

# ***Mini eUpdate* from Northants CALC**

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

What a week it's been. Here's a couple of key points...

## **New Funding For Flood Projects**

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has just completed a successful three years with Pathfinder2, working with 30 communities in areas of Northamptonshire at risk of flooding. Now, NCC has been awarded a further grant from the Environment Agency to continue to promote resilience measures to help reduce the impacts of surface water flooding. Communities are invited to submit applications explaining how the initiative could be of benefit to them. Successful applicants would need to identify community members who can be flood wardens and someone who will be the main point of contact for their area. In return they would then benefit from a flood survey, which would be undertaken by civil engineers and will provide evidence for community action plans and longer term solutions, which may involve purchasing equipment. To apply, please visit [www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2/](http://www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2/).

## **General Election**

It's as you were in terms of the political makeup of Northamptonshire. All seven of the county's MPs were returned in yesterday's General Election (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/constituencies>). We are keeping our ear to the ground for any news on the implication of the General Election on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), specifically when the Structural Change Order (SCO) will now be made in parliament and whether the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP will continue in office as the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The SCO may make it through parliament next week, but realistically we're probably looking at the New Year now. We'll keep member councils posted.

## **Local Elections – May 2020**

We have this week published a whole collection of election resources on our web site for member councils to use in their campaigns to promote candidacy for the local elections to be held on 7 May 2020. There's a simple but eye-catching "Wanted" poster in A4 and A5 for noticeboards and flyers, as well as sample social media advertisements and web site text. Send in anything you develop and are prepared to share and we will add it to the web page as a resource for others to use. Visit <https://www.northantscalc.com/elections> and feel free to use anything you find there! All councils in Northamptonshire with elections in 2020 (which is all bar 16 councils in the Daventry district) have been sent a survey this week asking for the numbers of councillors intending to seek re-election, the number intending to retire and the number who haven't yet decided or don't wish to indicate. The survey will only take the clerk a couple of moments to complete and return and we would like to have a response from every council in Northamptonshire so that we can understand the picture across the county. Thanks in advance for responding.

That's all for now. I hope you have a great weekend.

Best regards,

## Active Parks Project Survey

From: [Consult <consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk>](mailto:consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Sent: Wed, 18 Dec, 2019 at 12:39

To: [Consult](#)

This message is suspicious.[LEARN MORE](#)|**ALWAYS TRUST THIS SENDER**

Active

Northamptonshire County Council is trying to gain a better understanding of how people currently use our country parks.

Please help us by completing this short [questionnaire](#). Your feedback will be used to help improve the facilities and access.

This survey closes on **31 January 2020**.

---

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your email. The current situation with the Part 2 Local Plan is that the next version is aimed to be issued for consultation in the Spring of next year. We are currently preparing this taking account of various views made on the last draft.

As part of this process, all of the representations made by Hollins Strategic Land (HSL) in response to the last draft have been reported to our Planning Policy Committee (1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> June – reports and minutes available via our website [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)) but we are not proposing to add any specific housing sites to the Plan in or adjacent to Easton on the Hill as a result of them (or any others we received).

As with the recent Gladman application (19/00798/OUT), any planning application that HSL make will be considered in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan. In addition, depending on the timing of the application, the Policies in the emerging Part 2 Local Plan may have more weight as a material consideration if it has moved further through the process.

The Parish Council would, of course, be consulted as soon as any such planning application becomes valid and any views you wish to make would be taken into account before it is determined.

Hope this helps but if you need any more information, please let me know.

Wayne Cattell  
Principal Planning Policy Officer  
East Northamptonshire Council

## ***Mini eUpdate* from Northants CALC**

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

Nearly there! I hope you are getting ready for the festivities next week and that you have a safe and happy holiday.

**A Message From Marie**

Northants CALC's Training Manager, Marie Reilly has the following updates:

- We've got just three remaining time slots available for the free legal surgery on 15 January 2020 11:30-12:00, 13:00-13:30 and 13:30-14:00. This is your chance to benefit from the offer of free legal advice. Drop me an email with your preferred time mreilly@northantscalc.com.
- With all the rain we've had in the last couple of months the subject of flooding has been a hot topic. Do you know what to do if your village or town floods? Book a place on Community Emergency and Flood Plan Workshop 30 January 2020, this workshop will support you to develop an emergency plan should you experience flooding in your area. <https://www.northantscalc.com/community-emergency-and-flood-pl2.html>.
- It's coming to that time of year when you need to start planning for the year end audit. We have a session with an experienced clerk and internal auditor who will help you to plan for your year end audit. Book your place here <https://www.northantscalc.com/preparing-for-year-end-audit3.html>.
- And one final note from me; keep checking the website for new courses! We've got a lot of exciting courses and events planned for next year - S.106 and CIL (community infrastructure levy), Funding awareness and bid writing are just some of the courses that will be added in the new year! <https://www.northantscalc.com/training-and-events.html>.

