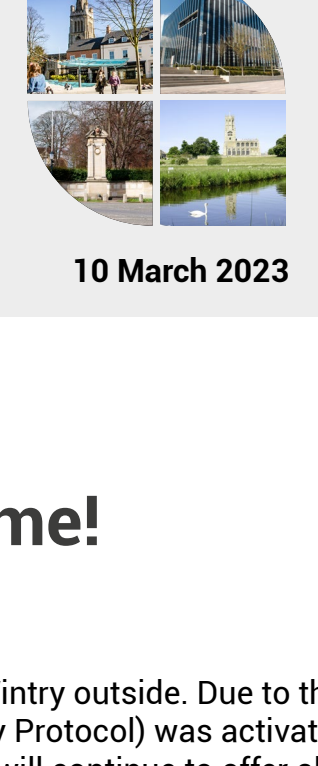




Leader's Update

Clr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council



10 March 2023

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

It's the beginning of Spring in ten days' time but it's still looking very Wintry outside. Due to the freezing temperatures, the Council's SWEPE (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) was activated this week and will be in place until Monday. Our Rough Sleeping Team will continue to offer all known rough sleepers in the area emergency accommodation, so they have somewhere safe, warm, and dry to stay.

The North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces initiative is still running. Warm Spaces provide a place where people can go to, for free, to enjoy warmth and have a hot drink. Please feel free to access them if you need to and spread the word.

With two months to go until the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort, I have included some information to help those preparing for events in this Update.

It was announced earlier this week that residents in North Northamptonshire have ridden over one million miles on e-scooters since Voi scooters were introduced in the area two years ago. This is a significant milestone and it means that thousands of residents can travel in a greener and more cost-effective way.

Supporting children in their education is a priority for the council and moving up to secondary school is a big step on their educational journey. Last week a total of 4,225 secondary school places were allocated to pupils across North Northamptonshire. Over 95% of applicants have been allocated one of their preferred schools and 80% were offered a place at their first choice of secondary school.

Following a recent competition to name our gritting lorries, we are delighted to announce the winning names that will be painted on the front of 10 trucks. The online competition attracted hundreds of witty suggestions from residents and school classes from across North Northamptonshire. Thank you to everyone who entered the competition.

If you're celebrating Mother's Day this year (Sunday 19 March), there are lots of local businesses in the area who would love to welcome you through their doors. We are spoilt for choice in North Northamptonshire for gift shops, florists, restaurants and cafes. Please visit our Hi Street Facebook page to hear from exciting new businesses in the area.

Congratulations to our Local Land Charges (LLC) Team for making the shortlist for the Best Performing Local Land Charges Department at the 2023 Land Data Awards for Excellence. The team manages thousands of land and property searches each year and is an essential part of the home buying and selling process for residents. This is the second time the team has been nominated for this award. The winners will be announced at the end of this month.

Our LIVE team is currently looking for donations of pre-loved and nearly new men's clothing for their Cornerstone Community Project which gives free clothing and household items to people in need in the local area. If you're planning a Spring clean and a clear out this weekend, kindly consider donating your items to this appeal.

The Northamptonshire Adult Learning Summer (April to June) programme is out now. If you are looking to further your education or improve your wellbeing, please browse the wide range of available courses on the website.

North Northamptonshire libraries offer a variety of activities and resources for children and young people. If you haven't visited your local library recently, please visit the council website to find out what is on offer. There are activities for pre-schoolers and their parents or carers as well as dedicated areas for students who need peace and quiet to revise for their exams.

Our new optional, chargeable, 12-month garden waste collection service will soon be available to residents across North Northamptonshire. The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service, with collections starting on Monday 3 April, is £40 per bin. You can sign up online. If you don't want or need a bin, there are several alternatives, which I have outlined below. Whatever your plans are, I hope you have a great weekend!

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) is now active

The Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) was activated earlier this week due to the cold weather conditions. This will be in place until Monday and monitored on a daily basis.

