

Ward councillor's report (Barby & Onley) June 2023

Highways

WNC has recently used £1.8m of government funding to purchase two further pieces of equipment to improve the state of our roads. The JCB "Pothole Pro" can repair large areas much more speedily than traditional methods, so the improvements should be noticeable. Part of the reason of the severe deterioration of our roads is the number of defects that were reported in January, owing to the severe winter weather, was 6,000, in contrast to the average number of 700 normally reported in the first month of the year.

An extreme weather warning for hot temperatures has been issued today, with road surface temperatures remaining high for the next 6 days, reaching 52C countywide. This could cause heat damage to road surfaces.

School bus fare increases

The consultation on Home to School Transport which closed at the end of last month proposes up to 60% increases in school bus fares to £1,000 per year from 2024. The increases are necessary as the price has not been raised since first set 10 years ago and both operating costs and demand have risen. Children will only be able to receive free transport to their nearest school, which will impact several villages closest to Daventry where children have chosen to attend Guilsborough School. These proposals are very worrying for local families and I am awaiting further details from WNC, in particular the number of children likely to be affected and whether the increase will be introduced incrementally.

Planning Committee restructure

The Planning Committee North which is replacing Daventry Area Planning Committee met for the first time this week in Northampton. A misconduct hearing regarding the behaviour of a substitute committee member of Daventry Area Planning Committee at a meeting last year took place recently. This was following a complaint I had submitted to the Council's Legal Officer. The Democracy and Standards Panel agreed with the findings of an independent investigator that the councillor had breached the WNC code of conduct regarding predetermination of planning application. The councillor has been suspended as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee (which he chairs) and the Planning Policy Committee for three months.

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Community Led Housing Roadshow

10.30 – 12.30 Friday 7 July 2023, The Council Chamber, Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE

A Roadshow from East Midlands Community Led Housing will provide information to community organisations, Parish Councils, housing bodies, land-owners and other professional interests on how local people are having a central role in creating new homes and neighbourhoods to meet the needs of their communities.

Examples of such projects and successes will be highlighted and used to explore ideas for how further initiatives could be established around Northampton and the county area.

Please book a free ticket on the following Eventbrite link : [Community Led Housing - East Midlands Roadshow Northampton](#)

For further information please contact : martinf@emclh.co.uk (07976 546532)

Cllr Rosie Humphreys
9th June 2023