### **An Open Letter from the NALC Chairman**

The chairman of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Cllr Sue Baxter, has written a New Year open letter to all councillors about working together to build stronger communities. Sue's letter pays tribute to the work of councillors, explains how parish and town councils can be the centre of community power, and issues two challenges for the decade ahead to both the sector and the government. Sue urges councils to "be ambitious for your communities and take your place as the first tier of government". The letter is available to read and download at <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1360-working>.

### **Merry Christmas!**

Northants CALC's office closes at noon on Christmas eve and reopens on 2 January 2020. From all at Northants CALC, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and here's to a prosperous and happy New Year. 🎅🎄

Best regards,

Danny.

Hello Everyone

Four new opportunities have recently been announced. Please see below and attached. Some of them may not be applicable to you, but I hope you may be able to spread the word to other organisations/businesses in your area.

I will be able to assist with Community Facilities Fund and Growth Programme stage one applications.

A very happy Christmas to all.

Su

**Su Davies | External Funding Manager | East Northamptonshire Council**  
DD: 01832 742191 | Mobile: 07894 598407 | [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ

### **East Northamptonshire Council Community Facilities Fund Round 8**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Round of the Community Facilities Fund is now open, with a closing deadline of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. See [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/cff](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/cff).

- The Fund is for capital projects only.
- Grants are available of up to £10,000.
- Only one application is allowed per organisation.
- The project will have to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

#### **New criteria!**

- Applicants must register their interest with Lucy Hawes, [lhawes@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:lhawes@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk), before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.
- Forms must be submitted electronically. However, if this causes a problem, contact Lucy to let her know.

Lucy will be available Wednesdays through to Fridays in January for groups who wish to discuss their application before submission.

### **£35 million Rural Growth Programme Fund now open**

A new round of this fund has recently opened which covers rural capital projects - minimum grant £20,000, maximum c.£170,000. The emphasis is on businesses and job creation, but rural tourist attractions, such as museums and heritage centres, can also apply. This fund does not cover Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

The scheme has 3 themes:

1. Tourism.
2. Small/medium businesses.
3. Food processing.

The handbooks for each, which give detailed guidance, are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme>.

If you have any enquiries not covered in these handbooks, call the helpline on 03000 200 301 or email [GPEnquiries@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:GPEnquiries@rpa.gov.uk).

SEMLEP is running free workshops for would-be applicants. For more information and to book a place, see <https://www.semlep.com/eafrd/>. This is likely to be the FINAL ROUND of this fund.

### **War Memorials Trust grants**

The War Memorials Trust is offering grants of up to £30,000 towards the protection and conservation of war memorials throughout the UK. The grants are intended to support repair and conservation works that manage the natural process of decay without damaging the memorial's overall appearance, altering the features that give it its historic or architectural significance, or unnecessarily disturbing or destroying historic fabric. Applicants will be required to raise at least 25% of the cost of the project. See <http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>.

### **Fully Funded Great Crested Newt Pond Creation and Restoration in North Northamptonshire**

Natural England are aiming to roll out their District Licencing approach to developments that affect Great Crested Newts (GCNs), which gives applicants options to use a broader approach to mitigation for GCNs. North Northamptonshire is one of the targeted areas, and ahead of the scheme a contract has been issued to provide "up-front" mitigation – i.e. ponds in target areas, where modelling from existing records suggests they will contribute to increased GCN populations. See leaflet enclosed for how to apply, or email [mail@emec-ecology.co.uk](mailto:mail@emec-ecology.co.uk).

## BANK BALANCE AND BUDGET SUMMARY/FORECAST 2019/20

### Bank reconciliation

Bank balance from Unity Trust end of December **£7768.71**

Bank balance B/F	£27024.01	
Less payments to date	£51970.32	
Plus receipts to date	£32715.02	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£7768.71</b>

### **Payments forecast**

January	£1536	
February	£1400	
March	£1800	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4736</b>	<b>Therefore bank balance at end of year approx. £3032</b>

Precept calculated at previous meeting £32375

Added in £300 pay increase and £120 home office expenses clarified plus £40 for grit

**New precept total £32835 – see attached**

### Notes;

- 1) Bear in mind that each £1000 precepted will cost an average household band D property (others less/more) £2.18 pa. ie £72.76 and an increase of £18.26 on last year
- 2) There have been very small increases in PC precept in the last 3 years or more.
- 3) The Parish Council have completed the lights project, installed new gates, paid off the loan and investigated and prepared a case for ownership of the playing fields.
- 4) The PC have set up the PFWP and VPWP with plans to take things forward into next year.
- 5) The PC have nearly completed the Governance review and have the foundations and policies in place to take plans forward.