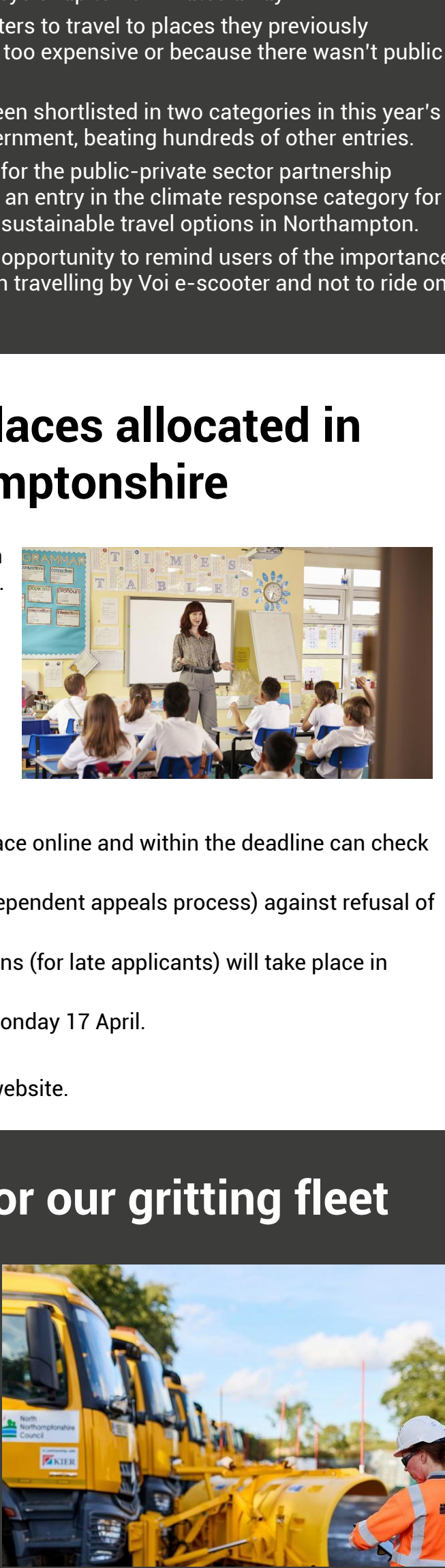
Our Rough Sleeping Team will continue to offer all known rough sleepers in the area emergency accommodation, so they have somewhere safe, warm, and dry to stay.

If you see someone sleeping rough in this cold weather, please contact the team:

- Office hours: 01536 464630
- Email roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk
- Out of hours: 0300 126 3000

Further information

Please visit our website to find out more about our SWEPE policy.



