

# WNC Councillors Report

## Braunston & Crick Ward

<b>To:</b>	<b>Barby &amp; Onley Parish Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Cllr Rosie Humphreys Cllr Andrew Simpson</b>

### 1) WNC Matters

a) WNC Budget 2026/27

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, the council agreed to its budget for the coming year. All three opposition groups put forward alternative proposals, but these were all voted down in the meeting and the Reform administrations first budget was passed by 38 votes to 31. This means council tax will increase by 4.95%. This will equate to a band D property charge of £1,959.40.

For your information we can share below the Parish Council Precepts (also agreed at the meeting) for the Braunston & Crick ward as follows:

PARISH	PRECEPT	TAX BASE	PARISH CHARGE PER BAND D PROPERTY	Band D Change
Ashby St Ledgers	£8,183.00	£77.00	£106.23	2.2%
Barby	£67,353.00	£513.10	£131.28	0.0%
Braunston	£66,780.00	£683.20	£103.80	6.2%
Crick	£145,000.00	£950.20	£152.60	1.8%
Clay Coton	£0.00		£0.00	0.0%
Elkington	£0.00		£0.00	0.0%
Kilsby	£60,000.00	£564.20	£106.35	-1.4%
Lilbourne	£29,500.00	£162.70	£181.33	12.8%
Stanford	£0.00		£0.00	0.0%
Welton	£19,039.00	£312.70	£60.88	2.3%
West Haddon	£213,284.00	£792.90	£268.99	15.4%
Winwick	£1,200.00	£55.60	£21.58	-7.9%
Yelvertoft	£32,665.00	£339.10	£96.32	4.6%

Tax base is calculated based on equivalent band D properties in the Parish (adjusted for discounts, exemptions and housing growth). It is used as the basis to calculate the precept.

b) West Northants Local Development Plan

A reminder that consultation closes on this on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026. We would encourage all Parish Councils and individuals to respond. [West Northamptonshire Local Plan: Help shape the future of your area | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

As reported last month, there is further expansion of Daventry and land to the north of the current Micklewell Park development which includes 430 homes planned to the east of the A361. This also includes plans for a 'green wedge' to the north and east of the site between the development and Welton.

We will be at the Village Hall Library at Braunston on 21<sup>st</sup> March 10-12pm with a small exhibition about the Local Plan consultation so please attend if you would like to find out more.

c) Highways Matters – Potholes

Clearly this is one of the biggest issues affecting constituents as the number of potholes has increase dramatically over the last few months with some causing damage to vehicles and questions being raised over the standard of repairs.

As your local councillors we get urged to ask residents to report all potholes through Fix My Street [Report potholes or a highway problem | West Northamptonshire Council](#) where they can be logged, assessed and tracked. We have raised urgent repairs directly with Highways Officers when necessary and we have also met with them a number of times to try and get action over particularly poor stretches of road (such as Barby Lane).

We are happy to continue to facilitate site visits with Kier and Highways Officers so they can see directly problem areas.

We are happy to continue to facilitate site visits with Kier and Highways Officers so they can see directly problem areas. However, other than that we have limited power to get potholes repaired.

Complaints can be escalated directly to the Councillor (Cabinet Member) responsible for Highways who is Cllr Richard Butler [richard.butler@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:richard.butler@westnorthants.gov.uk)

d) Podcast Channel launched – ‘Lib Dem Buzz’

West Northants Lib Dem Councillors have launched a podcast channel as a trial to see if it helps engage more with some local residents and to provide an opportunity to get across topics and views on the council.

We are looking for topics for future episodes, as well as guests who would like to take part in, or even act as interviewers for an episode. Please also let us have your feedback.

Two episodes are available: 1. WNC Budget and 2. WNC Local Plan.

Both Andrew and Rosie take part.

You can listen to these here: <https://thelibdembuzz.buzzsprout.com/>

e) Change to Councillor Party Affiliations

Two Reform UK have resigned from the party and now sit as Independents. This takes the Reform UK majority down to 2.

f) Local Nature Recovery Strategy

A very important consultation closing 25th March [Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation | West Northamptonshire Council](#) which sets out priorities and actions for nature recovery. It aims to make habitats bigger, better and more connected and put nature at the heart of local decisions.

It may be surprising to know that West Northants is one of the most nature depleted areas in England. Parish Councils, interested groups and individuals are strongly encouraged to take part.

## 2. Local Issues

### a) Rainsbrook Valley

Andrew and Rosie attended a recent meeting with your Chair, a parish councillor from Kilsby (also representing the Kilsby Action Group) and a Hillmorton resident to discuss supporting a study commissioned by Rugby Borough Council on the Rainsbrook Valley. The study assessed its landscape character and sensitivity if development is planned. There is also a specific policy in the current RBC Local Plan consultation – EN3 – about Rainsbrook Valley.

The valley of course crosses WNC's boundary. For its current draft Local Plan WNC has not commissioned a similar study as it is not considered an area of growth (although RBC's study included M1 J18). Our planning policy officers believe sufficient protection is covered by the draft Local Plan's Landscape Policy BN6.

Andrew and Rosie updated the meeting on this which took place on 11/2/26. They had said that for the WNC Reg 18 Plan the Rainsbrook Valley had not been subject to Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study because it was not considered to be an area of growth (NB M1 Junction 18 was included in a study). When pressed on the need to include something on Rainsbrook Valley they stated they believed it was covered under policy BN6 in the new draft plan. However, they have met with RBC officers this and have agreed to support the reviews of the study.

At the meeting that it was agreed that all West Northants parishes close to the Valley will be encouraged to response to RBC Local Plan consultation (which closes on 13<sup>th</sup> March) supporting the policy EN3.

### **Get in Touch:**

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