

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

Community Safety

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime

Working in partnership with the Police, our Anti-Social Behaviour Team continue to focus on tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in our Neighbourhoods. The Team are utilising the ASB legislation in the form of an application for an ASBI (Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction) and an application for a CBO (Criminal Behaviour Order) to the courts this month to tackle the behaviour of two young people, who are part of a larger group that are causing continuous ASB (threatening and intimidating behaviour to the community) in one of our neighbourhoods on the East of Northampton Town.

Since April 2022 the ASB Team have issued 13 Community Protection Warning Letters and 5 Community Protection Notices.

To support Hate Crime Awareness week in October the Community Safety Team used the animation programme (that we have recently commissioned) to support the delivery of hate crime awareness sessions. The sessions were held across the West for schools, 500 students attended the sessions during the week.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Dedicated Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordinator now in post.

Personal Safety talks delivered for Northampton Mind this month, information, advice and free personal safety items shared to attendees to help improve awareness and safety, particularly in relation to darker nights and the promotion of the It Only Takes One campaign.

Knife Crime

The augmented reality Knife Angel was available for schools, groups and individuals to view in Northampton's Central Museum throughout October.

Neighbourhood Working

Work continues to deliver the Safer Streets (Home Office funding) in Blackthorn & Belling. Work on reinstating CCTV is expected to start soon. Safety Mapping workshop with partners, the community and young people has been undertaken to inform the youth provision in the area.

Furthermore, an initial working group meeting has taken place for the Town Centre bid delivery focusing on the Night time economy and Violence Against Women and Girls. Three aspects of the bid will be led by the council including a proposed periodic closure of one of our busiest streets during the evening economy, lighting improvements and alley gating.

Street community surveying took place in Semilong in September, followed by an event at Alliston Gardens Community Centre to engage with residents and explore ways to collaboratively improve the area. The event was supported by Well Northants Community Development Workers and a second session takes place this month.

The council, Police and Northampton Partnership Homes have come together to tackle a number of

issues raised in the Bouverie estate area, close to Northampton Town Centre. A residents safety survey went live last month and partners spent an afternoon door knocking, gathering intelligence and consulting with residents about their priority issues. The consultation will last for four weeks. Responses will then be reviewed alongside the updated Environmental Visual Audit of the area, provided by Police Crime Prevention Advisors, and a multi-agency action plan will be developed to tackle the issues.

Community Engagement

West Northamptonshire Council has been supporting the newly formed trustee board for Southbrook Community Centre, Daventry with advice and guidance to help set them up with the Charity Commission and become fully constituted to open the centre back up from closing since the pandemic. In partnership with Food for Thought Charity they opened their first Community Larder in July. Every week the centre see over 70 residents. The community larder continues to increase its membership and the Food for Thought Charity is now looking to set up of an evening community larder at the local Parker Academy School in Daventry early November 2022.

West Northamptonshire Council has been working in partnership with Northamptonshire General Practice Alliance in helping to set up Happy Cafes in Daventry and Moulton. Focussing on low level mental health and wellbeing and based on scientific research the Ten Keys to Happier Living are explored through the Action for Happiness social movement. Talks have also been held with multiple partners and faith groups in Towcester to identify gaps and opportunities for service provision.

Forums

The Diverse forum has been working to support the police and fire recruitment by helping them connect better with the diverse community across West Northants, there has also been support from the forum in encouraging the take up of COVID vaccinations.

The Youth Forum have attended a site visit with the Regeneration Team to look at how they can be involved in the works and host a space for young people's voices on the market square hoarding. Discussions will continue later this month at the next forum meeting.

West Northants Council continues to support The Daventry & District over 50's forum with committee meeting administration, October edition of the community newsletter that is sent out to the 600+ membership and organising the next public event forum on Wednesday 30 November 2022 at St Augustine's Church Hall, Daventry.

School Engagement

Our Young Citizens Scheme (face to face community safety event with our primary schools across West Northants), to promote healthy, safe and strong individuals and communities takes place this month. Participants will become better citizens, be safer in their schools and communities, online and on the roads; be better equipped to make choices and understand the consequences of their actions; be better informed of how to react in an emergency and have a better understanding of and relationship with the range of agencies which operate in West Northants.

Not all schools are able to attend Young Citizens, so we have commissioned Amplitude Media to produce a series of animations which cover this range of subjects. The project is now complete and we are in the process of launching the programme to both schools, youth groups and any professionals working with young people.

West Northamptonshire Council is working in partnership with The Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation (IHWO) engaging with schools across the West to take up the invitation to be part of this year's Diwali Light Parade in Northampton Town Centre. Over the past 21 years, the Hindu community has presented a fabulous parade, with many different local schools and communities, full of amazing lanterns and costumes.

We are working with Northampton International Academy to address some community safety issues alongside partners from Education and Youth Offending service. The team will be providing Safety Mapping workshops in the school with support from Free 2 Talk.

Community Events

International Day of People with Disabilities – planning is underway for the third annual virtual event which will be held on 1 December from 11am. Social spaces in Northampton, Daventry and Towcester are being offered for people to watch the live broadcast. Free refreshments will be offered. Subjects covered are of interest to everyone not just those with disabilities including input from Northants Police on fraud and how to avoid it and local celebrities Born to Perform.

International Men's Day – event to be held at the Northampton Town Centre Museum on Friday the 18 November. The event will run from 4pm until 7pm with engagement stalls, hosted by local support groups for both mental and physical health, the theme for this years event. There is a programme of guest speakers and project launches happening at the event, followed by the male role model awards.

Resettlement Schemes

Homes for Ukraine

600 Ukrainians have arrived across West Northants, however currently we have 470 in West Northants. Whilst there is small movement to and from other parts of the UK, there are also those who have already left the UK, either to other parts of Europe or have returned to Ukraine.

