It’s all happening at Stanton Cross

Stanton Cross, located to the east of Wellingborough, will be the largest development of its kind since the 1960s. It will provide much-needed new homes and amenities, as well as a boost to the local economy.

There has been a lot happening on site in the past few months and much of the project’s key infrastructure has started.

For instance:

- Last month saw the successful delivery of the first structural beams which form the Railway Bridge to link Stanton Cross to Wellingborough. It forms part of the development’s first major road, Route 4, which will run from Midland Road, across the railway and through a new country park into the development.
- Groundworks for the construction of the first phase of infrastructure is under way. The initial residential phase will deliver the first 521 of 3,650 homes and will include a diverse mix of one, two, three, four and five-bedroom homes and apartments. It will also include a number of affordable homes. It is anticipated that house building will begin soon and the homes will be released for sale later in the year.
- A team of specialists has started rerouting part of Wellingborough’s River Ise. As part of the evolution of Stanton Cross, more than 100 acres of

» Continued on page 2
Prison plans announced
The Ministry of Justice has made an official announcement that a new category C prison will be built on the site of the mothballed Wellingborough Prison. The new prison is part of the Government’s programme to close old Victorian jails and replace them with modern facilities. Prisons Minister Sam Gyimah is promising that the new site will bring 2,000 jobs to the area and an £80 million boost to the economy.

“What’s this symbol?”
Have you ever seen this symbol on our job vacancies and wondered what it is about? As an accredited Disability Confident employer, we are required to use the symbol when advertising our vacancies to highlight that we have a positive approach to employing disabled people. We guarantee to interview all applicants declaring themselves as disabled who meet the minimum criteria for the role they have applied for. We will also do all we can reasonably do to support an existing employee who may become disabled. We are committed to getting the right people for our business, keeping them and developing their potential.

County council election
Throughout Northamptonshire on Thursday 4 May, voters will be having their say to elect councillors to the county council. If you want to have your say, you should check that you’re registered to vote. The deadline for registration is Thursday 1 April. If you’re not registered, you won’t be able to vote. The quickest and easiest way to register is to go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Crematorium offers more than you think
Nene Valley Crematorium, operated by Wellingborough Bereavement Services, opened its doors to the public on 19 September 2016.

Since the opening, Tracy Lawrence (pictured), manager and registrar, has been overwhelmed by its success and the amount of interest shown by visitors, many of whom just ‘drop in’. Tracy adds: “We always abide and take the opportunity to educate those who are curious to ensure future informed decisions are reached, and after all, it’s free marketing too.”

The story so far
Use of the facility has so far exceeded expectations and Christmas time saw the success continue with about 1,000 spaces taken to talk about loved ones afterwards, where the opportunity was taken to talk about loved ones and the new offerings at Nene Valley Crematorium.

Guests are encouraged to take about 15 years to build, but development will progress in phases. It will create many new jobs across the region and will bring 6,000 additional permanent jobs once the project is completed. For more information on the Stanhope Cross development, please visit www.rstoncs.co.uk or contact us on 0333 0363 6079.

A year of Nene Valley Crematorium
The first anniversary of Nene Valley Crematorium is on Sunday 10 September. To celebrate, there will be a behind-the-scenes tour and a chance to meet Tracy and her team. This will provide a rare opportunity to see inside the new crematory, find out what happens, access myths and discover the plans for future generations through the final resting place of loved ones and find out about exclusive offers.

Visitors are invited to enjoy refreshments, discover our facilities and find out about the new crematory. Refreshments will be served afterwards, where the opportunity was taken to talk about loved ones and the new offerings at Nene Valley Crematorium.

A new era begins at the Castle Theatre
A new era at the Castle Theatre began when the if theatre reopened its doors to the public in August 2016. The venue has been a community resource for the people of Wellingborough and beyond since 1996, and the council vowed to get the theatre reopened after its closure in June 2016.

To ensure an immediate reopening and smooth running of the facility, the council brought in a theatre management specialist who has been working with the council’s senior management team on medium to long-term options for the venue.

Discussions have taken place and various plans considered for the medium-term management of the theatre while new permanent arrangements are put in place. Councillors will receive a report in the coming months advising on the actions required to produce a cultural/artistic strategy, determine the extent of funding of the arts in the borough, and seek a trust, company or organisation to manage and operate the Castle Theatre.

A brief and tender specification will then be produced to take forward the strategy and to find a new operator for the theatre from 2018 onwards. Until then the council will continue to run it.

