. A variety of courses themed around carbon reduction are now available to book.

Additionally, the council has been awarded £2,895,000 from the Local Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to install a network of charge points across North Northamptonshire – one of the first areas in the country to receive funding. It also received £552,859 from the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant to upgrade traffic signal systems and replace unreliable and obsolete equipment.

Cllr Helen Harrison, the council's Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment, said: "We know that actions speak louder than words and we are determined to show that our climate strategy is more than just a document - it is the green thread that runs through the organisation."

"From our ground maintenance teams using battery powered tools which will not only reduce our carbon emissions, but also improve air quality whilst the equipment is in use through to the delivery of a roadmap of our Net Zero action plan. Across the council, officers are working on a variety of projects which when they all come together will make a significant impact on reducing our carbon footprint."


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YOUR HEALTH - JAW PAIN

WORDS BY
CLAIRE SHORT

Jaw pain can be surprisingly miserable. It's not just about chewing – it can cause headaches, ear pain, neck tension, and even make you feel like you've been punched in the face.

Osteopath Georgie McGahey, who specialises in jaw pain, explains: "Most people don't realise how much tension they hold in their jaw. Clenching, grinding, stress – it all adds up and can lead to pain, clicking, and even lockjaw."

What causes jaw pain?

- Teeth Grinding & Clenching – Stress often makes us clench our jaws (usually without realising). Over time, this overworks the muscles and leads to pain.
- Injury or Trauma – A knock to the jaw or face can throw things out of alignment.
- Posture Problems – Sitting hunched over a screen with



your chin jutting forward puts strain on the jaw and neck.

- Dental Issues – Missing teeth, misalignment, or even a dodgy filling can contribute.

What does it feel like?

- Aching or stiffness in the jaw, face, or neck.
- Clicking, popping, or locking when opening your mouth or chewing.
- Headaches or ear pain
- Feeling like your jaw doesn't quite "fit" properly.

Two ways to help yourself:

1. Try the 'Relaxed Tongue' Trick
- Rest your tongue on the roof

of your mouth, just behind your front teeth.

- Keep your lips together but teeth slightly apart.
 - Breathe through your nose.
 - This helps switch off tension in your jaw muscles.
2. See an Osteopath
 - Osteopathic treatment can release tight jaw muscles, improve movement, and even ease related headaches.
 - As Georgie says: "Most people feel relief after just one session – it's like giving your jaw a holiday!"

So, if your jaw's been giving you grief, don't just grin and bear it!

Have a smiley week!

Claire Short is a Registered Osteopath, and runs The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers. Send your questions to claire@ashgrovehealth.co.uk

Is your community group looking for guest speakers?

At Wilson Browne Solicitors we offer free information sessions to local care homes, organisations or community groups (such as the WI, sporting clubs, day centres) where residents, the community, members, friends and family can come along, listen and ask questions.



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- Professional Deputies
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Nene Valley News - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 16TH MARCH, 10.15AM

Whitefriars Church Morning Worship

Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> FOUR WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT INCLUDING 19TH AND 26TH MARCH, 12.30PM

Rushden & Higham Ferrers Council Churches Lent Lunches

Comprising soup and a roll – will be held in St Mary's Church Hall in Rushden town centre. Followed by a short time of prayer. All welcome.

> MONDAY 17TH MARCH, 8PM

A presentation by Joe Hunt and Bob Baldwin about the Rosalind Franklin Mars Rover

Chelveston Village Hall, Caldecott Road Chelveston NN9 6AT. Admission £5, including tea/coffee and biscuits. For further details contact Kevin on 07731890594. An exciting European Space Agency mission, looking for signs of past or present life.

> SUNDAY 23RD MARCH, 10.15AM

Whitefriars Church Morning Worship

Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX. Followed by a farewell event for the nearby Bridge Community Office.

> SATURDAY 29TH MARCH, 10AM

Volunteering event

Midshires Covert, Kelmarsh Road, Harrington,

NN6 9ND – including food cooked on the campfire. Details on 07943 307873.

> SUNDAY 30TH MARCH, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Angela 07981 049389. 5-mile walk Kettering to Weekly.

> FRIDAY 4TH APRIL, 2PM

Steve Dimmer's Cat Tales

Raunds Community Library. Contact details 01933 623747. A history/poetry of our feline overlords! Tickets available from Raunds Library and Post Office.

