

WNC Councillors Report

Braunston & Crick Ward

To:	Barby & Onley Parish Council Meeting
Date:	15th April 2026
From:	Cllr Rosie Humphreys Cllr Andrew Simpson

1) WNC Matters

- a. West Northants to benefit from a £20m regional funding boost for tech growth
This investment, part of a £20m innovation fund bid to accelerate tech growth was recently announced for the central area of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, which includes Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. As a result, businesses across West Northants and the Silverstone cluster are expected to receive further support to develop and scale new technologies.

The programme builds on the region's established strengths in motorsport, high-performance engineering and emerging space technologies. The initiative is expected to support high-value jobs and attract further investment into West Northants and the wider Silverstone cluster.

- b. By-election Hackleton and Roade
The resignation of former WNC councillor Adam Smith has prompted the by-election to be held on 7th May. A list of nominated candidates has now been announced: [Election notices and future elections | West Northamptonshire Council](#)
- c. West Northants Good Food Plan
This Plan was co-produced by the West Northants Sustainable Food Network and WNC. It calls for action at every level to support social change in how we eat by helping to make the healthy choice the easy choice for everyone in West Northants. The aim is that local businesses, farmers and community groups can work together to create a fair, thriving and sustainable food network. Food growers, health and education and workers and anyone passionate about food and eating well are all encouraged to join the network. [Sustainable Food Network | Good Food West Northants](#)

2. Local Issues

- a. Rainsbrook Valley/Local Plan Consultations
As ward Councillors we have submitted a formal response to the WNC Local Plan Consultation and highlighted a number of concerns and issues including the minimum rural housing number allocations to villages, then impact of housing developments at Daventry and planned expansion of DIRFT on the rural road network, and as reported previously, we have requested that WNC aligns with Rugby Borough Council in recognising the Rainsbrook Valley as a an area of sensitivity that warrants protection. We have suggested that WNC should include in the plan:
- A specific policy protecting the Rainsbrook Valley landscape corridor; or
 - Supporting text within relevant environment or green infrastructure policies identifying the Rainsbrook Valley as a valued cross-boundary landscape feature.

We know that Council Planning Officers are working through all the consultation responses and that they are also planning a further workshop for ward councillors on the strategy for the rural areas on 14th May. We will keep you updated how this progresses.

b. Cadman Sporting/Barby Gun Club – Application 2023/5783/MAF

We have been informed by the Planning Officer that that new material was submitted by the applicants before the Easter break. Which will be uploaded to the website and full consultation undertaken later this week (wk commencing 13/4/26).

Get in Touch:

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