



Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council

Introduction and Welcome!

With the excitement of the Euros and Wimbledon just over, it is great to see the Olympics now in full swing. Even without the roaring crowds cheering on the athletes, Great Britain are certainly keeping us on the edge of our seats in all sports and are again making us proud by bringing home medals.

Just as the sun is beating down on our athletes in Tokyo, we certainly have had our own days of heat and I'm sure it has given many the opportunity to take advantage of the beautiful parks and open areas we have across North Northamptonshire. If you would like further information on our parks and what is on offer, please visit our [website](#).

This week has also seen the second of our Full Council meetings. The meeting was held on Wednesday 28th July at the Core Theatre in the Corby Cube. Although I was disappointed to have not been able to attend, I would like to thank everyone for their attendance and involvement as well as those who worked to facilitate it. It certainly is a big change from meeting people online and one that I look forward to continuing moving forward. If you would like to see what was discussed both the agenda and minutes can be found online [here](#).

LGC Award Finalist

First of all, I am very proud and excited to give you some 'hot off the press' news that our Public Health Northamptonshire team has been shortlisted for the Public Health category in this year's LGC Awards. The team are being recognised for their amazing efforts throughout the whole of the pandemic and all of the brilliant campaigns that they constructed and distributed within our county. Throughout their work they have been open and transparent with the local population, identified risks and provided guidance that supported the needs of local residents to ensure that our residents and business were kept safe and ultimately we managed to reduce covid figures across the county.

The team of course had their challenges, with an outbreak in Greencore in Northampton and Corby topping the country's highest case rates tables, but they worked relentlessly to get relevant, engaging information out quickly, using the most appropriate communications channels available to ensure ultimate impact.

I think you would all join me in congratulating the team, thanking them for all of the extremely hard work they have put in and of course wishing them all of our luck for the award night in November. We hope that we will be able to report back that they have walked away as winners, but even being shortlisted is no mean feat and we are extremely proud.

Have your say on local development

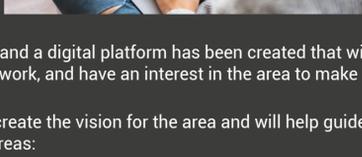
People in North Northamptonshire have the opportunity to help shape the long-term development of the area as part of a newly launched Government consultation. North Northants sits in the wider Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the name given to the area identified by Government as one of its key priorities for sustainable economic growth.

The consultation focuses on what has been called the Arc's spatial framework – or blueprint for how this growth could take place up until 2050. This consultation is the first of three that will guide the framework over the next two years, and a digital platform has been created that will make it quick and accessible for people who live, work, and have an interest in the area to make their voices heard.

Comments received in the consultation will help create the vision for the area and will help guide local planning and investment decisions in four areas:

- The Environment
- The Economy
- Connectivity and Infrastructure
- Place Making

The digital consultation will run for 12 weeks. To have your say please go [here](#). The Arc region has the potential to drive significant growth locally and nationally so it's essential that we seize this opportunity to maximise the possibilities and that North Northants spearheads this change. This consultation will measure the opinions of a cross section of people in the area to see what's important to them and what sort of future they would like to see for our region. I would encourage everyone to have their say as it's essential that we attract the right growth to our area, combined with the proper infrastructure to make it happen. Not only are we being asked to feedback on how we can boost the economy and the prosperity that would bring but also on how we connect communities and how they are shaped. Underpinning all of this is how we do this in an environmentally sustainable way so that we can preserve the unique character of North Northants and maximise the benefits for residents and businesses.



Corby project supported through Government's Accelerated Fund



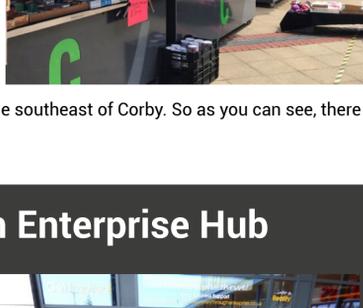
I am very pleased, as I hope you all are, to see work beginning on the improvements to Corby's George Street as the final stage of a series of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) projects in the town financed from the Government's Accelerated Fund. In September 2020 the predecessor council to NNC was successfully awarded £750,000 through the Government's Accelerated Fund – a capital fund aimed at creating jobs and building stronger and more resilient local economies.

This latest initiative focuses on improving links between Corby's shopping area and the

Parkland Gateway leisure quarter with enhancements to the existing zebra crossing and the creation of a new crossing near the junction of the Westcott Way roundabout. The work includes modifications to paving leading up to the existing crossing and new signage and is expected to take up to six weeks to complete.

Town centres across the North Northants area are essential in order for them to keep developing as hubs of business, culture and leisure and I welcome this funding which has unlocked key projects to help this to happen.

Part of the funding was also awarded to Corby's play parks which have seen a complete revamp. Active travel has also had a welcomed addition from this grant to the cycleways project in the area, while Tresham College students were encouraged to stay active with the new outdoors gym equipment on the Corby campus. Plans to improve the town centre's public realm and refurbishment of the popular market stalls were also completed under this grant as was the remediation of the Market Walk area in the town centre, which saw a vast improvement with this funding. This once unusable site is now an attractive area for shoppers to enjoy views over the southeast of Corby. So as you can see, there has been a lot of positive work happening.



