

WNC Councillors Report

Braunston & Crick Ward

To:	Barby & Onley Annual Parish Meeting
Date:	11th May 2026
From:	Cllr Rosie Humphreys Cllr Andrew Simpson

Reporting Back

Since being elected as your ward Councillors last May, we have consistently attended Barby & Onley Parish Council monthly meetings and provided reports for each meeting. All our reports are available on the Parish Council website, giving updates on our local activity and wider news from West Northants Council.

Planning & Developments

Over the ward it has been a very busy year for planning with proposals including the solar farm between Daventry Road and Welton Road, which has yet to come to the planning committee. We share the parish's frustration that neither application of Cadman Sporting relating to the extension of operating hours at the Gun Club (2021) and the construction of additional bunds (2023) has come to committee. We are seeking clarity on the matter with officers and your Chair and the Chair of Kilsby Parish Council at a meeting later this week and have sent in objections to the proposal to use the highly unsuitable Nortoft Lane as a route for the HGV traffic.

For the area as a whole, a new Local Plan is being developed for West Northants, which went through consultation earlier in the year. We have challenged the new housing figures (58 for Barby) proposed for the rural areas to take for the new plan period. We will continue to support parishes in resisting inappropriate development and together with Kilsby Action Group succeeded in stopping development outside the village boundary along Barby Road. However, a recent case identifying the lack of a 5-year supply of housing across the West Northants area will make it more difficult to oppose applications.

We helped ensure that WNC reflected the parish's concerns following Rugby Borough Council's Preferred Option Consultation regarding the sites at Hillmorton and Lodge Farm. We have asked that WNC include a specific policy in the new Local Plan to protect the Rainsbrook Valley landscape corridor, the Valley now having been a special designation by Rugby Borough Council.

Highways & Potholes

This is one of the biggest issues of complaints from local residents in terms of the state of our local roads and the standard of repairs being made. As your local councillors we have continued to meet with both WNC Highways Officers and the contractor Kier. We continue to press for longer term re-instatement of poor areas such as Barby Lane, Welton Lane and The Ridgeway.

Environment

Whilst the Reform UK run council has scrapped WNC's local targets to be net zero by 2030 – a decision we challenged – we will continue to support our villages in living more sustainably. This was recognised by WNC who chose our area as a pilot project for the collection of soft plastic, which has been collected from Onley, Braunston, Kilsby and Lilbourne. Local authorities will be required to collect soft plastic by law in 2027.

Supporting your Parish Council

Since last May we have assisted the Parish Council with many other issues in addition to planning. These include highways, boundary matters, public rights of way, ash die back concerns and funding applications. Mostly these have been successful, but we share the frustration over the problems with the current bus route down Kilsby Road. We look forward to continuing to work with you on tackling local issues in the area.

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