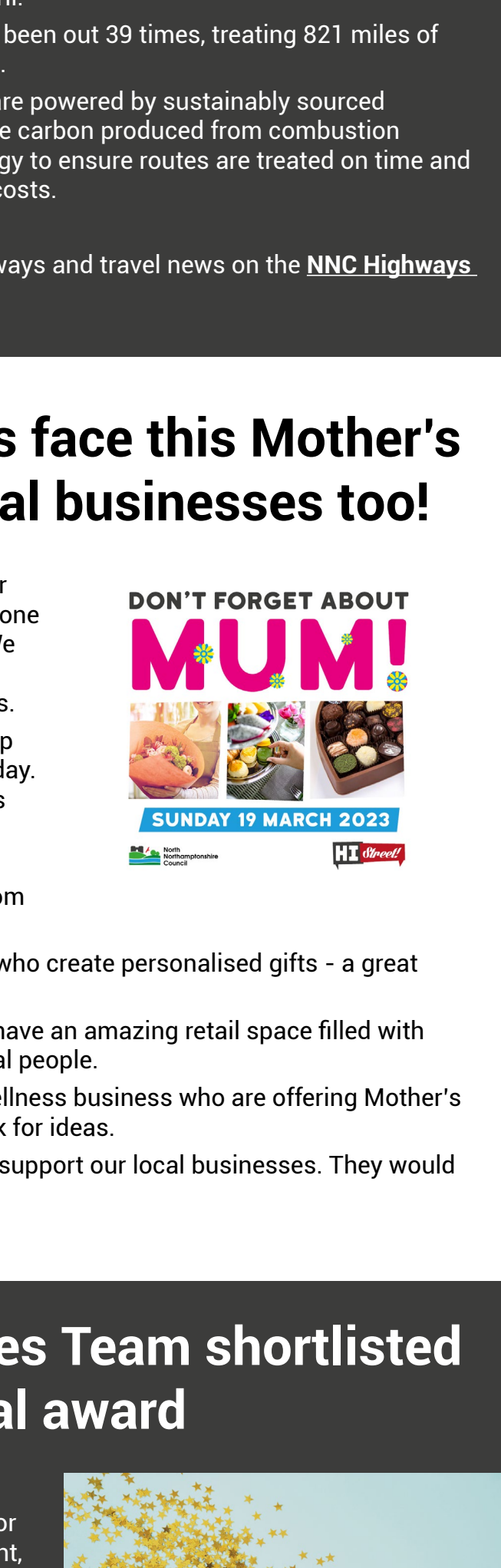
Food support and warm spaces

The Council continues to run and support warm spaces through the North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces initiative.

Warm spaces provide somewhere a person who needs to get warm can go to, for free, to enjoy warmth and have a hot drink.

A map of organisations offering food and warm spaces is available on our website.

If you know someone who you think might benefit, please let them know about their nearby warm spaces.

