



## Introduction and Welcome!

I write this latest update as the summer holiday season starts to draw to a close and children prepare to go back to school.

The last two weeks have been very emotional. We have all seen the distressing scenes on our televisions or tablet computers of women, men and children desperately looking to escape Kabul in Afghanistan and all the dangers that entails. I believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to the refugees from Afghanistan, many of whom have put their lives in danger to help our service personnel. There is more on this below.

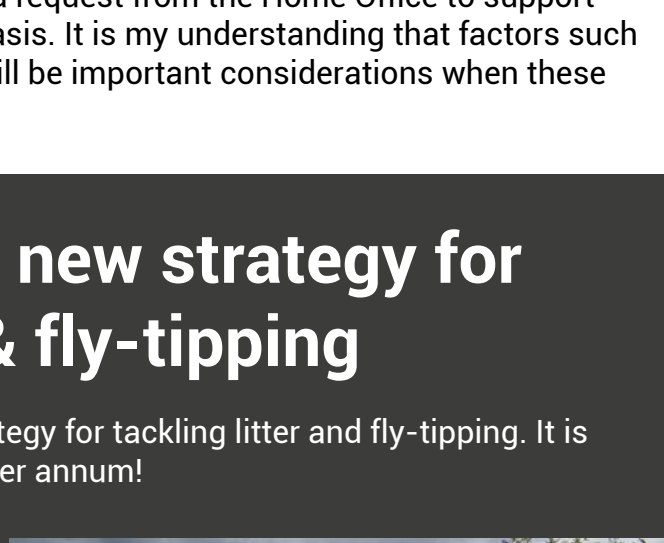
I also attended an emotive community event held on the Queensway estate in Wellingborough last Thursday evening. This was organised by Ravaun Jones, the founder of a community group set up following the tragic death of Dylan Holiday, who recently needlessly lost his life to knife crime in a park on the Queensway estate.

I was moved by the strength of feeling in the community and by the determination and energy to come together to identify ways to get knives off the streets. As I write this newsletter, I am preparing to meet with Rav and Peter Bone, MP to look at how we can work more closely with the community to help.

If you have any thoughts or ideas to help tackle knife crime, or would like to get involved, then please do get in touch with me. I would be happy to share these ideas with the appropriate staff at the Council and also Ravaun and the community organisations involved.

## North Northamptonshire Council's response to the Afghan refugee situation

North Northamptonshire Council is ready and willing to play its part in helping the refugees from Afghanistan. We are actively looking at how we can assist and are working on the development of a local approach. The Council is very keen to ensure that it carefully considers all the relevant factors to ensure any offer of help is safe, supportive, sustainable and compassionate.



The Council will be working with a range of partners and community groups to ensure the needs of families are met. You may well have seen on the news that West Northamptonshire Council has been asked by the Home Office to provide support to the temporary accommodation of over 100 Afghan Refugees in a hotel in West Northamptonshire.

North Northamptonshire has not to date received a request from the Home Office to support the accommodation of refugees on a temporary basis. It is my understanding that factors such as the availability of temporary accommodation will be important considerations when these requests are made.

## Executive approve a new strategy for tackling litter & fly-tipping

On 26th August, the Executive approved a new strategy for tackling litter and fly-tipping. It is estimated this costs the local taxpayer £3 million per annum!

Last year, approx. 6,500 tonnes of litter and fly-tipped material were collected in the North Northamptonshire area. 5,500 fly-tips were reported. Over 1,300 of the fly-tips reported were investigated for evidence and where possible, enforcement action is taken.



The strategy outlines an approach and range of interventions North Northamptonshire Council will take to tackle litter and fly-tipping. It is a clear commitment to address this important issue.

If you see a fly-tip please report it on our [website](#).