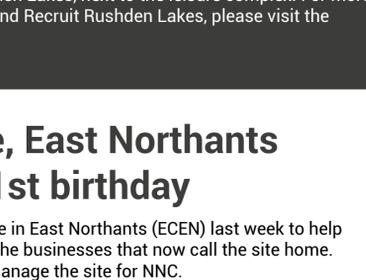
Recovery Through Enterprise Hub

On the 22nd July I was very pleased to be able to join colleagues from the Council and The Crown Estate to celebrate the work that has been achieved since the Recovery Through Enterprise Hub, in partnership with Recruit Rushden Lakes and Made in Northamptonshire store, was launched in December 2020.

The combined unit at Rushden Lakes brings together a range of services focused on helping people to upskill, find employment and access support, as well as a shop showcasing items from the local food producers' network. The community space is designed to support local rebuild and recovery from the economic impact of the pandemic.

We were all very kindly given a tour of the unit and met with some individuals who have benefitted from the scheme before reflecting on the success, so far, of the project. We also met with local producers Nakasero and Explore Chocolate to sample their fare and hear their stories.

The Recovery Through Enterprise Hub, in partnership with Recruit Rushden Lakes and the Made in Northamptonshire shop, can be found at Rushden Lakes, next to the leisure complex. For more information about Recovery Through Enterprise and Recruit Rushden Lakes, please visit the [project's website](#).



Enterprise Centre, East Northants celebrates 1st birthday

I also got the chance to visit the Enterprise Centre in East Northants (ECEN) last week to help celebrate it's first birthday and hear more about the businesses that now call the site home. They were joined on the visit by BizSpace, who manage the site for NNC.

Since opening last year, Enterprise Centre, East Northants has become a vibrant community, full of pro-active and productive businesses and provided a springboard for several businesses who have already moved on to larger premises due to growth and expansion. It was great to see the real difference it has made to small and medium businesses across North Northamptonshire, despite only being open for a year. It goes without saying that the past 18 months have been extremely difficult for business owners across the country, so it is great to see that so many businesses are using the facilities on offer at the Centre and are really flourishing.

Alongside providing flexible office space to suit business owners' needs, the team at ECEN continue to work with key partners including SEMLEP, University of Northampton, FSB and the local Chambers of Commerce to offer business support. As well as learning in a space at Enterprise Centre, East Northants should visit [BizSpace's website](#) or can call Fiona Wells on 07592043937.



Corby's Health and Wellbeing Festival is coming to town!

The Corby Health and Wellbeing Festival is coming to town next week from 2nd to 8th August to support you, your family and loved ones with your health and wellbeing needs.

Following the success of the Kettering event, this feel-good festival is jam-packed with activities including fun and games for this year's National Play Day, the launch of the Corby Heritage Trail, inspiration to get active or make lifestyle changes and the chance to discover a new sport or hobby, plus the return of the Corby Race for Life for Cancer Research UK. You can also find classes and advice to help you relax, as well as learn more about what's on offer in the area to help you with any mental health and wellbeing needs.

Join in with in-person events, online classes and taster sessions delivered by Corby's fantastic health and wellbeing community and sports organisations, and if you're looking for activities to keep the children entertained during the summer break, there's lots going on including holiday clubs and daily activities.

Whatever your needs, the festival has something to offer! Find the full timetable and get your sessions booked [here](#). These Health and Wellbeing Festivals will next be coming to Wellingborough and then East Northants, we will keep you posted on further details.

Not all heroes wear capes!

Before I sign off, I want to just introduce you to Zac, a young lad from Kettering whom you may have already seen on our social media channels. Zac has been litter-picking on his own initiative and even gone as far as buying his own equipment.

As a huge thank you our Waste Team created a certificate for being a Litter Hero and sent it over with a NNC cap, litter-picker and some bags. We hope that this inspires lots more youngsters to get involved in taking care of their environment.



Press Releases

To help you stay abreast of the key things the Council has been doing, I have included some links to the Council's press releases below (starting with the most recent):



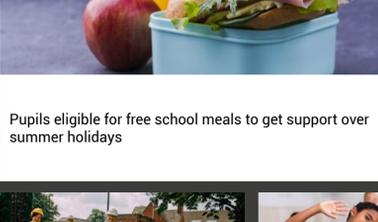
North Northamptonshire Council joins forces with the Corby Wellness Hub to tackle domestic abuse



Public Health officials call for action as COVID-19 cases almost double across Northamptonshire



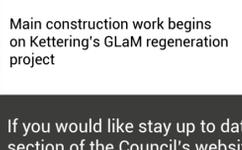
Council urges public to be vigilant and only use licensed taxis | North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk)



Pupils eligible for free school meals to get support over summer holidays



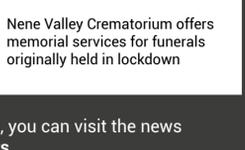
Support for businesses as new law for allergen labelling soon to be introduced



Main construction work begins on Kettering's GLaM regeneration project



Northamptonshire families to benefit from £1.8m funding for school holiday clubs



Nene Valley Crematorium offers memorial services for funerals originally held in lockdown

If you would like stay up to date with the Council's media updates, you can visit the news section of the Council's website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news

Or follow Twitter [@NNNorthantsC](https://twitter.com/NNNorthantsC) and/or Facebook [@NorthNorthants](https://www.facebook.com/NNorthNorthants)

Social media: Top stories

Week commencing 19th July the top stories are:

Facebook:

- Public notice about Sywell Country Park closing gates early due to anti-social behaviour.
- Safety message about rivers and lakes.
- Covid 'Grab A Jab' at Willow Place, Corby.

Twitter:

- Press release about summer activities in Northants.
- Zak the little litter-picker.
- Press release about support this summer for free school meals kids.



Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have ideas of items to include in future updates please let me know at: executive@northnorthants.gov.uk

With Best Wishes,
Jason