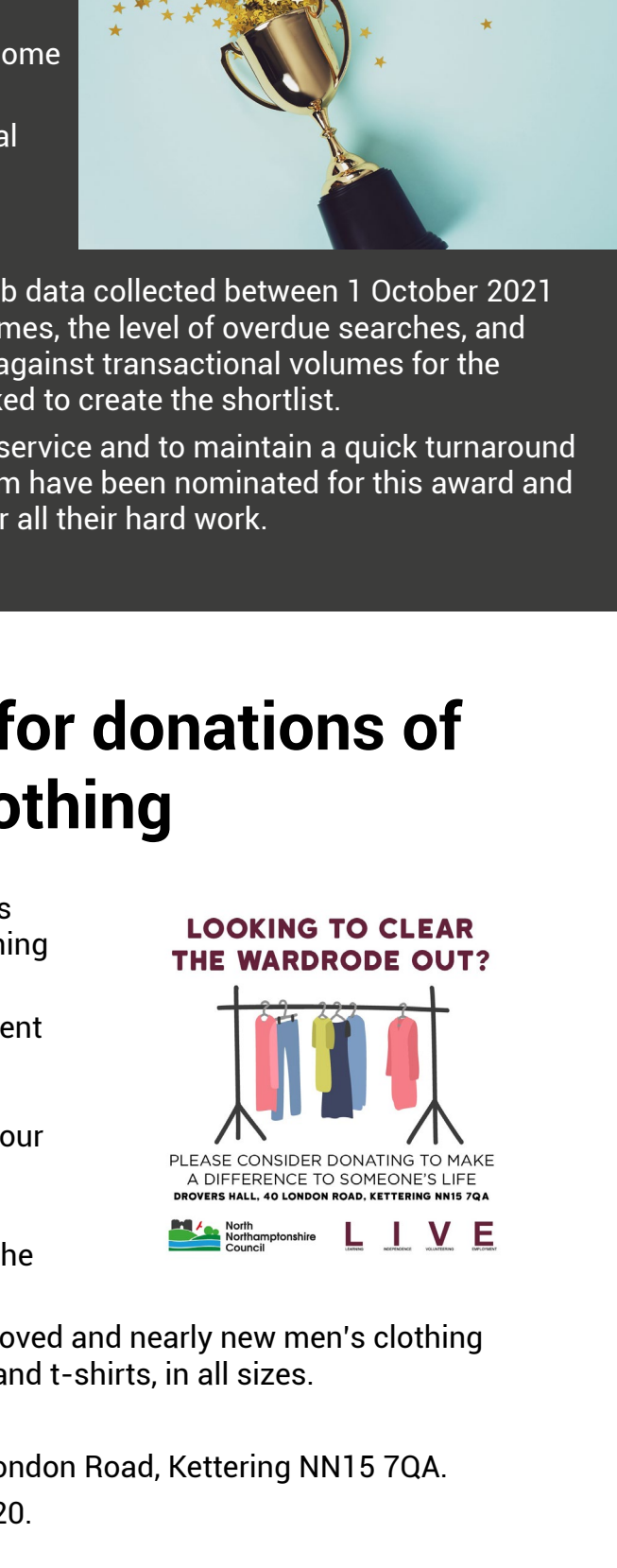


Forthcoming meetings

Executive: Thursday 16 March from 10am. [View details.](#)

Full Council: Thursday 30 March from 6pm. [View details.](#)

The agendas will be displayed on our website the week before the meetings.



The Coronation of The King and The Queen Consort

Below is some information about the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. I also wanted to let you know how you can find out more about the help and assistance that is available when preparing for local events.

Local website information

North Northamptonshire Council has created a resource on our website to help provide you with more information: [Coronation Web Page](#)

If you feel there is anything missing from the above web page, please do let me know. If you would like your local event's listing on the Council's website, please email me the details and I can arrange for them to be added. We will be promoting an events page on our website in the run up to the event and we would welcome the inclusion of events in parishes and towns.

Funding

We are aware that there is some funding available, up to £10,000, for events and activities through the National Lottery Awards for All programme. Please do share this message with local community groups. National Lottery Awards for All does not have a deadline, but applications for the Coronation weekend should be made as soon as possible. All funding criteria and terms and conditions can be found by [How to get a grant for up to £10,000](#)

Northamptonshire Community Foundation

We are aware that the Northamptonshire Community Foundation will be accepting applications for activities and projects supporting the Big Lunch and the Big Help Out in order to help communities come together and to support the role of volunteering within local communities.

You can get in contact with the Northamptonshire Community Foundation here: [Northamptonshire Community Foundation \(ncf.uk.com\)](#)

Leader's Update

I have included information about the Coronation in previous issues of the Leader's Update – previous editions are accessible here: [Leader's Update](#). In particular, I have included features in issues 44 and 42.

Event Safety

If you are organising a large event and you would like to get safety advice, please visit our [event safety partnership web page](#).

Put your event on the map!

If you would like your Coronation event plotted on the nation's Coronation Map, please visit the following web page: [Put your event on the map – Coronation of His Majesty The King & Her Majesty The Queen Consort](#)

Further information

For further information including a really useful toolkit and resources for your parish and town newsletters, please visit: [Coronation map launched – Coronation of His Majesty The King & Her Majesty The Queen Consort](#).



Over one million miles ridden on Voi e-scooters in North Northamptonshire in two years since scooter trials started

E-scooter users have ridden over one million miles in North Northamptonshire since Voi e-scooters were introduced in the county two years ago. Since the trials were set up in Kettering, Burton Latimer, Wellingborough, Corby, Rushden and Higham Ferrers in February and March 2021, e-scooters have gone from strength to strength. Over 37,000 people have taken over 1 million rides on e-scooters, covering a distance of 1.05 million miles around North Northamptonshire.

The e-scooter trial in Northampton was set up over a year earlier, in September 2020, since when there have been 2.4 million rides, covering 3.7 million miles.

According to independent research into the economic impact of e-scooters on Northamptonshire's economy, the trial schemes are expected to boost high street spending in the county by more than £7.6 million for the duration of the trial schemes.

