Welcome to the latest edition of *The Link*, the Borough Council of Wellingborough’s resident magazine.

There have been a number of milestones since the last edition, including the work starting on the new HM Prison Wellingborough, the redevelopment of Tresham College and planning permission being granted for Glenvale Park, North of Wellingborough. Find out more inside.

**Growth in the borough:**
The future of Wellingborough is exciting as we continue to deliver economic regeneration and expand our green corridor. Wellingborough is one of the highest areas for growth in the East Midlands, as we deliver thousands of brand new high-quality houses and business premises, provide jobs for residents and expansion opportunities for local businesses, while maintaining the wonderful green spaces throughout our borough.

**8,090** businesses in Wellingborough – the highest number this decade

**9,000** homes to be delivered

**850** jobs created through the delivery of the redeveloped HMP Wellingborough


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There are a number of projects taking place across the borough which are leading to the biggest expansion in our town’s history.

Both of the town’s urban extensions benefit from high-quality homes and dedicated green spaces – something we know matters to our residents and the green corridors can be seen in the image below. There are also several schemes that will create thousands of new jobs within the next four years.

The construction of HM Prison Wellingborough, entirely funded by the Government, will provide 850 jobs and an estimated £80 million boost to the local economy, as well as many more jobs and apprenticeships throughout the construction.

As we move forward with the refurbishment of Wellingborough’s Tresham College campus, there will be exciting training opportunities for our residents to enhance their skills for the future.

Our country’s high streets are changing and we will invest in our town centre to ensure that Wellingborough is a place for residents and visitors to spend time with family and friends shopping and socialising.

Following the announcement of the establishment of two new authorities in Northamptonshire, we are working closely with our neighbouring authorities to ensure that we’re able to continually deliver high-quality and value for money services to our residents.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader
Wellingborough Council honours retired and current councillors

Two senior and two retired councillors have received a civic honour in recognition of their commitment to the local community. Shashi Dholakia, Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood and Cllr Malcolm Waters were awarded the distinction of Honorary Freeman at a special meeting of the council on Friday 29 March 2019. George Blackwell received the honour on Tuesday 2 April 2019. Honorary Freeman is awarded to current and previous councillors of the borough council in recognition of their eminent services to the community, local government and local organisations under section 249 of the Local Government Act.

The four gentlemen received a unique scroll from the Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Ward, to commemorate the honour and, as Honorary Freeman, will be granted the historic special permission to walk their sheep through the town.

The new Mayor of Wellingborough has been commemorated

Cllr Jo Beirne received the civic honour of the new Mayor of Wellingborough at the annual meeting of the council on Tuesday 21 May 2019. Having served on the borough council for the last decade, representing Wollaston, Grendon and Strixton wards, Cllr Beirne is honoured to be elected as Mayor and is looking forward to attending functions across the borough and meeting local residents. Cllr Malcolm Ward has served the borough as Mayor for the municipal year of 2018/19 and attended a number of events to support local community groups and projects. On receiving the honour of Mayor of Wellingborough, Cllr Beirne, said: “It is an honour to be elected as the new Mayor of Wellingborough. Cllr Malcom Ward has carried out an excellent service as Mayor over the last municipal year, and I am looking forward to following in his footsteps and supporting local projects and meeting residents and organisations. “I am keen to champion local causes and I am excited to get out and about and visit a number of these fantastic causes first-hand.”

Cllr Beirne has selected the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough and Busy Bees Preschool in Wollaston as her chosen charities for her year of 2018/19 and attended a number of these organisations over the next twelve months by organising events.

For more information about the Mayor of Wellingborough, visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/mayor

Local government reform

Two new unitary councils will be established in Northamptonshire on 1 April 2021. The North Northamptonshire unitary will cover Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough and the West Northamptonshire unitary will cover Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

The Secretary of State James Brokenshire has reviewed all the evidence and representations received, and has now decided that replacing the eight councils with two unitary authorities is in the best interests of the residents of Northamptonshire. Parliamentary Orders will follow later this year and there will be elections to the Shadow Authorities in May 2020, which will make key decisions relating to the new unitary councils and will determine the structure, budget and service delivery models.

Services which complement one another but are currently divided between the district, borough and county councils, such as bin collections, waste disposal, planning and roads, will be brought together under each of the two unitary councils.

The new unitary authorities will be established on 1 April 2021, and the town and parish council elections will take place in May 2020.

