

WNC Councillors Report

Braunston & Crick Ward

To:	Barby & Onley Parish Council Meeting
Date:	13th October 2025
From:	Cllr Rosie Humphreys Cllr Andrew Simpson

1. WNC Matters

Full Council meeting 25th September

Councillors were asked to note the administration's Delivery Plan for the next 5 years, based on the previous administration's One West Northants Plan which was consulted on and adopted by WNC in March this year. The focus is on boosting growth, creating safer and thriving communities and making council services more efficient.

A motion proposed by the Conservative group to enforce planning law in relation to change of use of hotels used in West Northants to house asylum seekers was supported by the Reform administration. While Lib Dem councillors supported this in principle (although to date it's unclear whether change of use could be proved) Andrew submitted an amendment, seconded by Rosie, to remove inflammatory and inaccurate statements in the motion, giving the opportunity to highlight our experience of having one these hotels, the Ibis at Crick in our ward. The amendment was not supported, sadly.

There was also a Conservative motion proposing banning smart phones from local schools. A Lib Dem amendment advocating evidence and experience-based approach to the issue and to consider the safeguarding of children travelling to and from school and needing a phone for emergencies. This amendment was not supported either.

There was unanimous support for purchase by WNC of a former petrol station site in Harlestone Road from the developer Vistry for the delivery of 82 affordable homes – a mixture of affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership tenures. On completion the homes will be transferred to WNC. You can see details of the council meeting here [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Council, 25/09/2025 18:00](#) and it is also available on the council's You Tube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/live/g_NGepwlKZ8?si=PLgx3Rq-Hh8fo3n- .

Budget Overspend

A report that came to last month's Cabinet forecast an overspend in the current financial year of £9.6m after the use of £11.4m general budget contingencies. The pressures of demand and rising costs of adult and children's services and education has led to this overspend. As in previous years (in summer 2024 a £53m budget shortfall was identified which was closed) services will have to find further efficiencies and savings to deliver a balanced budget [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 18/09/2025 18:00](#)

History of Northamptonshire in 100 objects Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

From prehistoric treasures (including a dinosaur footprint) to contemporary objects, this exhibition has something for everyone, and the 100 remarkable exhibits tell the story of the people, events and industries that shaped our county. Item 63 is a rare painted stool painted by Frank Nurser, a Braunston boat builder and decorator who created his own distinct style of painting Castles and Roses (known as the Braunston style). The exhibition runs until 8th February 2026.

Appointment of new Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen

There was a special meeting of the council in September to appoint 16 Aldermen/Alderwomen. This honor was created in 2023 and is for "Persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are not then members of the Council". Councillors have to have served a minimum of 12 years.

Former Braunston & Crick councillor, Alan Chantler, was among those to receive the honour.

Booking for 'The Tip'

The Council has introduced a booking system for the Household Waste & recycling Centres. This comes into effect from 3rd November (but bookings can be made from 20th October. For more details see here [Household Waste Recycling Centre Booking System | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

We have questioned the rational for this being introduced and the fact that there was no public consultation or pilot before pressing ahead.

2. Local Issues

a.) Ashtree Farm Planning Matters

The Planning Department has responded to a query regarding the perception of 'creeping' development at this location as follows:

The Local Planning Authority cannot prevent the submission of a planning application, so it is not a case of "allowing additional applications". However each planning application received is determined on its own merits having regard to the provision of the development plan and other considerations that may be material to the application. Development Plan Policies do allow for the conversion of buildings in the open countryside and to a limited degree further development can be considered acceptable on its planning merits. It is very much consideration on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately it is a case of balancing the impact of the development against the benefits but based on a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

b.) Planning Applications: 2023/5783/MAF & WND/2021/0767 – Cadman Sporting

Andrew met with Planning Officers about the current position regarding planning applications for the site. We are waiting confirmation from WNC Planning but understand the application for the additional bunding will come to the Planning Committee before the end of 2025. The council has also tried to close the original application for extended hours but been told by the applicant that they wish to keep the application open.

c.) 2025/3243/MAF Land to west Daventry Road Ashby St Ledgers

This application is now live, and Barby PC has an opportunity to comment by this week if it wishes to. The proposal is for a 35MW solar farm on 140 acres of land between the A361 and Daventry Rd. Access to the site will be from the Daventry Rd. The majority of Ashby St Ledgers residents are opposed to this proposal, concerned about the visual impact on landscape and the village's conservation area and scheduled monuments.

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