A survey of riders using Voi scooters in Northamptonshire found that:

- 50% of people were using them at least once a week.
- 27.12% of riders scoot between once a month and a few times a month.
- Just under 58% of riders use e-scooters for journeys of up to 15 minutes a day.
- Over 53% of riders said they are using Voi e-scooters to travel to places they previously couldn't because the journey was either too long, too expensive or because there wasn't public transport available for the journey.

The Northamptonshire e-scooter scheme has just been shortlisted in two categories in this year's LGC awards, which celebrate excellence in local government, beating hundreds of other entries.

North Northamptonshire Council submitted an entry for the public-private sector partnership category. West Northamptonshire Council submitted an entry in the climate response category for its partnerships with Voi and Liberty Charge offering sustainable travel options in Northampton.

Following this positive news, I would like to take this opportunity to remind users of the importance of safety whilst out and about, to wear a helmet when travelling by Voi e-scooter and not to ride on the pavement.



Secondary school places allocated in North Northamptonshire

A total of 4,225 secondary school places have been allocated to pupils across North Northamptonshire. More people than ever before made their applications online – the figure stands at 99%.

Allocations

- First of their preferred schools: 95.2%.
- First preference: 80.05%.
- Second preference: 12.1%.
- Third preference: 3.05%.

Families who applied for their secondary school place online and within the deadline can check their offer online.

Any parent has the right to appeal (through the independent appeals process) against refusal of a place at any school for which they have applied.

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

Primary school allocations will be announced on Monday 17 April.

Further information

Please visit the [School admissions](#) section of our website.



Your names chosen for our gritting fleet

Throughout January, the council ran a competition to name 10 gritting lorries. The online competition attracted hundreds of witty suggestions from residents and school classes from across North Northamptonshire.

The winning names were chosen by the Winter Team who had a lively debate on what names should printed onto the front of the trucks.

We are delighted to announce the winning names.

Winning names

- True Grit
- Dawn of the Spread
- Grumpy Gritter
- Snow Queen
- Salty
- Wicky Gritty
- Jolly Gritter
- Thaw Patrol
- Freeze
- Blizzard Wizard

Winners will be invited to either come and see their vehicle or gritters will be taken into schools.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and sent in their funny, imaginative and just plain odd names. It was such a hard decision, but we're delighted that the fleet will no longer be nameless.

About the gritting fleet

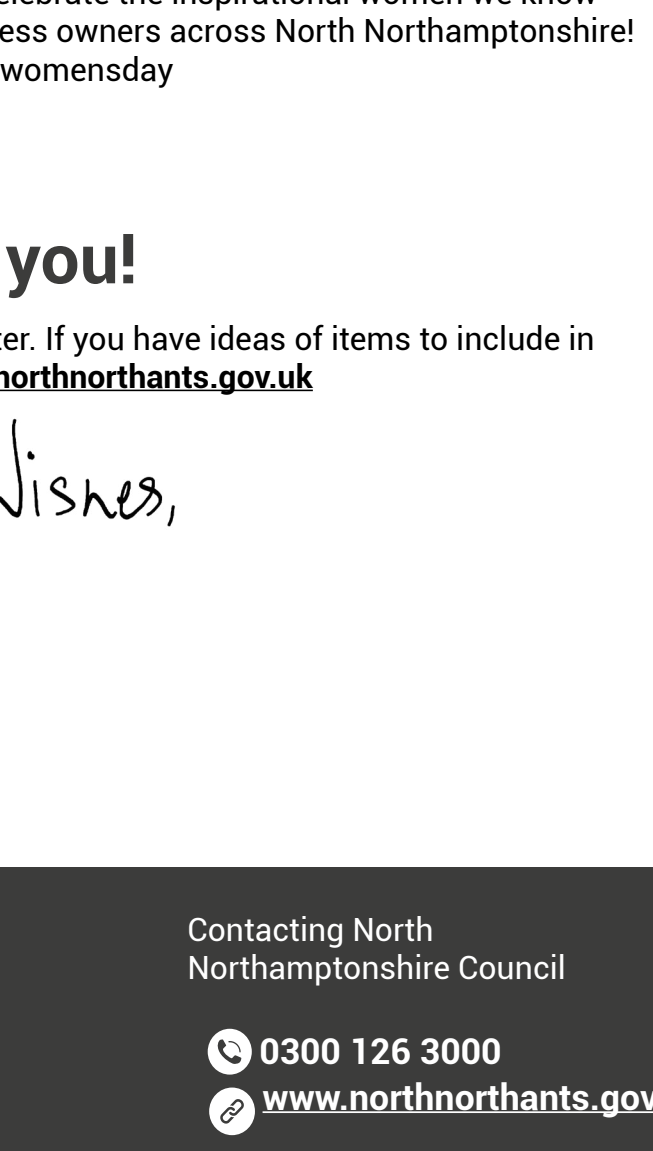
The gritting of roads that operates out of Wellingborough is on the frontline of the Winter service. The fleet of season runs from October until mid-April.

