Welcome to the latest edition of The Link, the Borough Council of Wellingborough’s resident magazine.

There have been a number of milestones since the last edition, including work progressing at the new prison in Wellingborough, the redevelopment of Tresham College and improvements being made to our town centre. Find out more inside.

Welcome to the spring edition of The Link updating you on the latest council news and information.

There has been significant progress since the last edition with our flagship projects all of which will shape the expansion to our town.

Work is well underway to deliver the new Wellingborough Prison, entirely funded by Government, and we will see this take shape a year ahead of its opening in 2021.

Both of the town’s urban extensions are well underway and will benefit from a range of much needed high-quality and affordable homes, community facilities and schools as well as dedicated areas of open green space for residents to enjoy.

As shopping habits change, town centres need to evolve and be improved. Inside you will see the plans to develop public realm areas in the months and years ahead.

Councillor Martin Griffiths
Leader
The journey to new unitary councils in Northamptonshire

Work is underway to prepare for the proposed creation of two new unitary councils in Northamptonshire to provide all local government services in the county. The Government proposals set out that the new authorities will come into being on 1 April 2021 and Northamptonshire’s current eight councils will cease to exist.

All eight councils are working in partnership to share the latest news and updates with our residents and businesses on the journey to North and West Northamptonshire Councils. Work is progressing well on the programme’s 13 portfolios, with the discovery phase of the work complete and moving towards the design phase. As part of this preparation two new joint committees have been created to monitor the progress of the programme and consider issues ahead of the new councils being in place.

The North Northants and West Northants Joint Committees oversee arrangements and are made up of councillors from the eight existing councils.

The North Northants Joint Committee is chaired by the Leader of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Cllr Martin Griffiths. Meetings take place across the North and West districts and representatives discuss decisions ahead of the creation of the Shadow Authorities of the new unitary councils, for which elections will be held in May 2020. Members of the public can view the agendas on Kettering Borough Council’s website, and can find out more details about speaking and attending the public meetings.

Future Northants is the dedicated programme to preparing for the creation of two new councils, and shares regular updates on the programme through its dedicated channels.

To find out more about the Future Northants programme please visit:

North: futurenorthantsnorth.org
West: futurenorthantswest.org

Forecast for 2020: fitter, healthier and happier at Waendel and Redwell Leisure Centres

Exercise is a proven method to release positive endorphins in your brain. These are the natural chemicals in your brain that trigger a positive feeling in the body.

You can access these positive endorphins through a variety of our facilities. Whether its swimming lengths of our heated pool, using our brand-new indoor cycling studio, weight training in our fully equipped gym, our state-of-the-art cardio machines or taking one of our engaging fitness classes. This is your chance to release your endorphins this new year.

Recently the Chief Medical Officers for the UK have released new guidelines on the recommended participation in physical activity a week.

Adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity (cycling, brisk walking) or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity (running). Are you meeting these guidelines? If not, come and see us so we can find the perfect start to your new year!
Elections 2020

In May 2020 the Borough Council of Wellingborough will deliver three elections; on behalf of the Police Area Returning Officer for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, the first elections to the shadow unitary authority of North Northamptonshire, and town & parish council elections in your local area.

You may be able to vote in all three elections, and this could mean that in your polling station you may be issued with three ballot papers. Each ballot paper will have a different colour to represent the relevant election. The exact colours will be decided closer to the time but have been approximated below based on previous combined elections.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner covers the whole of Northamptonshire and is responsible for the police and fire services for the county. This ballot paper is likely to be white, and you will have two choices to make – a first and second preference.

The shadow unitary authority is the first election following local government reform in Northamptonshire. The people elected in this election will serve on both the shadow unitary council in 2020, and then from 2021 on the North Northamptonshire Council, following the dissolution of Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northamptonshire Councils. These ballot papers are likely to be yellow.

The town and parish councils will include the first elections to Wellingborough Town Council, the new parish council formed by the 2018 Community Governance Review. Town and parish councils are councils with a more community focus, delivering services specifically for the towns, villages and parishes. The other parishes within the borough will also hold elections this year, where enough people request to stand to force an election. The ballot papers for these elections are likely to be green.

Preparations are underway to deliver Wellingborough Town Council

Following consultation with residents and approval by the borough council, work has been taking place to form a town council for Wellingborough.

As the borough council will continue until 1 April 2021, the town council needed its own branding. A recent resident survey gave overwhelming support for the new branding which was designed at minimal cost in-house.

A dedicated website will be created which will provide the latest news and information as we work towards the commencement of the new town council in April 2020.

Once formed, the town council will initially deliver limited services, that may increase as the council becomes more established.

As a resident of Wellingborough town you will pay an additional amount for the town council and this will be shown on your council tax bill as Wellingborough Town Council – Precept.

Elections for Wellingborough Town Council will take place on 7 May 2020. 23 councillors will be elected to represent the people of Wellingborough town.

If you would like to stand as a candidate to become a Wellingborough Town Councillor, you will need to complete nomination papers, which can be collected from the elections team at the council offices, though you can provide your own if you wish.

