

Ward councillor's report (Barby & Onley) September 2024

2024/0993/FULL Toft Hill 19 Rugby Rd

Representations were made by Cllr Faith Gorman, local resident Andrea MacMahon and myself at the North Planning Committee this week, however committee members were not persuaded to go against officer's advice, so the application was approved. What is disappointing is that the evidence of the Housing Needs Survey conducted last October for the NDP Review indicating the need for smaller dwellings in Barby was completely overlooked in the report. For further discussion in agenda item 7.3.3.

Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Cycling Race 7th September

A reminder that this race will be passing through Daventry at approximately 11.33 am and again at 1.15pm on Saturday. The 147km (91 mile) route through West Northamptonshire begins at 10.45 at the University of Northampton and finishes at the town's Guildhall at a 3.05 pm. and riders will pass through 30 villages, Welton is the closest village to Braunston along the route. For more details of timings and road closures: [Tour of Britain Men | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/tour-of-britain-men)

Reopening of Northampton Market Square

The Market Square has been closed for redevelopment since February 2023 and will partially reopen to traders on 20th September, with full opening delayed until the following month, when a big event is planned for 19th and 20th October. Northamptonshire Police is focussing on reducing crime in the town centre ahead of the reopening.

In its heyday in the 1980s Northampton market had 225 stalls and was open Monday-Saturday. By contrast before the current regeneration project got underway there were only 24 permanent stall holders. The refurbished square includes 16 lockable fixed cabin stalls as well as pop-up tent stalls. The intention is to provide regular events so that the square is not just a trading space. The cost has now jumped to £12m, the initial project cost was £8.4m, paid for by the government's Town Funds. There is a projected net loss of £73k in 2025/26, reducing to £18k in 2029/30.

Consultations – September deadlines

Parks Development Strategy: WNC has a number of proposals to enhance the 150 parks and green spaces it manages. Deadline for comments 8th September.

[Have your say on the draft West Northamptonshire Parks Development Strategy - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Active Lives Strategy: while this focusses on the future management of leisure centres the survey also asks about general physical activity. This gives a further opportunity to communicate the need to WNC for effective and regular maintenance of pavements and foot paths to enable residents to stay walking and active. Deadline for comments 15th September. [Tell us about local leisure facilities and what you do to be active - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy: rural communities need to be heard in this consultation which appears very urban-centred. Deadline for comments 15th September.

[Have your say on the draft West Northamptonshire Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2030 - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Heritage Open Days 6th – 15th September

Celebrating its 30th year, this year's heritage celebration again offers an opportunity to visit some of the West Northants historic buildings and sites free of charge. Northampton Transport heritage will once again be running classic buses and free rides on Daventry routes on 7th September, which is also the day of the Daventry Foodies Market and the cycling event.

[Heritage Open Days | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)

Cllr Rosie Humphreys
2nd September 2024