

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES...

Northampton Town Council formed in April 2021 as a result of local government reorganisation in the county. Based in the heart of the town at the Northampton Guildhall, we are the first tier of local government and cover the parish area of Northampton, which is made up of 21 wards, stretching from Parklands in the north, including Moulton Leys, to Rushmills in the south and Rectory Farm in the east, to Kings Heath in the west. We are the largest town council in the country by population, with 25 elected councillors and a growing team of staff, here to serve a population of over 130,000 residents. Your ward councillor represents and supports your community and you can find their contact details on our website, in the 'About Us' section. Councillors also sit on a number of committees, including planning, environmental services and community services, along with the full council. Members of the public can attend these meetings and learn more about the council's work.



Each year we organise an exciting programme of free public events, including the Racecourse Fireworks Spectacular and the Christmas Lights Switch On, along with partnering and providing financial support for popular community fixtures, such as Northampton Carnival, the Balloon Festival, the Rockin' Roadrunner Festival and Northampton Pride. We deliver projects that aim to enhance the town and showcase its heritage, culture and diversity. Between June and September, the town centre and many of the outer wards are adorned with colourful hanging baskets and sustainable planters as part of Northampton in Bloom and in 2025, the town council will enter the East Midlands in Bloom competition – community groups are welcome to be part of this, so

please do contact us if you have a planting project you'd like to include. Community development is high on our agenda and we have a number of grant schemes which are open to community and neighbourhood groups who have ideas and enthusiasm to make a difference in the town. Another important area of focus is climate change, so we have set up a forum that meets on a regular basis and plans projects to support the environment. We are also the proud custodians of an 800-year old Mayoral history, coordinating a full calendar of annual civic events, including Mayor-Making, Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday, as well as supporting the Freeman and Aldermen of the town, who work to uphold ancient civic traditions.

OUR GRANTS

£245,000 of grant funding is available for the 2024/25 financial year to support Northampton based community groups, charities and organisations to deliver projects that enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the town. This funding is available through our General Community Grants Scheme, Councillor Community Fund and Climate Change Grants Scheme, with deadlines for applications set at regular intervals throughout the year. The **General Community Grants Scheme** provides grants of between £2,000 - £10,000 for projects that are set to benefit the wider town area, rather than a single ward. Groups seeking funding for a project that takes place at a ward or neighbourhood level can apply for the **Councillor's Community Fund**, with grants of up to £2,000 available. Applicants will need the support of their ward councillor and the proposed project should directly benefit the ward and its residents. The **Climate Change Grant Scheme** offers two levels of funding for projects



that tackle climate change and promote biodiversity, with grants of up to £1,000 for small, ready to deliver ideas which will benefit the local community, and grants of up to £5,000 for more ambitious initiatives that may require additional funding from the applicant. Northampton Town Council awarded grants totalling £173,386 to 88 different organisations in the 2023 - 2024 financial year, funding arts, youth, environmental and sports projects, along with community events, facilities and support. Recently funded projects include the life-saving bleed kits delivered by Off

the Streets NN, the 2024 Northampton Film Festival and the Outside In Theatre's 'Willow's Winter Hug' workshops, which provided free craft and story sessions to over 100 children at libraries and community venues in Northampton during half-term. The town council recently set up an 'Out of Town' grant fund, intended to provide additional resource for established community events which take place outside of the town centre area. **Please visit our website for more information about our grants, including application deadlines, or email grants@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk**



NORTHAMPTON MATTERS

RESIDENTS OF MOULTON LEYS AND WESTON FAVELL URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Northampton Town Council is urging residents of Moulton Leys and Weston Favell to have their say on the current Community Governance Review consultation. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) recently launched phase two of this consultation, which looks at the boundaries of town and parish councils in the West Northants area. There are two consultation within the Northampton Town Council boundary running until 24 July 2024, as follows:

Moulton Leys: should this area move out of the Northampton Town Council area and into the Moulton Parish Council area?
Weston Favell Village and Abington Vale: should these areas move out of the Northampton Town Council area and create their own parish council?

Northampton Town Council is proud to serve all the residents of the Northampton parish and do not support the proposals to move Moulton Leys, Abington Vale and Weston Favell Village out of the town council area. The town council has supported many charities and community organisations in and around Moulton Leys, Abington Vale and Weston Favell Village, who in turn provide great services and facilities to local residents. In Moulton Leys, organisations based at Fernie Fields and Bradlaugh Fields have received grant funding from the town council and in Abington Vale and Weston Favell Village, the town council has planted floral displays, along with organising the much-loved Bands in the Park at Abington Park. The council manages the Weston Favell allotments and is also supporting the Weston Favell Residents' Association as they look to install vehicle speed signs. An extensive consultation in 2020 concluded that residents of Weston Favell and Abington Vale did not want a separate parish council. As the town council grows, it plans to do