Access to limited free travel is currently being distributed to those people that expressed a need / interest.

The hubs continue to support hosts and guests in local communities, and we are finding that engagement is increasing. The team use the hubs as a point of contact to help people meet with each other and also to engage with other services and even with prospective hosts.

Mondays	Moulton Community Centre (NN3 7AX)	2pm – 4pm
Tuesdays	Brackley Library (NN13 6AJ)	2pm – 4pm
Wednesdays	Daventry Methodist Church (NN11 4FH)	10am – 12pm
Thursdays	Towcester Library (NN12 6AD)	2pm – 4pm
Fridays	Brixworth Library (NN6 9DS)	1pm – 3pm
Fridays	Weston Favell Library (NN3 8JZ)	12.30pm – 3pm

We have recently contacted all of those people who had expressed an interest in sponsoring Ukrainians, so we are building a pool of sponsors ready for rematching. We are considering further options around funding to see where this can be best utilised to sustain existing placements and provide housing assistance where practical.

Six-month safeguarding checks will start over the coming days and weeks in line with the government requirement under the scheme.

Afghan Bridging Hotels

There are currently just over 260 Afghans across our two bridging hotels. Whilst families are moving on, they are quickly replaced with new families arriving from third countries.

Asylum Contingency Hotels

We continue to regularly engage with the organisations that are providing the support for those in both hotels currently in West Northants. Regular review meetings are taking place with our partners around emerging issues and concerns.

Community Funding Panel

The Community Funding Panel are to meet on 16th November and approve applications for grant awards.

Councillor Covid Support Fund

The Councillor Covid Support Fund grant has seen a boost in applications over recent weeks. There is still some remaining balance for Councillors to award in local grants. To date 37 Councillors have awarded 100% of their grant allocation to local community and voluntary groups.

Transformation Project Groups

Transformation project groups continue to work through the transformation of services. The Debt & Money Advice group is well advanced, pulling together the full business case. Stakeholder organisations have been involved in initial discussions and will be consulted through the process. The Community Transport group will follow a similar format and include stakeholder organisations in the progress of the project.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Health Protection

A great deal of hard work by staff in our Health Protection team resulted in the successful prosecution of a Northampton takeaway for breaches of food hygiene legislation.

The food business operator of Honey Moon Chinese takeaway, Harborough Road in Kingsthorpe, pleaded guilty to four charges of breaching food safety and hygiene regulations and was fined a total of £22,000 and was ordered to pay full costs of £2,400 and a victim surcharge of £190.

The prosecution follows a routine inspection carried out on 30 September 2021 when WNC Officers found that the kitchen was not kept clean, equipment in contact with food was in a filthy condition, food was not being stored safely, and some food appeared to have been gnawed by pests.

Public spaces protection order

Following the approval of the new Public Spaces Protection Order the team have been working hard to provide feedback to the huge number of people who responded to the consultation. They are also making sure that the details of the requirements of the order are widely promoted and working with sports clubs to gather more information about the extent of dog fouling on sports pitches.

Cleaner Communities

The Communications team are working closely with the Neighbourhood Wardens to deliver a partnership led educational campaign to promote 'Cleaner Communities' to residents, businesses and land owners. The focus of this will be to work with communities to promote the fact that we all have a responsibility for making the places we live better for all and to provide people with tools and assets to help prevent environmental crimes, such as fly-tipping and littering. The campaign will include the launch of the fly tipping charter as well as showcasing the work of Neighbourhood Wardens;.

Driven across a number of external channels, the campaign seeks to inform and educate on the repercussions of environmental crime, as well as how – as a community- we can fight against this. This work will be supported by progressing plans for cameras to deter and catch those who fly-tip, and provide tools for how people can be responsible for their communities.

Trading Standards

Members of the Trading Standards team are working together with colleagues from Emergency Planning and a number of other partner agencies to ensure they are as prepared as possible for

potential outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in kept birds in the area. West Northants Council have a legal duty to enforce the rules put in place to control and eradicate HPAI. If a case is confirmed APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency - a DEFRA agency) will place restrictions on the infected premises and impose 3km and 10km control zones around it. Staff from the team will work with APHA to ensure that people who keep poultry or captive birds within these zones are notified.

WNC will be involved in the planning and enforcement of controls within these zones including foot patrols covering large areas to ensure that kept birds are properly housed and identifying poultry flocks that are not registered. It is compulsory for anyone who keeps 50 or more birds to register their flock however anyone with fewer than 50 can voluntarily register. Registration will ensure keepers are kept up to date with the latest developments locally and nationally which will help them protect their flocks quickly should there be a disease outbreak. Poultry (including game birds): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Trading Standards colleagues responded to an urgent contact from the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) regarding an incident attended by RSPCA, Police and Fire at a farm on the Leicestershire borders which resulted in 5 cattle being euthanized on welfare grounds. Carried out a joint visit with APHA to assess the herd. Further cow assessed by APHA and euthanized on welfare grounds. Additional assessment of the herd by APHA vet indicated that 10% were malnourished or dehydrated. Several complicating factors surround this incident which is being investigated by Trading Standards.

The Trading Standards team have also been working with the National Scams Team in relation to West Northamptonshire victims of an international mass marketing scam. This was in relation to a US Federal Trade Commission and National TS investigation started in 2016 against US based fraudsters who deliberately targeted vulnerable UK residents with scam mail, alleging cash wins and guaranteed payouts. Eleven victims will all have money returned to them which Trading Standards will facilitate.

Trading Standards continued their work to crack down on the sale of illegal tobacco and seized illegal cigarettes from a premises on the Wellingborough Road this week

Councillor David Smith

Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement and Regulatory Services