Since October last year, the Kier Highways fleet has been out 39 times, treating 821 miles of roads every time, to keep them open and safe for all.

The fleet has been updated with new vehicles that are powered by sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which reduces the carbon produced from combustion engines by up to 90%. They also have new technology to ensure routes are treated on time and that salt is used where it is needed most, reducing costs.

Further information

Keep up to date with North Northamptonshire highways and travel news on the [NNC Highways](#) Twitter and [NNC Highways Facebook](#) pages.



Bring a smile to Mum's face this Mother's Day...and support local businesses too!

Mother's Day is coming soon. It is the most popular time of year to buy flowers and gifts in the UK, and one of the busiest days for eating out with the family. We are spoilt for choice in North Northamptonshire for locally run gift shops, florists, restaurants and cafes.

A trip into one of our towns across the area can help you find everything you need to make your mum's day. Explore the High Street and meet the local business owners who are busy making preparations for this special day.

Please visit our [Hi Street Facebook](#) page to hear from exciting new businesses including:

- Wellingborough-based company, LDM Leisure, who create personalised gifts - a great choice for a unique gift.
- New business, The Artful Duck in Raunds, who have an amazing retail space filled with wonderful art and craft products created by local people.
- Hygeia Pilates in Kettering, a new health and wellness business who are offering Mother's Day gift vouchers - a good choice if you're stuck for ideas.

If you're celebrating Mother's Day this year, please support our local businesses. They would love to welcome you through their doors.



Our Local Land Charges Team shortlisted for national award

The Local Land Charges (LLC) Team at North Northamptonshire Council has made the shortlist for the Best Performing Local Land Charges Department at the 2023 Land Data Awards for Excellence. These are the only awards to recognise excellence and achievement in the profession.

The team manages thousands of land and property searches each year and is an essential part of the home buying and selling process for residents.

The winners of the award, sponsored by the National Land Information Service (NLIS), will be announced at the Land Data Local Land Charges Awards for Excellence on Tuesday 28 March.

For this award, the judging panel assesses NLIS Hub data collected between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 on electronic turnaround times, the level of overdue searches, and search accuracy and volumes, which are ranked against transactional volumes for the authority's area. The results are combined and weighted to create the shortlist.

The council strives to provide a customer-focused service and to maintain a quick turnaround time for customers. This is the second time the team have been nominated for this award and it's great for them to receive national recognition for all their hard work.



LIVE Team appeal for donations of men's clothing

If you're planning a Spring clean and a clear out this weekend, please consider donating any men's clothing to our LIVE team's community project.

The Learning Independence Volunteering Employment (LIVE) team is a specialist team that supports individuals with learning disabilities and related barriers to employment. The LIVE Team sits within our Adult Social Care service.

Their Cornerstone Community Project gives free clothing and household items to people in need in the local area.

