

the **Link**



The newspaper of the Borough
Council of Wellingborough

www.wellingborough.gov.uk

January 2012



New chief is set to spring into action!

It's all change at Wellingborough Council as a new chief executive is set to take over in the spring.

John Campbell, who is currently chief executive at North Hertfordshire District Council, said that he was "absolutely delighted" to have been offered the post and was looking forward to starting work in Wellingborough.

John was appointed following a nationwide search to recruit a

permanent replacement for the previous chief executive, who retired in July 2010.

The council has been headed up since then by Joe Hubbard, who took on the interim position on an 18-month secondment. Council leader Paul Bell said that the role was going to be tough but that he was impressed with John's experience and vision. Cllr Bell said: "It's a difficult time for local government

and John is joining a council that must still make significant budget savings over the next few years. It's not going to be easy, but we've every confidence we have the right man for a very demanding task." After eight years in his current role John says he is ready for something fresh and is "looking forward to working with local residents, employees and councillors to deal with the challenging times ahead".

John Campbell facts

- ▶ John was born in Glasgow and is married, with two sons. He now lives in Northampton.
- ▶ In travelling to North Hertfordshire each day for eight years he has driven more than 160,000 miles - about two thirds of the way to the moon! He will be cutting his commute to work by more than an hour each way.
- ▶ John says he is proud to have been a public servant for 32 years and his biggest work achievement was getting the chief executive job at North Hertfordshire after working his way up from trainee housing manager.



Dear John...

As the arrival of a new chief executive was announced, we asked residents what they thought should be made a priority in the borough.



"Generally Wellingborough is a really nice place. The only thing missing is a department store. If we could get that it would be fantastic."

Samantha Jackson, 38



BREAKING NEWS

People who use day centre Glamis Hall have been reassured the service will continue. The council was unable to find a partner organisation that offered sufficient savings, so the service will remain under council control.
Glamis Hall, Goldsmith Road: 01933 677 326.



"Wellingborough needs to be accessible for everyone. Ask people's opinions before any new development work so that people with disabilities are able to get around."

Steve Cooper, 43

Equality Act

How does the council meet its duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations in the community? Visit www.wellingborough.gov.uk/equalities or phone 01933 231 711 to find out.

Mini-MEND

A 10-week healthy lifestyle programme has been so successful that more sessions have been announced. Mini-MEND involves pre-school children and their parents and helps prevent childhood obesity. Sessions are held in Irchester (phone 01604 810 260) or Wellingborough (phone 01933 678 714).



Partners in grime

A new company will be created to carry out council services such as rubbish collecting and street cleaning. The 10-year partnership with the Norse Group, a subsidiary of Norfolk County Council, could save the council £2million and create extra jobs in Wellingborough.

Renovation grants

See if you qualify for a grant of up to £20,000 to deal with hazards such as excess cold, damp and mould, electrical problems and structural instability so you can stay safe and warm this winter. Call 01933 229 777 for information.



How we've saved £2.1m...

...and how we'll save another £2.9m by 2014

Throughout the last year Wellingborough Council has been finding ways to save more than £5million.

Since the government announced dramatic cuts in funding last Christmas, every possible way to save money has been looked at.

So far the council has saved more than £2.1m, with another £2.9m already identified to be saved between now and 2014.

Some of the savings have inevitably had an effect on the service the public receives, while others are more behind-the-scenes.

Savings so far

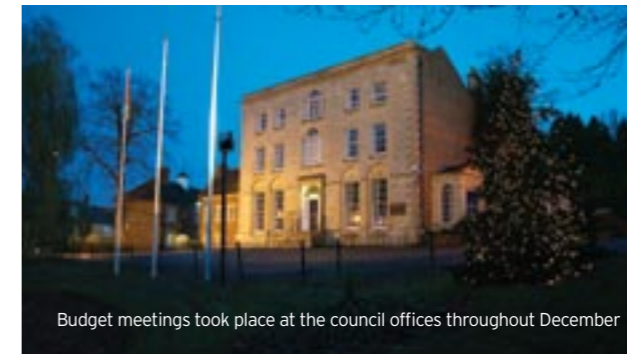
The majority of the savings so far have come from a reduction in employees, with 67 voluntary and 17 compulsory redundancies. Up until now, these redundancies have saved around £920,000, including £560,000 from a management restructure. Some services are still being restructured and employees are still working their notice, meaning more savings of

around £800,000 are still to come.