> SUNDAY 6TH APRIL, 9.25AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Marion 07754 810902. 7.5-mile walk in the Barnwell area.

> SUNDAY 20TH APRIL, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group

Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Jan 07816 552200. 6.5-mile walk around the woods and fields of Brigstock.

> SATURDAY 10TH MAY, 10AM-2PM

Plants, Books and Cakes sale

Please join us in Cotterstock Village Hall for a sale of Plants, Books and Cakes! Also serving teas and coffee. Everyone welcome.

Wellingborough and Rushden area walking and cycling routes on Executive agenda

North Northamptonshire Council's Executive has received an update on the Wellingborough and Rushden Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) following a consultation in Autumn 2024.

Results of the consultation showed 74% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the LCWIP's proposals and members will now be asked to approve the draft plan.

The draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan covers 31 specific walking and cycling routes across Wellingborough, Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Raunds, Irthlingborough, Finedon and surrounding villages.

If the report is approved by Executive, work will be able to start on developing preliminary designs and proposals for prioritised routes. These preliminary designs will form the basis of future bids for capital funding from the Government's Active Travel Fund or other suitable funding sources.

When funding does become available for any of the schemes identified within the LCWIP to be progressed, then a thorough and systematic process would still need to be gone through. This examines the feasibility and viability of schemes and the views of stakeholders and the public are taken into consideration at various stages during the process.

The work on LCWIPs has also been developed considering the North Northamptonshire

Greenway strategy – a rural strategic LCWIP which connects North Northamptonshire's key settlements.

LCWIPs provide a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements at a local level, enabling a long-term approach to developing networks for the next ten years. They also form a vital part of the government's strategy to increase the number of journeys made on foot or by cycle.

The Wellingborough and Rushden Area LCWIP has been developed to enable North Northamptonshire Council to:

- Identify prioritised cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for future investment
- Ensure that consideration is given to cycling and walking within both local planning and development and transport policies and strategies, and
- Make the case for future funding for walking and cycling infrastructure.

The Wellingborough and Rushden LCWIP is the last in a series of LCWIPs to go through formal approval, following on from approval of the Kettering LCWIP in 2023 and the Corby LCWIP in 2024.

Cllr Macaulay Nichol, the council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, said: "The draft LCWIP for the Wellingborough and Rushden area provides a detailed analysis of current walking and cycling options. It identifies a network of routes and improvements

that will enable NNC to prioritise sustainable transport infrastructure best suited for the towns and make a strong case for future funding.

"If the draft plan is approved, work can start on developing preliminary designs and further consultation will be held before implementation of the proposed routes. The comments and feedback we have received so far has been very positive, with strong support for the proposed routes in the Wellingborough and Rushden area, and the surrounding villages."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, said: "Promoting sustainable and active travel for residents across the whole of North Northamptonshire is a priority for us. By creating safe and accessible infrastructure for walking, cycling, and wheeling, we're not just reducing pollution, we're also empowering residents to embrace healthier lifestyles."

"The LCWIP for Wellingborough and Rushden is a crucial part of our broader initiative for North Northamptonshire and I'm pleased to see it moving forward alongside others in development."

"We are now in a position to take another step forward and discuss it at next week's meeting."

If the report is approved by Executive, a final version of the Wellingborough and Rushden LCWIP will be published on the NNC website.



To submit your event please contact us via our website www.nenevalleynews.co.uk or call 01522 692542. Please supply in the following format: Date, event, place, time, admission fee (if applicable), contact information, 15 word description.

Rose of Northamptonshire Awards 2025 open for nominations

In partnership with the North and West Northamptonshire Councils, and with support from the Lord-Lieutenant's office, Northamptonshire Community Foundation has re-launched the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards to honour dedicated volunteers across the county.

The awards recognise Northamptonshire's community heroes, those who go above and beyond for their neighbours. Local residents can submit their nomination before the deadline on Tuesday 22nd April 2025, by completing a short form on the Northamptonshire Community Foundation website: <https://www.ncf.uk.com/our-work/rose-of-northamptonshire-awards>

Rachel McGrath, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Community Foundation, said: "We're thrilled to be working with the North and West Northamptonshire councils again this year to run the Rose of Northamptonshire Awards."

"Since we re-launched the awards in 2023, we've been able to celebrate more than 100 local

volunteers. This year, we'd love to see even more nominations for the unsung heroes that we know exist across the county, who deserve recognition for their dedication to their local communities, and for the work they do to improve the lives of

their fellow residents.

