North Northamptonshire Council

Local Link

Your regular update from **Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council**



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 33. Friday 30 October 2026. Featuring: Alfred East Gallery reopens its doors. Expanded Corby cancer study shows no clear difference in cancer rates. Coats for Kids: Give the gift of warmth this winter. National Resilience: Preparing for the unexpected. Have a chat about Winter Fuel Payment scams. Stay informed about Council decisions.

Top story

Alfred East Gallery reopens its doors

I'm delighted that the Alfred East Gallery in Kettering has reopened to the public for the first time in six years. This much-loved venue is an important part of our cultural heritage, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy art and creativity in the heart of the town.

The Gallery's first major exhibition since reopening, Faces and Places, showcases a selection of artworks from Kettering's collection alongside new acquisitions donated during the refurbishment.

The reopening is another positive step in strengthening North Northamptonshire's cultural and tourism offer, with exciting plans still to come, including a new event space and café.

Take a look at the slideshow below to explore the Alfred East Gallery's story through the years, from historic photographs of its 1913 opening to images from this year's reopening celebration, showcasing both the gallery's heritage and its exciting new chapter.

The Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Latest news

Expanded Corby cancer study shows no clear difference in cancer rates

North Northamptonshire Council has published the findings of an expanded independent analysis of cancer registrations among children and young adults in the Corby area.

Following publication of the original National Disease Registration Service (NDRS) analysis in January, some residents asked whether a wider age range and a longer period of data should be examined.

In response, North Northamptonshire Council commissioned a further independent analysis from NDRS using national cancer registration data, which is regarded as the most complete source of information on cancer diagnoses in England.

The expanded study examined cancer registrations among children and young adults aged 0 to 24 years living in the Corby area between 2001 and 2023. It included an updated assessment of those living within 5km of Deene Quarry and compared cancer rates with those seen elsewhere in Corby, Northamptonshire, the East Midlands and England.

Findings: The analysis found no clear evidence that cancer rates among children and young adults living within 5km of Deene Quarry were different from those seen elsewhere in Corby, Northamptonshire, the East Midlands or England.

While the previous NDRS analysis found a slightly lower cancer rate in the study area and the expanded analysis found a slightly higher rate, neither finding was statistically significant.

The report concludes that these differences are likely to reflect normal variation rather than a genuine difference in cancer rates.

Community matters

Coats for Kids: Give the gift of warmth this winter

As winter approaches, many families across North Northamptonshire will be feeling the pressure of rising household costs. A warm coat may seem like a small thing, but for a child it can make a real difference.

That's why I'm pleased to support the Coats for Kids campaign, run by our LIVE Team, which helps local children and families access free coats through libraries and community venues.

If you have a good-quality coat that's no longer needed, please consider donating it. And if you or your family could benefit from a free coat, please don't hesitate to take one.

Coats for Kids rails can be found at: Highfield Community Centre (Kettering); The Cube (Corby); Stephenson Way Community Centre (Corby); and libraries in Irthlingborough, Kettering, Oundle, Rushden and Wellingborough.

Coats can be donated at our LIVE Team offices: Unit 2, St Marks Business Centre (Corby); Drovers Hall (Kettering); and 6 Harrowden Road (Wellingborough).

By looking out for one another and supporting initiatives like Coats for Kids, we can help ensure more children stay warm this winter.

National Resilience: Preparing for the unexpected

We never know when severe weather or an unexpected emergency might affect the services we rely on every day, such as electricity, water, phones or the internet.

That's why I'd encourage everyone to take a few moments to visit the Government's Be Ready website and consider some simple steps to help you and your family stay safe and prepared.

I'd also encourage you to check whether you, a family member or a neighbour could benefit from the Priority Services Register. This free service provides extra support during gas, electricity or water outages for eligible residents, including older people, people with long-term health conditions and families with young children.

Find out more at GOV.UK/BeReady.

Have a chat about Winter Fuel Payment scams

As Winter Fuel Payments are being made, I'd like to remind everyone to stay alert to scams.

Criminals are already sending fake messages designed to trick people into sharing personal or banking information.

Most Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, and the Department for Work and Pensions will never ask for your bank details by text message. If you receive an unexpected message, don't click on any links or share personal information.

Please help spread the word to friends, family and neighbours, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to fraud. Suspicious text messages can be checked using the Ask Silver free scam checker or reported by forwarding them to 7726.

Upcoming meetings

Stay informed about Council decisions

You can watch Executive and Council meetings live, or catch up later, on our Democratic Services YouTube channel.

Agendas, reports and meeting dates are also available on our ModernGov portal.

Upcoming meetings:

- Executive – Tuesday 10 November, 10am
- Council – Thursday 26 November, 6pm

I encourage residents to follow our meetings and stay informed about the decisions that affect our communities and help shape the future of North Northamptonshire.

Your Voice Matters

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

- Day Opportunities for Adult Social Care users – Closes 22 November 2026.
- Youth Voice: How do you use North Northamptonshire Libraries? – Closes 30 November 2026.

- Central Kettering Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 16 Consultation – Closes 2 December 2026.
- Draft Car Parking Strategy 2026-2036 – Have your say – Closes 20 December 2026.

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

Keep up to date with our latest press releases

- North Northamptonshire Council reaches the halfway mark on road surveys programme
- Update on the roll out of food waste collections in Kettering and Wellingborough areas
- Alfred East Gallery open to the public for the first time since 2020
- Northamptonshire Day 2026 event cancelled due to forecast high winds
- Excitement builds for eagerly-awaited Youth Summit
- Budget friendly Halloween family days out return to the Chester House Estate

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.

Kind regards,

Cllr Martin Griffiths

Leader of the Council

North Northamptonshire Council

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