Nomination papers must be submitted in person from 1 April 2020 to 8 April 2020 between 10am and 4pm (week days only), to:

Returning Officer
Electoral Services Borough Council of Wellingborough, Swanspool House, Wellingborough, NN8 1BP
£10 Million top up at Wellingborough campus

The £10m relaunch of The Bedford College Group’s Wellingborough campus reached a significant milestone last autumn with the first cladding panel being put in place.

The fire-resistant, safety-first, covering will enhance the external appearance of the old tower block, which together with other buildings, will allow up to 1,000 students to study there.

The re-launch of the Church Street campus, which has been partially open only for motor vehicle students for several years, will see the reintroduction of full-time courses including, carpentry, plumbing, business, brickwork, electrical as well as access to higher education, early years and health & social care, and IT & computing which are currently taught at Croyland Hall nearby in the town centre. Part-time courses in accountancy, counselling, Preparing to Teach (PTLLS) English and maths, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), HR (CIPD) and Management and Leadership (CMI) will also be available in the new look campus.

Wellingborough campus is part of Tresham College which merged with Bedford College to form The Bedford College Group in 2017. Following this, the Group won a bid for generous funding of £7.5 Million from South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP).

New prison at Wellingborough

Work is underway to deliver the new flagship prison on the site of the former Wellingborough Prison.

The foundations for the building are now complete and the structure will now begin to take shape ahead of its anticipated opening date in late 2021. Once open the prison will house up to 1,680 category C resettlement prisoners.

The Ministry of Justice signed a contract worth £253m with Kier plc to develop and build the new prison. This is the first prison to be built under a new concept aimed at providing a more rehabilitative environment with innovative modern design features such as smaller wings holding up to 20 men with closed gallery floors.

The Council is working very closely with the Ministry of Justice’s team on this project.

Wellingborough is the first of a future pipeline of prisons, which aim to create safe and secure environments for staff and inmates, which will help to improve rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Justice has also set-up a people and skills steering group as part of the project. This provides training to assist local people to acquire jobs in the construction industry. Once complete and operational, the new prison will create hundreds of jobs.

Wellingborough’s first all-weather 3G pitch

A wide-range of sports clubs from across the borough have taken the opportunity to train outside all-year round following the opening of Wellingborough’s first 3G pitch last September.

The pitch enables sports clubs to train all year-round and has been made possible thanks to funding granted by the Premier League, The FA and Government, through their charity, the Football Foundation. It is operated by Places Leisure on behalf of the Council, and is available to book from 9am-9pm during the week, 9am-8pm Saturdays and 9am-4pm Sundays.

Councillors marked the opening of the 3G pitch with a ribbon cutting ceremony last autumn, followed by a walking football showcase put on by players across the county and AFC Rushden & Diamonds girls playing inter club matches and training.

Quintin Allen, Sports Project Manager at Northamptonshire Sport who led the bid on behalf of the council said: “This facility is crucial to enhancing the sporting offer for residents of the Borough and I would like to thank all the organisations involved in enabling the concept to be realised, specifically our funding partners and facilitators the Premier League, The FA and Government funding through the Football Foundation, and of course the Borough Council of Wellingborough.”

To find out more about Redwell Leisure Centre, Barnwell Rd, Wellingborough NN8 5LP visit www.placesleisure.org/centres/redwell-leisure-centre
The master developer, Northants LLP, has completed the initial phase of primary infrastructure at the development, which will service the first 750 out of 1,500 new homes in phase 1 with new roads and services.

This works enables Barratt Homes and Taylor Wimpey to commence the delivery of the first new homes at Glenvale Park - a mix of two, three, four and five bedroom homes - for residents within the borough.

The first phases will benefit from high-quality family homes with 10% of new houses being affordable houses. The number of affordable properties being offered to market will increase in future phases.

To keep up to date on Wellingborough North, visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk

Improvements to Wellingborough’s town centre

A number of improvements are being carried out to the public areas across Wellingborough Town Centre as part of the council’s public realm strategy. The projects include:

Tithe Barn - A review of Wellingborough Town Centre was carried out in 2018 to identify potential areas that could be enhanced to create a well-connected green town centre. The improvement works will soon start outside the Tithe Barn to develop the area, including the refurbishment of the pavements, landscaping and light columns with further works planned for later this year.

The council has successfully secured funding through the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme and invested capital funds towards carrying out these works as part of the first phase of the project.

Play Areas - A review of the parks within Wellingborough has been started to identify the areas that need improvement.

Some of the work identified is already under way at Eastfield Park where the benches have been painted and new bins installed, fence improvements are planned for spring 2020.

The ground covering has been replaced at Newcomen Road and Redwell Leisure Centre play areas with a play safe surface. Further works are currently being planned later this year which include the replacement of some play equipment.

Stanton Cross reaches key milestones

Progress at Stanton Cross, is gathering momentum with the development surpassing its 100th property sale while the construction of two major new roads, Routes 4 and 9, are now open to the public.