more to support areas located on the edges of the Northampton parish. Community groups can now apply for a grant from the town council's new 'Out of Town' fund - a £50,000 pot allocated to support events and projects taking place outside of the town centre. WNC will be writing to residents of the areas under review, to ask if they think their interests are best served by being in the Northampton Town Council area, or if they think their interests would be better served by moving out of the town council area. For context, if the arrangements were to change: Moulton Leys residents would elect parish councillors to Moulton Parish Council. Abington Vale and Weston Favell residents would elect parish councillors to a new Parish Council instead of Northampton Town Council. Moulton Leys residents would pay the Moulton rate of Council Tax. At the moment, a Band D property in Moulton pays £215.70 for the year and a Band D

property in Northampton pays £48.78 for the year. In Abington Vale and Weston Favell, residents would pay a different rate of Council Tax. A new parish council would be responsible for setting its own precept, which could be more or less than the Band D average charged by Northampton Town Council (£48.78 per year). Parished areas in Northampton pay special expenses to WNC which are charged to cover grounds maintenance charges. The charge to residents in Moulton Leys is currently £11.02 per year. It is also worth noting that any newly established parish council would have to fund an officer(s), find premises and take on management of allotment sites and any other projects currently run by the town council. **To complete the consultation, visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/have-our-say/community-governance-review or scan the QR**





OUR COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Northampton Town Council has set up a Climate Change Forum to support a community response to the developing challenges of climate change. The forum is currently developing and delivering projects on the themes of 'Greening the Town', 'Every Journey Matters' and 'Breathe in Better'. 'Greening the Town' projects have included planting perennial pollinator friendly shrubs and flowers in planters based in and around the town centre to increase biodiversity in urban areas. Forum members were recently involved in a partnership initiative to restore St Katherine's Gardens, through choosing and planting a mix of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and herbaceous perennials that would provide habitat and food for insects and birds. Readers can find plenty of information about the benefits of cycling or walking on the town council's 'Every Journey Matters' webpage. There are links to local cycling maps, along with details of how you can improve your health and help to reduce pollution in the town. 'Breathe in Better' is another useful source of information on the town council's website, focusing on air quality in Northampton and aimed at encouraging people to find out more about how gas and particulate pollution can affect health. The forum also oversees the council's Climate Change Grant Scheme. **If you are interested in climate change and might want to contribute to the forum in some way, or apply for a grant, please do get in touch with the Chair, Councillor Andrew Stevens : Cllr.andrew.stevens@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk**

NORTHAMPTON ELECTS 784TH MAYOR

Northampton has a rich Mayoral history, with the first Mayor of Northampton recorded in 1215, but the origins of the role date back to 1189 when King Richard I granted a charter giving the town the right to annually elect a 'Reeve' who carried out management duties similar to those of a Sheriff. Nowadays, the Mayor of Northampton is annually elected by the town council at a Mayor Making Ceremony, which takes place each May. The Mayor is the civic figurehead and Chair of the town council and attends hundreds of events in the local community during their term. The Mayor's Office also arranges prominent public events, such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday. The current and (784th!) Mayor of Northampton is Cllr Paul Joyce, who is joined by his wife Mylissa as his Mayoress. Cllr Joyce has been a town councillor since the formation of Northampton Town Council in 2021 and represents the Eastfield ward. Cllr Joyce is passionate about environmental issues and keen to work with local green organisations to raise awareness of climate change and sustainability during his mayoral term. Each Mayor chooses a charity to raise funds for during their mayoral year and Cllr Joyce has selected The Lewis Foundation, who bring comfort and support to adult cancer patients by providing them with free, thoughtfully created gift packs.



Anyone wishing to invite the Mayor and Mayoress to their event can do so by completing the civic engagement form on our website, or by contacting the Civic and Mayoral Officer on 01604 349323 / mayor@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The town council provides funding to a wide variety of community groups, charities and voluntary organisations, including The Lowdown, Northampton Association of Youth Clubs and Sport4Fitness. Our Community Development Officer is in post to support these groups, along with playing a key role in the delivery of our grants, by helping potential applicants through the process. The council is currently working with the University of Northampton to undertake a 'Community Needs Analysis' survey between June and December 2024, designed to understand the needs of our local residents and determine how we can best represent them on a community level. It will also help us to understand the social impact of our grants. Our Community Development Officer will be attending larger community events throughout the year and asking visitors to complete the survey, which takes less than five minutes and is also

available at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NRW700/ or by scanning the QR code.



