



## Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

**Issue 18. Thursday 2 April 2026.** Featuring: North Northamptonshire Council marks fifth anniversary with renewed commitment to residents. State-of-the-art skatepark opened in Wellingborough.

### Top story

#### **North Northamptonshire Council marks fifth anniversary with renewed commitment to residents**

North Northamptonshire Council is marking its fifth anniversary by reaffirming its commitment to residents and outlining an ambitious vision for the future.

This milestone follows the recent publication of the council's [Corporate Plan](#), which sets out how services will continue to improve and how quality of life will be enhanced for communities over the next four years and beyond.

As part of the anniversary, the council is thanking the many people and organisations who have contributed to its progress, including residents, businesses, staff, councillors, parish and town councils, voluntary and community groups, and partner agencies.

Building on strong foundations established since its creation on 1 April 2021, the council remains dedicated to working with local communities to make North Northamptonshire the very best it can be.

### Latest news

#### **State-of-the-art skatepark opened in Wellingborough**

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new skatepark at Bassett's Close Park in Wellingborough last week.

The new state-of-the-art facility replaces the much-loved older skatepark that needed updating. The project includes new solar lighting and CCTV.

It forms part of wider improvements across the park, including upgraded surfacing, expanded play areas and new outdoor gym equipment.

Following feedback from residents, the skatepark has been relocated to a more visible part of the park, providing a safe, modern space for wheeled sports – supporting active, healthy communities and offering an alternative to street skating.

The project was funded through S106 and capital contributions, delivered with support from partners across the council and the community.

### **Partnership in action: A14 clean-Up for the Great British Spring Clean**

National Highways supported this year's [Great British Spring Clean](#) with a series of clean-ups along the A14 in North Northamptonshire.

The annual Keep Britain Tidy campaign, held from 13 to 29 March, encourages communities across the UK to take part in litter-picking to improve public spaces such as roadsides, streets, parks and beaches.

National Highways organised community litter-picks, night-time sweeps and staff volunteer sessions as part of the effort. Working alongside council teams, they helped keep this key route through North Northamptonshire clean and safe.

Roadside litter poses risks to drivers, pollutes the environment and harms wildlife, making this work absolutely vital. I would urge everyone to always take their rubbish home with them.

### **Continued support for the Deaf community in Northamptonshire**

North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council have appointed [RJ Community CIC](#) to run a new service to support the Deaf community in Northamptonshire.

The move follows the closure of Deafconnect at the end of March.

RJ Community CIC supports Deaf, Deafblind and people with hearing loss to access information, advocacy, training and community activities in Deaf-accessible ways, including British Sign Language (BSL).

The organisation focuses on improving access to services, reducing isolation, and promoting independence, inclusion and wellbeing.

To book an appointment, please email [community@rj-cic.co.uk](mailto:community@rj-cic.co.uk) or text/WhatsApp/video call 07721 064179.



## **Community matters**

### **Free drop-in vaccination clinics this Easter for young people in Years 8 to 13**

Three free drop-in vaccination clinics will run across North Northamptonshire during the Easter break for young people in Years 8 to 13.

Parents and carers are encouraged to ensure their children are fully vaccinated against serious illnesses, including HPV-related cancers, meningitis, septicaemia, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria and polio. Anyone missing one or more vaccinations is advised to attend. Staff can check on the day whether a child has already received the vaccinations.

No appointment is needed. Families can attend any clinic location, date or time listed.

- Tuesday 7 April: 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Glamis Hall (Goldsmith Rd, Wellingborough NN8 3RU).
- Thursday 9 April: 10am to 2pm at Kingsway Centre (130 Kingsway, Wellingborough NN8 2EN).
- Friday 10 April: 1pm to 3:30pm at Melton Community Centre (Melton St, Kettering NN16 9DH).

For more information about the vaccinations, please read the recent press release: [Free drop-in vaccination clinics during the Easter break for young people in Years 8 to 13](#).

### **NHS Healthy Start scheme: Get help to buy healthy food and milk**

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four-years-old, you may be entitled to help to buy healthy food and milk.

If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card with money on it that you can use in some UK shops. Your benefit will be added onto this card every four weeks.

You can use your card to:

- Buy milk, fruit and vegetables, pulses and infant formula milk.
- Collect Healthy Start vitamins to support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding and/or vitamin drops for babies and children under four-years-old.

For more information, please visit the [NHS Healthy Start](#) website or call the helpline on 0300 330 7010.

Our Family Hubs staff are available to help with Healthy Start card applications, general advice and wider support. There are four Family Hubs in North Northamptonshire: [Kettering](#), [Wellingborough](#), [Rushden](#), and [Oundle](#).

### **Historical objects from 1904 discovered in Kettering Library roof**

Several historical objects were discovered in the roof of the Grade II listed [Kettering Library and Alfred East Gallery](#) during the renovation project.

The artefacts were likely discarded by construction workers during the library's initial building in 1904, and include:

- Empty box of Bryant and May's Pearl Matches,
- Wrigley's Chewing Gum wrapper,

- Miller & Cooke bottle with the original stopper,
- London Tape container lid and
- Empty pack of Senior Service cigarettes.

They are now being cared for by our Museum and Gallery Team, with a possible view to show the items as part of a future exhibition.

### **Happy Easter to all our residents**

I would like to wish all our residents a very Happy Easter.

I hope this weekend brings you the chance to rest, reflect and enjoy time with loved ones.

Thank you for everything you contribute to making North Northamptonshire such a special place to live.



## Your Voice Matters

### **View and respond to current consultations, and take part in engagement surveys and discussions**

- [Draft Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area – Guidance and Mitigation Strategy Consultation](#) – Closes 21 April.
- [Adult Learning Service – Learner Survey](#) – Closes 30 April.

Please visit the [Your Voice Matters](#) hub for further information.

Please share with family, friends, or others in your networks who may be interested in contributing their views.



## More to explore

### **Stay informed with our latest press releases**

- [North Northamptonshire Council marks fifth anniversary with renewed commitment to residents](#)
- [Free drop-in vaccination clinics during the Easter break for young people in years 8 to 13](#)
- [Director of Public Health urges eligible families to apply for the NHS Healthy Start card to access free food, milk and vitamins for their children](#)
- [Upgrades to car park ticket machines scheduled for week starting 7 April](#)
- [Hundreds of bags of rubbish collected in A14 clean-up](#)
- [New information service for deaf and hard of hearing adults appointed by councils](#)

- [Let the Easter fun begin!](#)
- [New state-of-the-art skatepark opened in Wellingborough](#)

View all council news and updates on our website at: [News](#).



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, please email [executive@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk).

Kind regards,

**Cllr Martin Griffiths**

**Leader of the Council**

© North Northamptonshire Council 2026