## Executive approve the adoption of a new Enforcement Policy

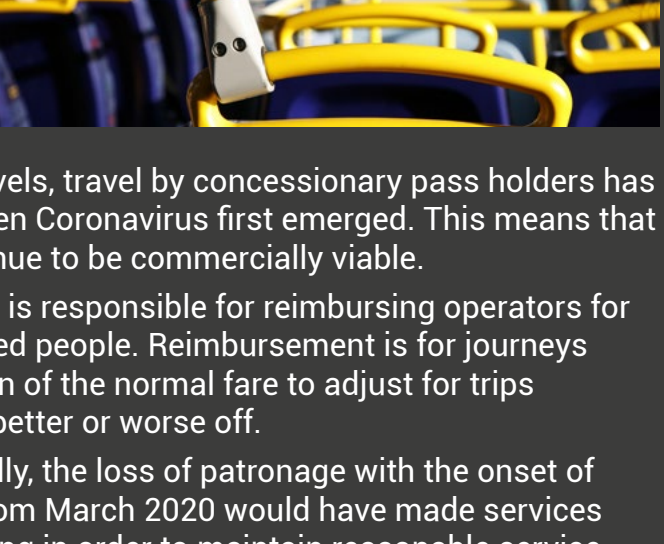
A report recommending the adoption of a new Enforcement Policy was considered by the Executive on the 26th August. The policy aims to ensure an effective approach to all regulatory, inspection and enforcement activity undertaken by North Northamptonshire Council.

The policy will improve compliance with legislation across the area whilst minimising the burden on businesses, individuals, organisations and the Executive Members have approved the Enforcement Policy.

You can read all the reports that were considered at the meeting of Executive on 26th August [here](#).

## Executive pledges continued support for bus operators in North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council's Executive has pledged to continue support to bus operators in the area as the social and economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic continues.



At its latest meeting, the Executive agreed that payments made to bus operators for the concessionary fares scheme would continue to be made at the same level as before the pandemic - up until March 2022.

The sector has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and whilst fare paying passengers have now returned to around 85 per cent of pre-Covid levels, travel by concessionary pass holders has not recovered as well, being only around half of when Coronavirus first emerged. This means that many services are still not generating enough revenue to be commercially viable.

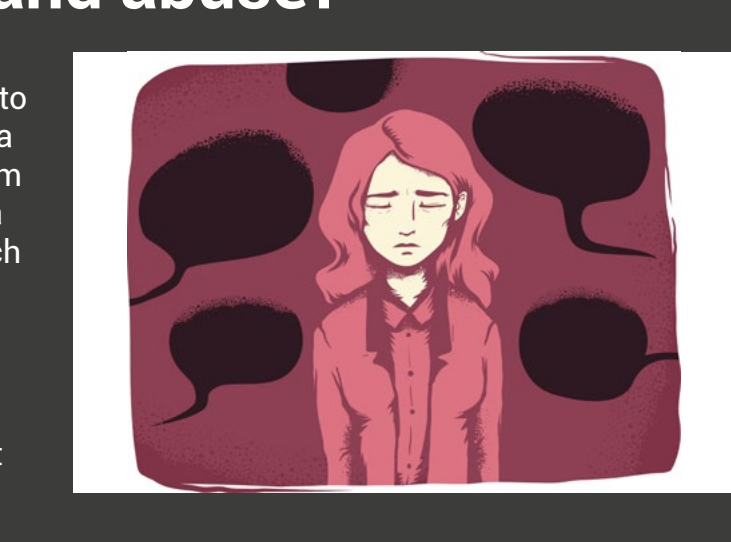
Under the concessionary fares scheme, the council is responsible for reimbursing operators for concessionary bus travel by eligible older or disabled people. Reimbursement is for journeys starting in the authority's area and is at a proportion of the normal fare to adjust for trips generated by free travel, so that the operator is no better or worse off.

As the majority of bus services operate commercially, the loss of patronage with the onset of Covid and Government discouragement to travel from March 2020 would have made services unviable had not Government stepped in with funding in order to maintain reasonable service levels. Government also asked local authorities to continue to reimburse concessionary fares at pre-pandemic levels and recently extended that request to March 2022.

The decision on the matter was included in the Executive paper on [Budget Forecast 2021/22](#).