The team is currently looking for donations of pre-loved and nearly new men's clothing including trousers, shirts, shoes, hoodies, trackies and t-shirts, in all sizes.

How to donate

- Please drop off your items to Drivers Hall, 40 London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA.
- To arrange a collection, please call 01604 362820.



Further your education or improve your wellbeing with Northamptonshire Adult Learning

The Northamptonshire Adult Learning Summer (April to June) programme is available to book online now.

Courses

- Daytime, evening and weekend courses.
- Face-to-face, online and outdoor learning courses.
- For life, for wellbeing, for work.

The wide range of courses includes art and design, computing and business, complementary health and wellbeing, crafts, fitness, languages and British sign language, personal development, photography, plus much more.

Further information

Please visit the [Adult Learning](#) section of our website to browse the full list of courses and to book your place.



Inspiring young readers and writers in our local libraries

Wellingborough Library recently welcomed Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022-2024, Joseph Coelho, for a story time session with a local school class as part of his Library Marathon.

Our libraries are set to welcome many more children (and their parents or carers) through their doors in the coming months following the relaunch of the UK's biggest children's short story writing competition, 500 Words.

The competition will be hosted by BBC Breakfast and supported by Her Majesty The Queen Consort. This year, the two age categories will be 5 to 7-year-olds and 8 to 11-year-olds. More details about the competition will be announced over the summer.

North Northamptonshire libraries offer a variety of activities and resources for children and young people including:

- Activities for under 5s and their parents or carers – Bounce and Rhyme, Rhymetime, Explore a Story and Pre-school Play.
- Bookstart scheme – Free books and resources to inspire children to develop a love of reading.
- Story sacks and share bags – To help your child develop their early literacy skills.
- Study Happy - Dedicated areas and additional resources in the lead-up to the exam period to help students' productivity and wellbeing.

Further information

Please visit the [Libraries](#) section of our website.



Garden waste collection service: Have you signed up yet?

Our new optional, chargeable, 12-month garden waste collection service will soon be available to residents across North Northamptonshire. The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service, with collections starting on Monday 3 April, is £40 per bin.

There are alternative options for those not wanting or needing a bin, which are outlined below.

If you want to subscribe and renew

You will need to pay an annual subscription of £40 by debit or credit card. You can sign up online, ready for collections starting in the first two weeks of April, at any time. You will receive registration and renewal date stickers for your bin (in February if subscribing in advance). If you need a garden bin, this will be delivered by March. Your subscription will last 12 months from the point of purchase. If you sign up early ready for the change, it will run from April to April.

If you are currently subscribed in the East Northamptonshire area, you will need to apply when your current subscription expires. If you're an existing East Northamptonshire customer, your first bin subscription will be discounted to £20 (if you sign up before the end of December 2022). If you're already paying by direct debit, this will continue at the lower cost and will be automatically discounted.

If you don't want or need a bin

- You can order 10 compostable NNC Garden Waste Sacks at £16.50 for one-off collections.
- You can [order a discounted 220L home composter](#) from the Get Composting website for £5 plus delivery.
- You can also take green waste to your nearest [Household Waste Recycling Centre](#) in the North Northamptonshire area for free disposal.

Further information

Please visit the [Garden waste](#) section of our website.

Residents unable to go online can subscribe to the service by Calling Customer Services on 0300 126 3000. Our lines are open from Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.



Free Mature Drivers Roadshow – Tuesday 2 May

Are you a mature driver (aged 60+)? Live in Northamptonshire? Rely on being able to drive? This free roadshow is for you!

Driving is an important part of our everyday life and the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA) is keen to help to keep mature drivers driving safer for longer.

The NSRA was established to implement the Northamptonshire Strategic Road Safety Plan. It brings together partners from all different agencies with an interest in road safety (including Northamptonshire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Northamptonshire Highways and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue).