"Please do nominate the community heroes you know and help us to show our gratitude for the extraordinary support they provide to our county."

If you know an individual or organisation in

Northamptonshire who deserves recognition for their good work and support of their local community, nominate them for a Rose of Northamptonshire Award before Tuesday 22nd April 2025.



New kitchen and bathroom showroom opens on Kettering High Street

Family-run property building and maintenance company, Hillery & Sons has opened a stunning kitchen and bathroom showroom on Kettering High Street. This exciting development brings the latest in kitchen and bathroom design to the heart of the town.

Mark Hillery, Founder of Hillery & Sons says: "Our showroom features a beautiful range of high-quality kitchens and bathrooms, showcasing the best in modern design and functionality. From sleek, contemporary kitchens to luxurious bathrooms, we offer a variety of styles to suit every taste and budget. We are particularly proud of our mobility bathrooms and wetrooms, designed to provide comfort and accessibility without compromising on style.

"Our team are committed to enhancing the living spaces

of our customers by offering innovative and stylish solutions. The new showroom is a testament to our dedication to quality and our belief

in Kettering as a thriving community."

The new showroom is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, and Saturday 10am-2pm.



Council selected as an Early Adopter for new government initiative

It has been announced that North Northamptonshire Council, alongside eight other councils across the country, has been selected by Government to take part in a pilot scheme designed to reduce the number of empty retail units.

Following Executive approval last month, the council has now officially joined the Government's High Street Rental Auction Early Adopters programme - a scheme that was introduced as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Cllr David Brackenbury, the council's Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, said: "Being officially accepted onto this programme is an important and innovative step forward in our work to support regeneration in town centres across North Northants.

"This is a real opportunity to be part of such an exciting project and to spearhead the use of new legislative powers, as well as being able to input on how the programme can be put into practice."

Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council, added: "Schemes like this bring massive benefits to areas across the country. But it's also about thinking locally and we know that high streets in North Northants have been through a considerable change over the last couple of years. We are committed to doing all we can to help boost high streets across the local area,

which will in turn create jobs, improve the local economy and improve the overall appearance of our high streets."

Minister for Local Growth and Building Safety Alex Norris said: "High Street Rental Auctions are a brilliant way for councils to bring shops and shoppers back to the high street, boosting trade, creating jobs and supporting our communities.

"I am delighted that eight more councils have become Early Adopters of these new powers, acting as leading lights for other local authorities.

"We are committed to growing the economy and improving opportunities for people across the country through our Plan for Change, and thriving high streets have a key role to play.

"That's why we are backing the rollout of the powers with over £1m of funding on offer to help ensure our communities have the resources they need to realise their potential."

Now that North Northamptonshire Council has been included in the Early Adopters programme, a working group will be set up to scope out a policy which will then be considered by the Executive later in 2025.

Council officers will also work closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government throughout the process and work through the next phase to identify high streets in North Northamptonshire to designate for High Street Rental Auctions.

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MAGNIFICENT MAPESTRY UNDERGOES A MAKEOVER

Higham Ferrers's own Bayeux Tapestry is back in the hands of the retired art teacher who designed it.

Known as the historic town's "mapestry", as it features centuries-old houses in the medieval market square and other ancient landmarks, the fabric and thread artwork, created from appliqué and various embroidery techniques and millions of stitches, took several years to make.



Fay Caddick (front), the designer of the Higham Ferrers mapestry, explains how the unique work was created to Liz Barnatt, chairperson of Higham Ferrers Tourism

The 1.5-metre long mapestry was the brainchild of former teacher Fay Caddick, who with seven friends – all known as the Material Girls – fashioned the unique wall hanging.

"It is our own Bayeux Tapestry, as we made it exactly the same as that famous work: first we made separate pieces of the story and then each section was sewn onto a fabric background," Fay explained.

It was initially displayed in the town's local library, but when the library closed in 2019, a few years after the mapestry was unveiled, it was decided to move it to the local Henry Chichele Primary School.

"But after five years of hanging in the school, we decided that the mapestry was in need of repair," said Liz Barnatt, chairperson of the Higham Ferrers Tourism Committee, which is supporting the restoration and framing initiative. This work is also backed by the Town Council and the Friends of St Mary's, a secular organisation dedicated to preserving historic buildings and the town's heritage for future generations.