More information and film listings, please visit www.castletheatre.co.uk or contact us on 01933 510150.

The Ministry of Justice has made an official announcement that a new category C prison will be built on the site of the mothballed Wellingborough Prison. The new prison is part of the Government’s programme to close old Victorian jails and replace them with modern facilities. Prisons Minister Sam Gyimah is promising that the new site will bring 2,000 jobs to the area and an £80 million boost to the economy.

This significant investment will have many benefits for residents and the economy, and will bring hundreds of new jobs both in the construction phase of the development and also in the management and staffing of the prison when it reopens.
What happens to the waste in your recycling bin

The recycling in your green bin is sent to a sorting facility where all the materials are separated by machinery and by hand. The materials are then sent to different locations where they are made into new products. Your plastic bottles could be remoulded into a chair, a toy, or could even be made into clothing. Your cans could make new cans or could end up as part of an aeroplane.

Recycling saves resources, saves energy, helps the environment and reduces landfill. Recycling is cheaper than disposal, so it also benefits you as a taxpayer. We would like to encourage all residents to recycle the right materials in their green bin. We can accept:

- Cans and tins, metal lids from jars, aerosol cans, aluminium foil.
- Glass bottles and jars.
- All recycling should be clean and free from food waste. Flattening boxes and squashing cans will help you fit more in your green bin. Please don’t put your recycling in black bags; we won’t be able to tell if it’s recycling or household waste.
- Paper, cardboard, juice and milk cartons.
- Plastic bottles, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, plastic jam and marmalade jars, plastic food trays, plastic bags.

Microchipping and the law

On 6 April 2016 a law requiring the compulsory microchipping of all dogs was introduced. Thousand of dogs stray or are lost every year and many are never reunited with their owners. Wellingborough Council collects on average between 150 and 200 stray dogs each year.

Dog breeding and the licensing requirements: are you thinking of buying a puppy?

It is crucial that puppies are cared for and loved appropriately in the first three months of life as they are developing physically and mentally. That is why the council’s Licensing section is urging both selling dogs and those buying them to make sure they are aware of the licensing requirements around dog breeding.

If you breed dogs with the intention of selling them for profit, you could be considered to be running a dog breeding business. Anyone carrying on in this type of business will normally require a dog-breeding licence, regardless of the number of litters involved.

The Licensing team can provide information on how to apply for a licence if you email licensing@wellingborough.gov.uk or see if your breeder is licensed, or if in doubt you can check with the Licensing team.

If you are unsure how to display a particular sticker please contact Wellingborough Norse on 01933 234520 or email wellingborough.norse@hc4r.gp.co.uk

Food hygiene standards: look for the sticker

Officers from the council’s Health Protection team carry out regular inspections at all food businesses in the borough, including cafes, restaurants, takeaways and takeaways. At the end of each inspection officers give a Food Hygiene Rating in accordance with the Food Standards Agency’s national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

The rating reflects the standards of food hygiene found on the date of inspection. It takes into account the hygiene practices, structural conditions, and general cleaning and management controls within the business. However, there is not a guide to food quality.

Each business is given a window sticker showing the latest rating. Display is not mandatory in England, but this sign helps customers decide which businesses to visit.

The food hygiene rating is a guide to the standard of food hygiene found on the date of the inspection. It is not a guide to food quality. Each business is given a window sticker showing the latest rating. Display is not mandatory in England, but this sign helps customers decide which businesses to visit.

Public realm

Design works is progressing to add some features to highlight the history of the former Zoo Park. These may include carved stone animals and information boards.

The THI scheme is making good progress in the town centre. Recent projects on Park Road and Market Street have redeveloped lost shop front details such as the signage for O’Donnell’s Hardware store and the intricate shop front on Jan Knits. These have been recorded and new signage has been hand-painted for each shop.

The small independent shops involved have seen their fronts renovated and are looking forward to seeing more customers admiring the new signage. The works have not just been to the shop front as the whole of each building has benefited from repairs to the roof, windows and walls above.

The traders on Park Road are Jan Knits (knitting and needlework), Carol’s Alterations (clothing alterations and ironing), Au Bon Marche Ladies’ wear and Travail Employment Group. The traders on Market Street are Blink Opticians, E3@21 (sportswear), Captain Neil’s Toy Chest, Queen Bee Nails, Café Aroma, Graduate Hair Salon, The Sweet Jar and Trains and Models.