	<u>Budget to</u>	<u>Actual at</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>31.03.20</u>	<u>30.11.19</u>	<u>31.3.20</u>	<u>2020 - 21</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Staff Costs</b>			plus 4 months	<b>budget</b>
Clerk's salary (SPC 27)	8,500.00	9,520.37	12,320.00	8800.00
HMRC - PAYE	0.00	367.97	528.00	500
Clerk's Overtime	500.00	0.00		
Clerk's expenses	220.00	323.93	364.00	220
Clerk's mileage	0.00		10.00	100
Clerk training and conference	650.00			500
<b>Gen Administration</b>				
Audit Fee: Internal	220.00		220.00	220
Audit Fee: External	220.00	200.00	200.00	200
Annual Membership fees - SLCC	160.00	160.00	160.00	150
- Northants CALC	500.00	496.36	497.00	475
Defibrillator - Electricity for Post Office	25.00		25.00	25
Insurance - including pavilion	1,520.00	1,554.87	1,554.87	1550
Telephone/broadband package agreed	0.00			0
Councillors travell allowance	0.00			150
Stationery/photocopying/Postage	0.00			400.00
Councillors training sessions	500.00	396.00	445.00	600.00
Rental for Meetings at Village Hall	150.00	261.00	300.00	200.00
Website/hosting/emails/support	500.00	458.00	458.00	585.00
	1,300.00	521.18	521.18	
Bags of grit for footpaths	150.00			40.00
Village Clock annual service	0.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Solicitors Fees	500.00		800.00	0.00
ICO Annual Membership			40.00	40.00
<b>Parks &amp; Open Spaces</b>				
Annual play equipment inspection	0.00	164.40	164.00	170.00
Improvements & General Maintainance	5,640.00	5,617.42	5,817.00	5,400.00
Water Rates-Playing Field/Alltments	0.00	0.00		0.00
<b>Public Lighting</b>	0.00			
Supply charge	3,700.00	1,602.65	2,402.00	1,800.00
Maintenance charge	1,000.00	702.61	702.61	200
Repairs	0.00	173.55	200.00	300
<b>Section 137 Payments</b>				
Air Ambulance Service	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Royal British Legion wreath	100.00	100.00	100.00	50
Maintenance /bin emptying	0.00			1000
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>26,155.00</b>	<b>22,920.31</b>	<b>28,128.66</b>	<b>23,875.00</b>
<b>Payments/projects</b>				
Reserves				3,000.00
Election	1300.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
Village Plan		1,200.00	1,200.00	150.00
PF improvement plan		0.00	0.00	3000.00
Replace bench		9,843.38	9,843.38	700.00
Replace pole New Town	2,000.00	12519.00	12,519.00	650.00
Solicitor fees				500.00
				0.00
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>3300.00</b>	<b>23,562.38</b>	<b>23,562.38</b>	<b>9000.00</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Precept	25,000.00	25,000.00	25000	32835
Allotments	140.00	142.50	142.5	140.00
Bank savings interest	25.00	0.00	0	25.00
		275.00	275	
		69.00	69	
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>25,165.00</b>	<b>25,486.50</b>	<b>25486.5</b>	<b>33000.00</b>
<b>Less Payments</b>	<b>29,455.00</b>	<b>46,482.69</b>	<b>0 51,691.04</b>	<b>0 32,875.00</b>
<b>To/(From) General Reserves</b>	<b>-4,290.00</b>	<b>-20,996.19</b>	<b>0 -26204.54</b>	<b>0 125.00</b>

## 2018 GOVERNANCE REVIEW ACTION PLAN

### OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AS AT JANUARY 2020 MEETING

Action	When	Who	Status Jan 2020
1. Build money for training and development into 2020/21 budget	At budget setting meeting Oct/Nov 2019 and precept review/forms	Finance Committee, Clerk	<b>Done</b>
2. Continue to stress behaviours expected of Councillors to fulfil their role and expectations	Ongoing action point	All	<b>No further specific action needed.</b>
3. Write grievance and disciplinary policies plus appraisal for Clerk	By first staffing committee meeting, end of October	Clerk, newly formed committee to agree	Clerk has written drafts. Staff meeting 6/1/20. <b>Done</b>
4. Individual undertaking for Councillors to treat each other with respect	Await response from JSCC after Sept update considered	?	Report sent end of December. Minuted that all Cllrs agreed. <b>Done</b>
5. Review of filming and recording of meetings policy	November 2019	Clerk to put on agenda Council to agree	<b>Done</b>
6. Project plan for future of playing fields	Ongoing	PFWP Full Council	Village event 28/1/20 plus dependent upon title application for grants – <b>in hand. Project plan?</b>
7. Project plan for implementation of Village Plan	Ongoing. First meeting set up for VPWP on 15 <sup>th</sup> October	VPWP Full Council	Progressing. Village launch event 28/1/20. <b>Project plan?</b>
8. Final report due at end of December	End of December 2019	Council to agree Clerk to submit	<b>Done</b>