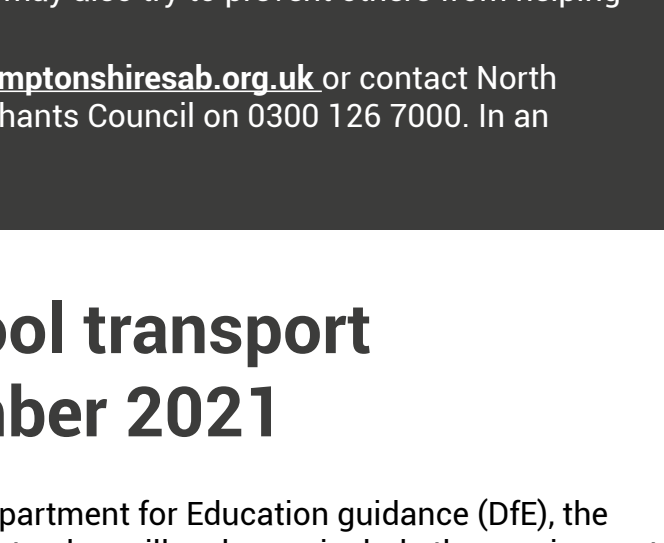
## Hundreds Hungry for Street Food Friday

The second Street Food Friday event held at West Glebe Park in Corby was a great success and saw around 500 people safely attending. The event allows people to try a range of different food and drinks from lots of different cuisines. Well done to all involved and we hope to see more similar events taking place across the whole of North Northamptonshire in the future.



## Do you know what to do if an adult is at risk of harm and abuse?

A campaign has been launched by Northamptonshire Adult Safeguarding Board to raise awareness about how people can raise a concern if an adult they know is at risk of harm and abuse. The #ReportIt campaign follows a survey carried out in December last year which found nearly half (45%) of respondents didn't know how to report a concern.



Everyone should know how to spot signs of abuse and the actions that should be taken if they have a concern. Statistics show that last year (2020/21) in Northamptonshire 5,118 concerns were received and of those 1,368 required further action. 54% of abuse was due to neglect and 31% occurred in the person's home. People with care and support needs, such as older people or people with disabilities, are more likely to become victims of abuse and neglect. They may be seen as easy targets and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it.

People with communication difficulties may also be at risk because they may not be able to alert others, and sometimes they may not even be aware that they are being abused; this is especially likely if they have a cognitive impairment. Abusers may also try to prevent others from helping the person they abuse.

People can report concerns online via [www.northamptonshiresab.org.uk](http://www.northamptonshiresab.org.uk) or contact North Northants Council via 0300 126 3000 or West Northants Council on 0300 126 7000. In an emergency people should call 999.

## Home to school transport for September 2021

**COVID 19** - In accordance with the most recent Department for Education guidance (DfE), the transport arrangements we will put in place for September will no longer include the requirement for social distancing. We will however require the continued use of face coverings by transport staff and students aged 11 and over, except for those who are medically exempt, whilst the prevalence of COVID-19 remains high.

The guidance report entitled 'Dedicated transport to schools and colleges COVID-19 operational guidance' is on the [GOV.UK website](http://GOV.UK). We will continue to ensure that operators maintain a strict cleaning regime and that vehicles are well ventilated whilst transporting students. In the event of a significant outbreak, we will work with schools to support their contingency plans and where appropriate, reintroduce measures to minimise the further transmission of the virus.

See more information about [school transport in Northamptonshire](#).

## Wellingborough Health and Wellbeing Festival 2021: Bringing wellness

This September will see the launch of the first ever Wellingborough Health and Wellbeing Festival, a week-long celebration of health and wellbeing, from 6-12 September.

North Northamptonshire Council has organised the festival in conjunction with local wellness experts, sports clubs, partners and organisations. The aim is to encourage residents to take care of their own health and wellbeing, gain inspiration, and seek advice to improve their lifestyles. All sessions are free-of-charge. This feel-good festival has been designed to cater for a wide range of age groups and abilities, with a firm focus on both physical health and mental wellbeing.

The weekday programme will feature low-impact exercise sessions: guided walks and training for beginners, and high energy sessions: under 18's basketball, adults rugby and running and high impact gym workouts. These will run alongside therapeutic pursuits such as mindfulness, arts and crafts and creative writing.