Brenda Lofthouse and Carol Fitzgerald, chairperson and secretary of the Friends of St Mary's, collected the mapestry from the school and soon afterwards, Fay started work once again on the mapestry.

As all the other Material Girls have moved away from the area, former local French teacher, Therese Easter, volunteered to help.

Fay recalled that after she retired from the Rushden School for Girls (now the Rushden Academy) she used to stroll around the town looking at the historic buildings.

That interest and knowledge came in useful when the Material Girls got down to working on the mapestry.

"As well as my local knowledge, we spent a lot of time studying the buildings; the type of stonework and the windows," she recalled.

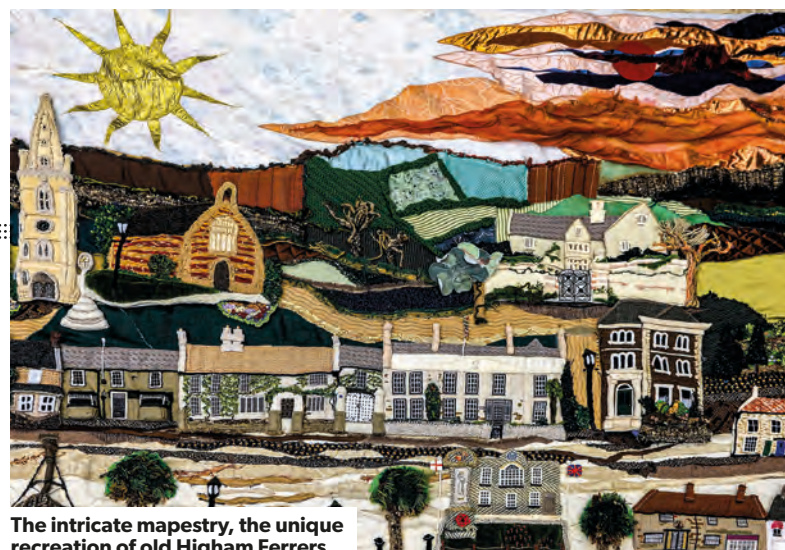
With the design in her head, Fay had to come up with a way of explaining it to the rest of the Material Girls.

"Initially, we took photographs of the buildings and landmarks and these formed the outline of what we planned to do.

"Although we only met up in the library for two hours every week, everyone was so keen that the Material Girls all worked on the project at home.

"We had to find the right pieces of material, which were donated by ourselves and the public."

Asked about some of the stand-out



The intricate mapestry, the unique recreation of old Higham Ferrers

trees in the mapestry, Fay explained that they had been made from 1960s shaggy rugs.

"The mapestry got bigger and bigger over time. People would come into the library where we were working and would suggest places and features to add to the mapestry.

"It took us nine months to sew the pieces of the story onto the background."

The repairs are being carried out in the Town Council-backed new Community and Wellbeing Hub at the back of the "old" library building.

Fay and Therese have a September deadline to finish the work so that it can go on display at the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum History Day in Higham Ferrers on Saturday 18th October.

It is hoped that the mapestry will find a permanent home in a prominent local

building, where it can be viewed by all to see.

"We plan to frame the mapestry in Perspex glass to protect it," Liz Barnatt said.

Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield said: "The mapestry is an important and beautiful community fabric artwork and we are pleased to be able to host Fay and Therese at the Community Library and Wellbeing Hub as they undertake their skilled repair work."

The Bayeux Tapestry – which depicts the Norman conquest of England in 1066 – hangs in the Bayeux Museum in France. The fragile tapestry is also due to undergo preventive conservation and enhancement. The museum will close later this year and a new museum, featuring the renovated Bayeux Tapestry, will reopen in 2027.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(OUNDL ROAD, LUTTON)
(40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order under Section 84 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit any motor vehicle from travelling at a speed exceeding 40 mph along the lengths of road as specified in the Schedule below.

A COPY of the Order may be inspected at Kier Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 529700. A copy of the Order can also be obtained on request by emailing NNParkingenquiries@kier.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 will become effective on 17th March 2025.

Dated this 15th day of March 2025

SANJIT SULL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim) P/2019

SCHEDULE

1. Oundle Road, Lutton – At a point 109 metres south west of its junction with Warmington Road extending 463 metres in a south westerly direction.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(MAIN STREET, YARWELL)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Main Street, Yarwell as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Main Street, Yarwell from outside no.39 (The Old Post Office).