On Silver Street, two shops are benefiting from the grant scheme, the former cinema at No 11 and No 12. Again, both these shops front fronts have taken inspiration from the historic fabric to reinspire them.

Shop front works - rediscover history

Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of

Thousands of dogs stray or are lost every year requiring the compulsory microchipping of all dogs was introduced.

If you are unsure how to display a particular sticker please contact Wellingborough Norse on 01933 234520 or email wellingborough.norse@hc4r.gp.co.uk

Dividing a property for large entertainment space or shop front works

For further information on any grants, please contact Wellingborough Norse on 01933 231911 or email licensing@wellingborough.gov.uk or go to our webpages wellingborough.gov.uk/thi

The newly regenerated market square could be a great, affordable place to start your own business. If you would like to discuss setting up your own stall or the possibility of using the events space, please contact Wellingborough Norse on 01933 234520.
Get your tickets for the Mayor and Mayores's Grand Masquerade Ball

Tickets are available for the Grand Masquerade Ball to be held on Saturday 20 May 2017 at Nicksteed Park Pavilion, Kettering. The cost of a ticket is £25 and includes a mask, dinner and dancing to a live band – New Vintage Plus. Admission is by ticket only and everyone is welcome, whether couples, groups of friends or work colleagues. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mayor’s charity.

Meet our Mayor

Cllr Malcolm Waters was elected Mayor of the borough at the annual meeting of the council on Tuesday 17 May 2016 and his wife Veronica, also a councillor, was appointed Mayoress. Cllr Waters grew up in the town. He has been an active borough councillor for more than 30 years and was previously Mayor in 1994–95. Both Malcolm and Veronica serve as councillors for the Redwell Ward.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being Mayor is having the opportunity to get involved with the community, voluntary organisations, schools and groups. The Mayor has been particularly impressed by the generosity of Wellingborough people in this year’s Poppy Appeal and has enjoyed working with Royal British Legion volunteers.

One of the year’s highlights was welcoming Jordan Blunson to the town on his walk from Durham to the Somme, raising money for Walking With The Wounded. Another highlight was the privilege of presenting the Légion d’honneur to a Second World War veteran, the French Government wished to recognise, and at the same time thank those who fought and risked their lives to secure the liberation of France during the war.

The Mayor and Mayoress have held several fundraising events, with their main charity being Contact the Elderly, along with the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Breast Cancer.

Cllr Paul Bell, former leader of the council, is Mayor Elect for 2017–18 and will be appointed on Tuesday 23 May at the annual meeting of the council, with his wife Carol as Mayoress.

Affordable housing target beaten

Wellingborough Council’s three-year affordable housing target has been delivered 15 months ahead of schedule.

The completion of 48 affordable homes by Wellingborough Homes at Mitchell Court, Broad Green, in early December has taken the total number of affordable homes delivered across the borough to 251 units since April 2015. These homes have been delivered through the council’s housing association partners and are mainly for affordable rent, with a proportion also available for shared ownership.

Leader of the council, Cllr Martin Griffiths, said: “This result shows that the council and its business partners are making things happen for local residents – each new affordable home helps an applicant to secure an affordable home for rent, or in some cases helps younger people and families get their foot on the property ladder through shared ownership.”

“Wellingborough Council has priorities to promote high-quality growth, to improve life chances for young people and to enhance the environment, and I am pleased that the new homes are helping to address all these priorities and boost the local economy.”

“I am also pleased that some of the new homes have helped to turn around disused sites near the town centre.”

The council provided capital funding to kick-start some of the units, with additional funding from housing associations such as Wellingborough Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Cllr Griffiths added: “The council has been working with partners to enable affordable housing in future years and the outlook for the next three years (2018–21) is already looking positive.”

“This position has been helped by the adoption of a North Northamptonshire Joint Care Strategy, which sets out a clear policy direction for affordable housing.”

The new affordable homes at Mitchell Court were handed over on December 9 and Wellingborough and Wellingborough Homes worked in partnership to identify the tenants for the affordable rented units.

Middle-aged? Stay healthy with the One You campaign

Public Health England’s (PHE) One You campaign is helping middle-aged people to live more healthily by asking ‘How are you?’ and providing free support and tools.

A recent analysis from PHE shows modern life taking its toll on health with eight out of 10 middle-aged people either weighing too much, drinking too much or not exercising enough.