### On Saturday 11 September:

- We're kicking off with the Irchester Country Park Run at 9am.
- A pop-up wellness centre in Swansgate Shopping Centre will be the main attraction from 12 noon until 3pm.
- Residents are invited to have a walk-in health MOT by qualified professionals, to watch the healthy food preparation demonstrations, and to make their own fruit smoothie on the 'smoothie bike'.
- For budding fire fighters, a fire engine will be stationed outside the shopping centre.
- In the afternoon, Redwell Leisure Centre will be offering 30-minute racquet sport taster sessions, including badminton, table tennis, short tennis and squash.

### On Sunday 12 September:

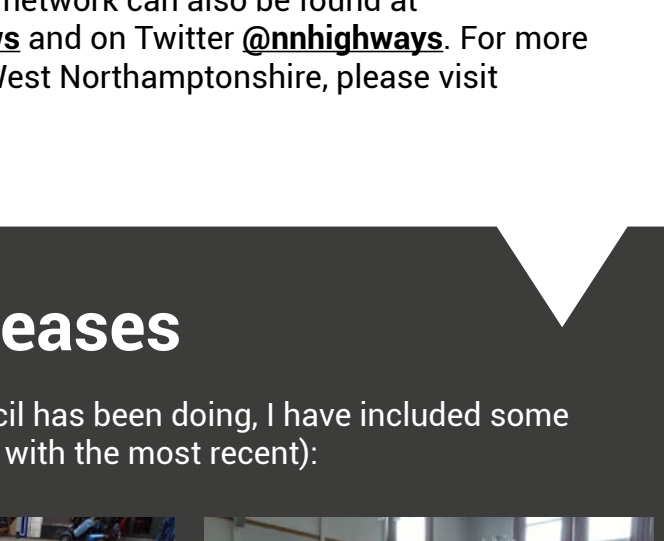
- The festival will culminate in a full day of team sporting activities.
- In the morning there will be a children's rugby training session (for 7 to 16-year-olds) at Wellingborough Rugby Club and a recreational walking basketball session (for people of all ages) at Redwell Leisure Centre.
- In the afternoon, the pool at Waendel Leisure Centre will be available for a leisurely swim.

This event in Wellingborough follows the hugely successful Health and Wellbeing Festivals in Kettering and Corby this summer. As the name suggests, Wellingborough was a 17th Century spa town with holy wells and healing springs. We are looking forward to bringing wellness back into the area; to encourage residents to take care of their own health and wellbeing, to seek advice and draw inspiration from the sessions. Best of all it's free and easy to join in with.

I am extremely thankful to all the organisations involved for joining forces with us to make this event possible, as we adapt to the new normal after lockdown.

Further details and booking information can be found on the [Wellingborough Health and Wellbeing Festival web page](#).

## Patching and resurfacing works to start on Sandy Lane, Harpole



Northamptonshire Highways start patching and resurfacing works on Sandy Lane, Harpole on Saturday, 21 August. The works that will include the resurfacing from the A4500 up to the roundabout meeting Berrywood Road will take place over three weekends leading to a full road closure on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am to 6pm until Sunday, 12 September.

Access will not be permitted during working hours but please speak to any of the onsite team if you require assistance. Emergency vehicles will be given access. Stagecoach will be serving Harpole when works are taking place and bus stops will be suspended. Weather can affect the programme and dates may change, with people advised to check the on-site signs for the latest information.

The latest information about highway works on the network can also be found at [www.one.network.co.uk](http://www.one.network.co.uk), [www.kierwsp.co.uk/news](http://www.kierwsp.co.uk/news) and on Twitter [@nnhighways](#). For more information about roads, parking and transport in West Northamptonshire, visit [www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roadworks)