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during sewer connection works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 7th April 2025 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 for up to 11 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Mill Road and Nassington Road.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N782 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/172

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(CHELVESTON ROAD, RAUNDS)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Chelveston Road, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Chelveston Road, Raunds from outside no.51 to no.63.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 7th April 2025 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 for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Raunds Road, A6 Liberty Way, A45 and London Road.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N917 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/179

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(HILL STREET, RAUNDS)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Hill Street, Raunds as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Hill Street Raunds from the junction of Brook Street to the junction of Hollington Road.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during gully cleaning.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 7th April 2025 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 for one day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Hill Street, Park Road, Manor Street and Brook Street.
If you require any further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 24/25 – N904 Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T25/180

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(CHURCH LANE, WARMINGTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

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 Church Lane, Warmington as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Church Lane, Warmington for its entire length.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(CROSS LANE, ALDWINCLE)
(30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2025

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 ("the Act") to prohibit any motor vehicle from travelling at a speed exceeding 30 mph along that length of Cross Lane, Aldwincle as specified in the Schedule below.

A COPY of the Order may be inspected at Kier Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 529700. A copy of the Order can also be obtained on request by emailing NNParkingenquiries@kier.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 will become effective on 17th March 2025.

Dated this 15th day of March 2025

SANJIT SULL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim) P/1958

SCHEDULE

Cross Lane, Aldwincle – from a point 128 metres west of its junction with Main Street extending 101 metres in a westerly direction.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

(VARIOUS ROADS) (ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made the above Order under Sections 32, 35 to 39 and 45 to 55 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers. The effect of the Order is to designate parking places restricting use at all times for electric vehicles only i.e. solely battery powered or hybrid – connected to and using charging equipment located adjacent to the parking place on the highway and as specified in the Schedule below.

A COPY of the Order may be inspected at Kier Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northants, NN6 9BX at a time and date specified by appointment only by calling 01604 529700. A copy of the Order can also be obtained on request by emailing NNParkingenquiries@kier.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 will become effective on 16th March 2025.

Dated this 15th day of March 2025

SANJIT SULL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) (Interim) P/1939

SCHEDULE 1

VEHICLE RECHARGING ONLY PARKING PLACES 8AM - 6PM
4 HOURS NO RETURN WITHIN 1 HOUR AND
ELECTRIC VEHICLE RECHARGING ONLY AT ALL OTHER TIMES

Item	Road Name	Location
1	Campbell Road, Corby	Starting from a point 21.5 metres, in a southerly direction, from the junction with Connell Court, for a distance of 11 metres on the eastern side outside property no.24
2	Cecil Drive, Corby	Starting from a point 3.8 metres from the existing dropped kerb outside property no 23 in an easterly direction for a distance of 11.9 metres
3	Telfords Lane, Corby	Starting from a point 8m from the existing double yellow lines, in an easterly direction for a distance of 5 metres outside of no 106
4	Victoria Street, Desborough	Starting from a point adjacent to the existing BT pole in a south westerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
5	Hawthorn Road, Kettering	Starting from a point 23 metres from the crossroads junction with Headlands and The Crescent in a westerly direction for a distance of 11.5 metres
6	Linden Avenue, Kettering	Starting from a point 8 metres from the bend with Shaftsbury Street adjacent to the existing drain and manhole cover in a north westerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
7	Pytchley Road, Kettering	Starting from a point adjacent to the existing h-bar obstruction marking outside property no 115 in southerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
8	Market Hill, Rothwell	Starting from a point 5 metres from the existing double yellow lines restrictions around the bend of property no 22 in a south easterly direction for a distance of 5 metres
9	Midland Road, Rushden	Starting from a point adjacent to the existing h-bar obstruction marking over the dropped kerb and adjacent to property no 32 in a easterly direction for a distance of 11 metres
10	Wood Street, Higham Ferrers	Starting from a point adjacent to existing double yellow lines and Town Hall 2.5m in an easterly direction for a distance of 4.8 metres
11	Midland Road, Higham Ferrers	Starting from a point from the termination point of the existing double yellow lines in a southerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
12	Doddington Road, Wellingborough	Starting from the existing h-bar obstruction marking adjacent to property no 2 in a northerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
13	Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough	Starting from the termination point of the existing double yellow lines at the junction with Broad Green for in a westerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
14	Irthlingborough Road, Wellingborough	Starting from a point in the centre of property no 6 in an easterly direction for a distance of 11 metres