Both Route 4 (Driver Way and Midland Road) and Route 9 (Roundhouse Way) link Wellingborough’s existing road network with Irthlingborough Road, Finedon Road and Midland Road, allowing easier access between the development and the centre of Wellingborough.

A Town and Country Park, spanning a total of 115 acres, is set to feature at the heart of Stanton Cross after planning permission was granted by the Borough Council of Wellingborough in December 2019. It forms the key part of the green infrastructure within the major new urban extension. The first phase of the programme is expected to get underway in spring 2020.

In addition to the infrastructure works that have been completed, Stanton Cross Developments has announced Daylight Centre Fellowship as its charity partner for 2019-2020. The Wellingborough-based independent charity has received an initial £1,000 donation from the development to help boost its foodbank service, which has seen demand grow rapidly in recent years.

For more information about Stanton Cross, visit www.stantoncross.co.uk
Enterprising Wellingborough is the council’s initiative to provide a link between the borough’s businesses and business support organisations. Its aim is to signpost organisations in the right direction for what type of support they are looking for. Enterprising Wellingborough’s purpose is to provide relevant information for local businesses. If you would like to find out what information and support is available, get in touch today.

Get in touch: Phone: 01933 231983 Email: enterprising@wellingborough.gov.uk
Website: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/enterprisingwboro
Working with Greatwell Homes to provide homes for our residents

The council is working with Greatwell Homes to provide accommodation for residents facing a housing crisis or who have become homeless.

Greatwell Homes provides properties to be used as temporary accommodation for residents, while the council works with households to assess their needs and find a permanent housing solution.

This provides the council with an alternative to using hotel accommodation. As part of the council’s 2018-23 housing plan, the council set out to source housing solutions and the partnership with Greatwell Homes, which launched in April, has made this happen.

Greatwell Homes works with households to provide benefit advice, financial management skills and signpost to opportunities for training and employment. The council then works with residents to provide holistic support throughout the process by establishing tailor made housing plans and establishing a permanent housing solution.

For more information on the housing assistance and support that the council can provide, call the council’s Housing Options team on: 01933 229777.

Castle Theatre news

The Castle Theatre, which is managed by Parkwood Theatres on behalf of the council, has received a number of exciting improvements over the last twelve months, which will provide visitors with an enhanced experience.

Upon arrival visitors are now greeted by the fully redecorated bar area and a brand new restaurant, serving a wide-range of food and drink.

Moving through to the main auditorium theatre-goers will benefit from new seating, which was carried out last November in time for Parkwood Theatre’s first in-house production, Aladdin.

Youngsters across Wellingborough have been showcasing their talents as part of the youth theatre which commissioned its first show, James and the Giant Peach, last summer. Youth theatre sessions take place weekly; contact the Castle Theatre for more information.

To find out more about the vast range of shows on at The Castle Theatre, call the box office on 01933 270 007 or visit: www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/castle-theatre
Wellingborough Norse is working with the council and residents to reduce fly-tipping across the borough

The team has been out and about delivering more than 1,500 information packs which provide guidance on how residents and businesses can report fly-tipping, and how to avoid using unlicensed waste carriers.

In addition to this, Norse has worked with community partners to deliver events that include a ‘fly-tipping crime scene’, which support Northamptonshire Waste Partnership’s S.C.R.A.P campaign. This provided residents with the chance to report a fly-tipping scene in a bid to provide them with everything they need to know to report this crime.

Steve Dunkley, Cleansing Manager at Wellingborough Norse, said: “We are determined to reduce fly-tipping in our borough. It has a negative impact on the environment, and is costly to clear up, investigate and where necessary prosecute.

“I would encourage all residents to check that anyone who they arrange to collect their items hold the relevant licence. If this is dumped by the bogus carriers, you are responsible for any fines which may be issued.”

For more information about fly-tipping, including how to report it, visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/flytipping.

Who is your councillor?
The council has 36 councillors who represent various areas across the borough, known as wards. You can find details of the councillor(s) for your ward at www.wellingborough.gov.uk/councillors/yourcouncil

Decision making
You can also find out what items are being discussed at public committee meetings at www.wellingborough.gov.uk/committeemeetings. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Democratic Services on 01933 231521

Council services
Here is a list of the most commonly used services that are provided by the council. If a service isn’t listed, please contact us and we will point you in the right direction.

Borough Council services:
- 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

Wellingborough Norse (on behalf of Borough Council):
- Car parks  
- Cemeteries  
- Market  
- Parks and open spaces  
- Public toilets  
- Recycling, refuse, garden waste and bulky collections

These services are run by Wellingborough Norse, who deliver environmental services on behalf of the council www.wellingboroughnorse.co.uk

For these services call: 01933 234520

For Wellingborough Council services call: 01933 229777 Write to us: Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BP Email: generalenquiries@wellingborough.gov.uk
Find information, pay bills, comment, report issues, and submit planning applications: www.wellingborough.gov.uk

For Northamptonshire County Council services call: 0300 126 1000 Email: customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk or visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

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