## 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):



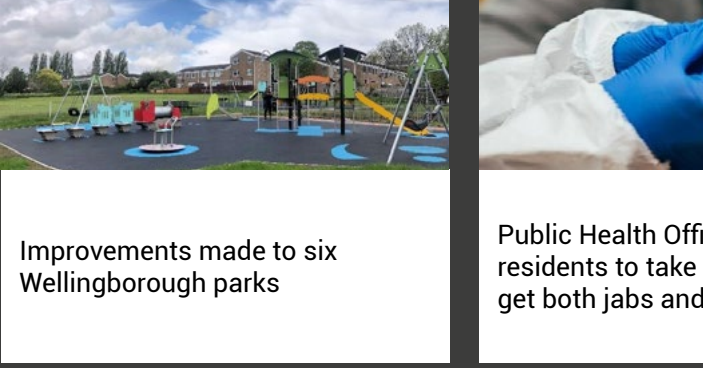
Executive Meeting: August 26



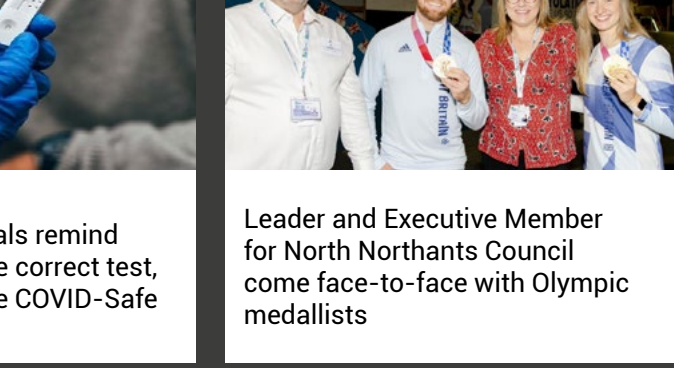
Strategy for tackling litter and fly-tipping agreed at Executive



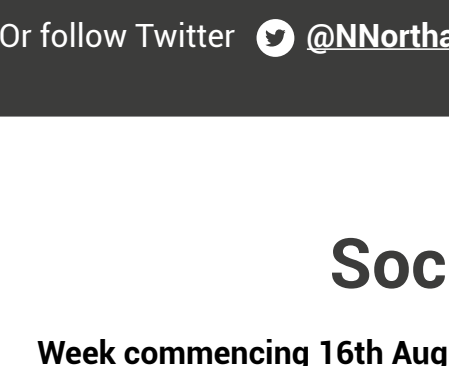
Executive pledges continued support for bus operators in North Northants



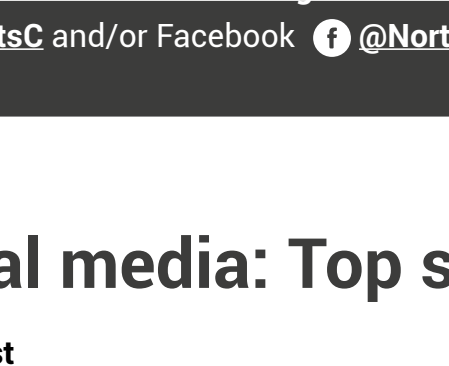
North Northamptonshire Council's response to the Afghan refugee situation



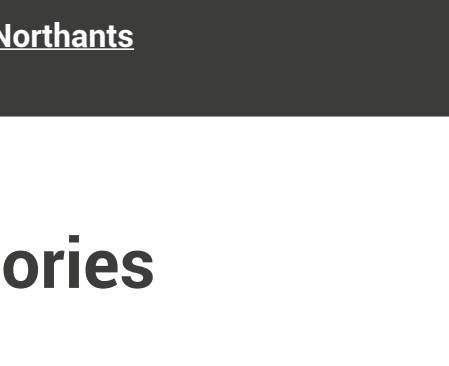
New primary school to be built at Stanton Cross, Wellingborough



Improvements made to six Wellingborough parks



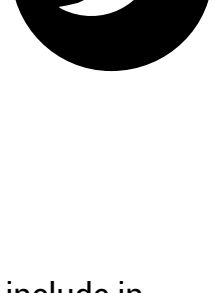
Public Health Officials remind residents to take the correct test, get both jabs and be COVID-Safe



Leader and Executive Member for North Northants Council come face-to-face with Olympic medallists

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](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news)

Or follow Twitter [@NNorthantsC](#) and/or Facebook [@NorthNorthants](#)



## Social media: Top stories

### Week commencing 16th August

#### Facebook:

- Illegally parked car blocking road in Irthingborough.
- New Adult Learning Northants courses for September.
- #NNStay/#SummerCelebrations/Street Food Friday in Corby.

#### Twitter:

- Press release: Stay safe in open water.
- Press release: Leader and Executive Member meet local Olympians.
- #NNStay/#RediscoverSummer/Northants landmarks and historic sites.

## 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](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk)

With Best Wishes,  
Jason