Other savings include an £8,000 reduction by banning the use of first class mail, £2,500 from stopping refreshments at meetings, £3,000 by cleaning windows less often, and £37,000 by reducing the cost of legal and ICT services.

Income generated

Councillors now only get one payment for taking on extra responsibilities, meaning a saving of more than £5,000, and the cancellation of the councillor ward support scheme means a further £35,000 saved. Income has been generated by increasing fees and charges to be more in line with the average charged by other councils. Further savings have come from closing the council's cash desk and moving to a more flexible system of payments in local shops (£57,000), temporarily stopping garden waste collections over the winter months (£63,000), and reducing caretaking and cleaning arrangements (£28,000).



Budget meetings took place at the council offices throughout December

What happens now?

It is now time for the council to set the budget for the next financial year. Although £5m of achievable savings have been found so far, there is still a shortfall of £750,000 to balance the books for next year.

Councillors met at the end of December to consider ways that the shortfall could be addressed and have come up with a list of potential savings.

➤ See the panel on the right for information about how to get involved and have your say on the proposals.

YOUR
services
YOUR
money...

Tell us
YOUR
priorities!

Throughout November and December, councillors and employees have been thinking about even more ways to save money.

Suggestions have been put forward, budgets have been looked at, and the list has been narrowed down to a number of possibilities.

Now it's your turn to give your opinion on the proposals. What do you think about the suggestions?

Is there something you think is particularly important to Wellingborough?

Is there something you think we could do without, or do differently?

We have £750,000 to save in next year's budget.

You can help us find these savings by telling us your thoughts.

Go to our website at: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/budget or phone 01933 229 777 for details.

The consultation runs until the end of January and the final budget will be set in March.

Services

We know that understanding which organisation provides which service in Wellingborough isn't always easy.

To the right is a list of the most commonly used services that are provided by Wellingborough Council. If a service isn't listed and you are unsure whether or not we provide it, please contact us so that we can point you in the right direction. Some services are provided by a number of organisations working together.

Ways to get in touch

If you don't have internet access or would like to request a paper copy of any information mentioned in this issue of The Link you can contact us in the following ways:

Email us at:

customerservices@wellingborough.gov.uk

Call our customer services team on:

01933 229 777




















Write to us at: Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BP

Come and see us at our Doddington Road or Tithe Barn Road offices.

www.wellingborough.gov.uk

You can pay bills, send us comments, report issues, submit planning applications and much more 24 hours a day on our website.



-  Affordable housing
-  Building regulations
-  Business rates
-  Car parks
-  Cemeteries
-  Community grants
-  Council tax benefits and collection
-  Elections
-  Environmental health
-  Housing advice, benefits and grants
-  Leisure centres
-  Licences
-  Market
-  Noise complaints
-  Parks and open spaces
-  Pest control
-  Planning applications
-  Public toilets
-  Recycling, refuse, garden waste and bulky collections



Stand back!

The bandstand in Wellingborough's Castle Fields park will be restored in the spring. The concrete building has major problems with its roof structure, drainage and waterproofing, and was badly vandalised a few years ago. It has been closed and shuttered since 2008 but now the council is set to start the £75,000 specialist renovation work. The bandstand hosted its first performance on Easter Sunday 1914 and quickly became a key feature in the community. As part of the renovation project Wellingborough Council is looking for any memories or photographs of the bandstand that residents would like to share. These can be sent to heritage@wellingborough.gov.uk or phone 01933 231 659.

Older Person's Health Forum

The Wellingborough Older Person's Health Forum will be meeting on 24 January between 2pm and 4pm in the All Saints' Church Rooms on Midland Road, Wellingborough. Come along and find out what the new health service reforms will mean for you.



What's going on this winter?

To find out about what the council is doing to keep the borough moving during the winter weather visit

www.wellingborough.gov.uk/winter

You will also find information on the gritting of roads and pavements, school closures, weather forecasts, and advice on keeping safe and warm.