SCHEDULE 2

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RECHARGING ONLY PARKING PLACES '8AM - 6PM
4 HOURS NO RETURN WITHIN 1 HOUR' AND 'ELECTRIC VEHICLE
RECHARGING ONLY AT ALL OTHER TIMES'

1	Headlands, Kettering	Starting from a point outside no 43 (within existing time limited waiting bay) in a southerly direction for a distance of 11 metres
2	Queensway, Higham Ferrers	Starting from a point adjacent to the existing double yellow lines in an easterly direction for a distance of 11 metres
3	Station Road, Kettering	Starting from a point from the existing double yellow lines outside property no's 5 and 7 in a northerly direction for a distance of 11 metres

SCHEDULE 3

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RECHARGING ONLY PARKING PLACE 8AM - 6PM
4 HOURS NO RETURN WITHIN 1 HOUR AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE
RECHARGING ONLY AT ALL OTHER TIMES FOR PERMIT HOLDERS
(ZONE G ONLY)

1	York Road, Kettering	Starting from a point adjacent to the double yellow lines outside property no 42 for a distance of 11 metres
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Family NOTICES

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Proposed playground development will boost Kings Cliffe Active's appeal for local families

Located just a short drive from both Peterborough and Stamford, the village of Kings Cliffe is set to become a key destination for outdoor play in the region. Kings Cliffe Active, the not-for-profit sports and recreation centre, is set to double the size and variety of its play equipment after receiving an injection of £90,400 in funding from the Augean Community Fund, FCC Communities Fund, National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All and Kings Cliffe Parish Council.

Since the launch of the charity in 2006, more than £2 million of grant funding has been invested into the 12-acre site for the benefit of the

local community. This has helped improve access to sport and encouraged the uptake of healthy living activities for village residents as well as communities from the surrounding areas too.

The site already offers plenty of family fun with two full-sized grass football pitches, a floodlit 3G all-weather multi-use games area (MUGA), and floodlit tennis and netball courts. There is a playground for young children, outdoor table tennis, and picnic areas. The Active Performance Kings Cliffe gym is also on-site.

The latest addition to KC Active is a modern pump track, which was completed in 2023. This purpose-built circuit for use on bikes, scooters and skateboards – providing a course of banked turns and bumps for jumps – has proved popular with the local community and those from much further afield. To build upon the success of this recent development, the charity is now looking to install an extra set of playground equipment.

"KC Active is operated as a charity, which means it's funded solely by grants and income from hiring the facilities – with all income going into site maintenance and improvements," explains chair of the Trustees, Guy Varty. "Now, we're keen to expand the play equipment and we're delighted to have already secured £90,400 in funding towards the project. We intend to use this to install a really exciting new range of play equipment, the first installation of this kind in the UK. But we want to continue

fundraising in order to add to this with some more inclusive pieces of equipment."

He continues: "We would like to extend our play equipment provision to really make it more inclusive for older children, and for those with disabilities or additional needs. We have already applied learning from our pump track project by asking children directly what they want and their response was so motivating. Parents and grandparents have joined in too and confirmed the need for more and different play equipment."

The charity is aiming to reach its target of £5,000 by spring 2025. To donate to the cause, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kcactiveplay. Every donation is gratefully received and makes a big difference to the facilities that can be provided free of charge to families using the space.

"We are so grateful for the support from our local communities," explains Trustee Cat Raitt, who has been leading the project. "We wouldn't be able to continue providing excellent access to outdoor play and a wide range of sports activities for people of all ages without their contribution."

Kings Cliffe Active is located at Kingsmead, Station Road, Kings Cliffe, Peterborough PE8 6YH. There is plenty of free car parking on-site and a community café that opens on selected days of the week.

For more information, email office@kcactive.co.uk or visit kcactive.co.uk



The proposed Rockmaster and inclusive play equipment for Kings Cliffe Active



From L-R: Simon Fairhall (past Trustee/Chair), Cat Raitt (Trustee lead for Play), Guy Varty (Chair of Trustees) at the site of the proposed play equipment at Kings Cliffe Active

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A Country Court Care Home

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Every other Wednesday 10am - 12noon
*Starting from 15th January 2025

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