Youth support is high on the town council's community development agenda and we are part of the Northamptonshire Youth Offer Board,

which is responsible for youth provision in the county. We are also a key partner in the town's annual Youth Summit - a conference, planned by young people, for young people. It takes place at The Guildhall every November and features youth providers, workshops and a platform for young people to share their voice. **If you would like to know more about our community development work, please email our Community Development Officer Connor: connor.osbornnorthamptontowncouncil.gov.uk**

MUSIC GALORE AT BANDS IN THE PARK

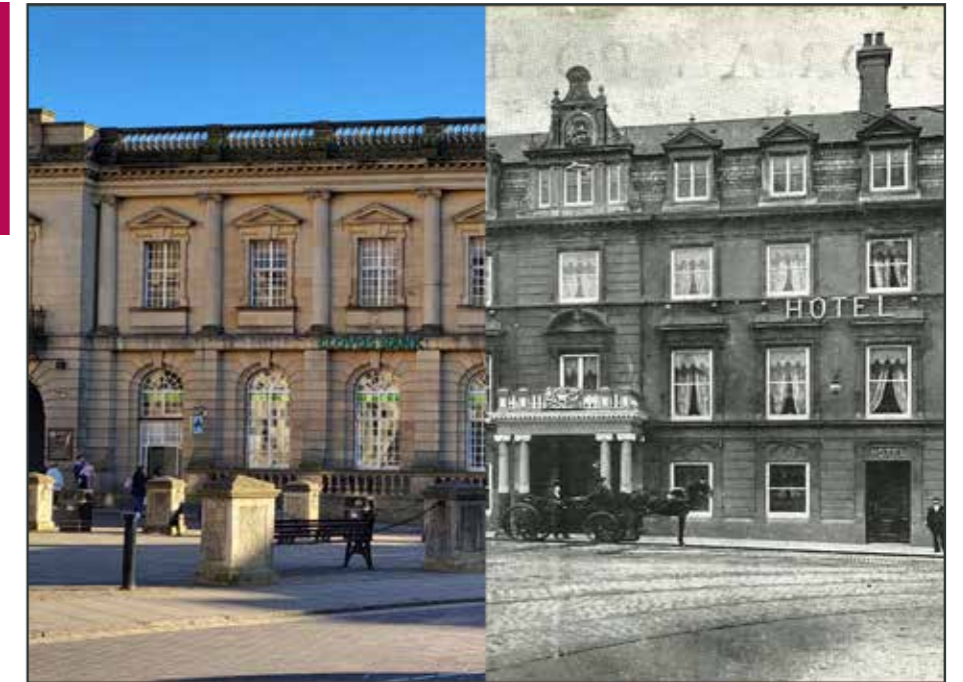
Music fans can enjoy free, live music performances throughout the summer months as part of the town council's Bands in the Park programme. Every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday between April and the end of September, traditional brass bands, music groups, singers and choirs take to the historic bandstand in Abington Park and play from 2 - 5pm. Vintage vocal trio the Starlight Sisters

kick off the June performance schedule on Sunday 2nd, followed by the Abington Wind Band on the 9th, the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust on the 16th, Corby Silver Band on the 23rd and the Towcester Studio Band on the 30th. **Visit our website for the full performance schedule: www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/bandsinthepark**



HERITAGE PROJECTS BRING NORTHAMPTON'S PAST TO LIFE

Northampton's rich and varied past is being brought to life through a number of projects commissioned by the town council in partnership with Northampton Central Library and Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. Smart-phone users can step back in time and see how some of the town's most prominent buildings once appeared, thanks to a virtual trail available on the free Explore Northampton app, available from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. The 'Snapshots in Time' trail, developed by the town council and AR Media, highlights how 10 historic places in some of Northampton's major streets have evolved over the years and features photos from bygone days, along with interesting facts and information. The trail is simple to follow, with a map included on the app and floor stickers marking where to stop and observe buildings. Another five locations will be added to the trail after the Market Square reopens later this year. To celebrate the forthcoming re-opening of the Market Square following major



renovation works, the town council has commissioned the Northampton Film Festival to create a short heritage film exploring the square's origins - which date back to 1235 - highlighting some of the key moments in its history. The film will be shown at the Guildhall as part of Heritage Open Days. Another significant moment in the town's history will be explored in 2025, with the launch of the Great Fire 350 virtual trail, taking users on a journey

back to the time of the 1675 Great Fire of Northampton. Every year, the town council participates in the popular Heritage Open Days, partnering with West Northamptonshire Council to give visitors a rare chance to see the Guildhall's spectacular Gothic revival interiors and explore the Mayor's corridor and parlour. This year's event takes place on 14th September. **Visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk for information.**

SAVE THE DATES 2024 EVENTS

Northampton Town Council proudly delivers and supports a full, vibrant and varied calendar of events throughout the year. We are privileged to be responsible for fantastic community events and long established Civic customs, as well as introducing exciting new events and projects.



- 7th Apr - 29th Sep - Bands In The Park
- Jun - Oct - Northampton In Bloom, Including Wellness Walks
- 8th Jun - Northampton Carnival
- 29th Jun - Armed Forces Day
- 13th Jul - Northampton Pride
- 16th - 18th Aug - Northampton Balloon Festival
- 8th Sep - Northampton Music Festival
- 14th Sep - Tales & Traditions Of The Guildhall
- 26th Oct - Diwali Festival Of Lights
- 2nd Nov - Northampton's Annual Fireworks Spectacular
- 10th Nov - Remembrance Sunday
- 23rd Nov - Christmas Lights Switch On
- Dec - Christmas In Northampton