Our driving ability to drive changes over time for different reasons, especially as we get older. It's important that we recognise whether and how our driving is changing so we can stay safe and protect both ourselves and those around us.

The Mature Drivers Roadshow will cover all different aspects of driving. There will be a short talk and then plenty of time to meet informally with the many stand holders. Free advice will be available on car adaptations, eyesight, Highway code changes, how to stay safe, first aid, how your prescription medications may affect you, and much more.

A limited number of free IAM RoadSmart Mature Driver Assessments will be available on a first come, first served basis.

The event is being held at Police Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton NN4 0JQ (<https://what3words.com/bill.necks.boxer>) with two sessions starting at 9:30am and 1pm.

Further information

Find out more and book your free tickets online at [Eventbrite: Mature Drivers 2023](#).



Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of a current consultation. I would welcome your feedback.

- **Public Spaces Protection Order - Protection extension to November 2023.** The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control in Kettering is due to end on 30 August 2023. North Northamptonshire Council is in the process of reviewing the existing PSPOs in place from the previous authorities of East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough, which are due to end in November 2023. Closes 23 March 2023.

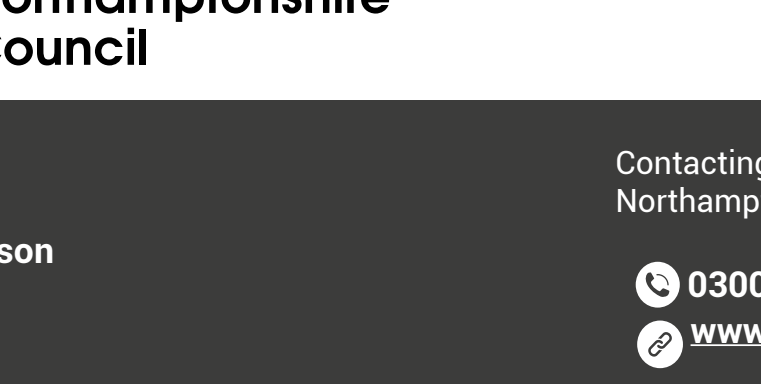
Further information

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the [North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub](#).

If you have any questions, please email the Consultation and Engagement Team at C&E@northnorthants.gov.uk.



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):

- [No More Week in North Northants](#)
- [Over one million miles ridden on Voi e-scooters in North Northamptonshire in two years since scooter trials started](#)
- [Tree-felling temporarily paused at Wellingborough Walks](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council Local Land Charges team shortlisted for national award](#)
- [Secondary school places allocated in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Further statement regarding tree felling at Wellingborough Walks](#)
- [Ukraine – North Northamptonshire Council pauses to reflect](#)

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

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

Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#).

Top Facebook posts so far this week (6 to 8 March)

- Over one million miles ridden on Voi e-scooters in North Northamptonshire in two years since scooter trials started: <http://ow.ly/rbMj50N9BeF> (Reach 5,746, Post Clicks 643)
- Your names chosen for our gritting fleet: <http://ow.ly/SJRY50N9EoO> (Reach 5,429, Post Clicks 844)
- No More Week in North Northants: <http://ow.ly/XW050N50NavP2> (Reach 3,861, Post Clicks 680)

Top Tweets so far this week (6 to 8 March)

- International Women's Day is a time to celebrate women who inspire us all around the world, and we're proud to support this important campaign. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #EmbraceEquity Find out more about #IWD2023: <https://t.co/aAFrjX99g0> (Impressions 5,479, Engagements 14)
- Residents in North Northamptonshire can now sign up for the new garden waste collection service. The fortnightly service will operate all year round and you can sign up at any point in the year. To find out more and sign up: <https://t.co/ctP670oUG4> (Impressions 4,344, Engagements 182)
- Happy International Women's Day! Let's celebrate the inspirational women we know including the many fantastic female business owners across North Northamptonshire! #IWD2023 #EmbraceEquity #internationalwomensday (Impressions 3,492, Engagements 9)

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

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