PHE’s campaign is reaching out to the 83% of women (79% of men) who are either overweight or obese, exceed the Chief Medical Officer’s target and are five times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than those who are a healthy weight (a body mass index between 18.5 and 25). Nineteen per cent of adults with diabetes have type 2.

So please consider your health and the simple steps you can take to improve it by taking the One You online quiz – www.nhs.uk/oneyou/how-are-you

The How Are You quiz takes your lifestyle information, gives a health score and then links to free localised information, apps and tools. Apps include Couch to 5k, Alcohol Checker and Easy Meals.

In Northamptonshire, First for Wellbeing has created a holistic integrated approach to improving health and wellbeing and uses a bespoke online assessment tool with eight key areas – Smoking, Weight management, Employment and adult learning, Alcohol, Housing-related support, Social isolation, Financial wellbeing, Emotional wellbeing.

You can take First for Wellbeing’s free assessment today by calling 0300 126 5000 or visit www.firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Applying just got smarter

Applying and searching for an affordable home has now become much simpler with the new housing website. Keyways is the system for bidding on affordable housing. The newly redesigned website brings Wellingborough housing customers a new modern look.

Improved property search;
Latest property news;
Information on the current bidding cycle;
Maps to local services such as schools, GPs, etc.

Affordable Housing Delivery 2015–18 to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered Provider</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Total units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orbit</td>
<td>Buckwell End</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbit</td>
<td>Olympic Way</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>Doddington Way</td>
<td>29 (of 38) (other 9 in 2014–15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>Oxford House</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough Homes</td>
<td>Bourton Way</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough Homes</td>
<td>Compton Way</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough Homes</td>
<td>Ladywell Park</td>
<td>10 (of 22) (other 12 in 2007–18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough Homes</td>
<td>Mitchell Court</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the Residents’ Panel?
The Residents’ Panel is a joint venture between our council, Northamptonshire County Council, and other public service providers in Northamptonshire. It is made up of local people who have volunteered to give their opinions on a range of issues/services affecting the area. The Residents’ Panel allows the council to:

- Evaluate the services we provide;
- Identify opportunities for improving services in the future;
- Understand local priorities.

What do panel members do?
Panel members agree to receive invitations to take part in various types of consultations. The consultations may be countywide or local to the borough. The vast majority of these will now be online surveys and questionnaires as this is the most cost-effective way to find out your opinions and has the best response rate.

- From time to time over the year we ask panel members for their views on different important issues and topics relating to local public services and the future of the area.
- It’s also possible that members will be invited to take part in activities such as focus groups, forums and mystery shopping. It is up to members which activities they choose to take part in.
- We also make sure that we can hear your views without taking up too much of your time.

Who can be a member of the Residents’ Panel?
- Anyone can join as long as they are 16 or over and live in Northamptonshire.
- No knowledge or understanding of the way services are run is required.

How do I join the Residents’ Panel?
Visit the Residents’ Panel page on our website to sign up.

Where can I find out more information?
We have created a Frequently Asked Questions page. If you have any other queries about joining or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact 01933 229777 or email info@wellingborough.gov.uk.

Services

We know that understanding which organisation provides which service in Wellingborough isn't always easy, so here's a list of the most commonly used services that are provided by the council.

If a service isn't listed, or 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.

FOR THESE SERVICES, CALL 01933 229777

- Affordable housing
- Building regulations
- Business rates
- Community grants
- Council tax benefits and collection
- Elections
- Environmental health
- Housing advice, benefits and grants
- Leisure centres
- Licences
- Noise complaints
- Pest control
- Planning applications

FOR THESE SERVICES, CALL 01933 234520

- Car parks
- Cemeteries
- Market
- Parks and open spaces
- Public toilets
- Recycling, refuse, garden waste and bulky collections

These services are run by Wellingborough Norse, the company that carries out environmental services on behalf of the council.

www.wellingborough.gov.uk

Don't forget you can find information, pay bills, send us comments, report issues, submit planning applications and much more 24 hours a day on our website.

Email us at: generalenquiries@wellingborough.gov.uk
Write to us at: Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BP.

Other ways to get in touch

Do you know who your local councillor is?
The council has 36 councillors who represent various areas across the borough, which are known as wards. You can find details of the councillor(s) for your ward on the council’s website at www.wellingborough.gov.uk/councillors/yourcouncil

Decision-making process
You can also find out what items are being discussed at committee meetings by logging on to our website at www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/100004/council_and_democracy/186/council_and_committee_meetings. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Democratic Services on 01933 231521.