Leader of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Cllr Martin Griffiths, added: “We are working closely with our neighbouring authorities Corby, East Northamptonshire and Kettering, in a number of different areas to ensure that we’re able to continually deliver high-quality and value for money services to our residents.

“Now that we have received this decision, and as we move forward and prepare for the establishment of North Northamptonshire Council, we will do our utmost to ensure that residents and businesses are at the forefront of everything we do.”

Leader of the Labour Opposition, Cllr Andrew Scarborough, commented: “After a long period of uncertainty following the financial and service delivery problems at the county council it is good to have a clear decision from the Minister which will enable all of us to press on with planning for a better future for local government in Northamptonshire and, more importantly, the delivery of safe and sustainable services for local people.”

Wellingborough Town Council

Councillors agreed to adopt an order to establish a town council for Wellingborough at a full council meeting on Tuesday 26 February 2019.

Currently, the town of Wellingborough has no local government representation at a parish level. With changes to local governance in Northamptonshire, the council carried out a community governance review (CGR) with a view to form a town council for Wellingborough.

A public consultation took place between 23 July and 23 October 2018. More than 80% of responses were in agreement that Wellingborough should have a town council. The town council will ensure that the town of Wellingborough and the views of local residents are effectively represented. It is anticipated that the town council will be established in May 2020, in line with next year’s elections.

Public information drop-in sessions will be held by the council in the summer to provide residents with the opportunity to ask any questions they might have about the town council. More information will soon be available on the council’s website: www.wellingborough.gov.uk
The Beach will return to Wellingborough this summer!

The Beach will be returning to Wellingborough’s market square from Saturday 27 July to Saturday 17 August following the success of last year’s event. There will be buckets and spades for youngsters to build sandcastles and deckchairs for adults to lounge on and watch their little ones make memories this summer. If you’d like to get involved, email: projects@wellingborough.gov.uk to find out how!

Wellingborough gets ready for the Party Weekend

The council is working with Wellingborough Carnival Association to deliver the annual Party Weekend. Wellingborough will be transformed into a riot of colour, music and dance when the Party Weekend comes to town on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July.

Community groups, businesses, charities and individuals will be dressing up and taking part in the spectacular parade that starts at Broad Green at 1pm on Saturday 6 July and winds its way through the town centre to Croyland Park at around 2.30pm. The carnival doesn’t stop once the parade reaches Croyland Park. There will be a huge range of arena events in the park for people to enjoy – from a gymnastics display to a martial arts workshop, majorettes and prize giving for the best carnival entries.

Party in the Park on Sunday 7 July kicks off at 12pm with Gary L Johnson hosting a variety of dance, community and music acts on the main stage. The selection of local artists will also be performing along with Disco Henry adding to the party mood and playing a live DJ set all afternoon.

Other activities at the park on Sunday include a children’s craft area, giant bubble exhibition, mobile farm and other attractions and amusements. There will also be a licensed bar, Stevens Funfair and lots of food and drinks outlets as well as a selection of community and charity stalls. Admission and parking at the event is free of charge all weekend.

Learn to swim at Waendel Leisure Centre

If you can swim you can enjoy all the exciting activities that the water has to offer. We offer lessons for all ages and all our lessons are taught by qualified teachers. We work to the national governing body Swim England’s Learn to Swim programme in all our sessions.

Pre-school lessons
Sessions are aimed at babies and toddlers aged between 0-5 years old and aim to build the foundation for a lifelong love of water.

Swimming lessons for school age children
Seven stages of fun and exciting lessons developing all the skills needed for children to be competent, confident and safe in the water.

Adult swimming lessons
Adult lessons are available for all abilities whether you have a fear of the water, haven’t been swimming since school or if you want to refine your technique ready for an event.

A member of our team will give you advice on which lesson would suit your needs.

Give us a call on 01933 221622

Enterprising Wellingborough is the council’s initiative to provide a link between the borough’s businesses, and business support organisations and opportunities. Its aim is to signpost businesses in the right direction for what kind of support they are looking for.

Enterprising Wellingborough’s purpose is to provide relevant information for local businesses. If you would like to find out what information and support is available, get in touch today.

Get in touch: Phone: 01933 231983 Email: enterprising@wellingborough.gov.uk Website: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/enterprisingwboro
New prison at Wellingborough

Work has started to build a brand new flagship prison on the site of the former Wellingborough Prison.

Demolition of the existing site took place earlier this year and work started in May to make way for a new facility, which is expected to open in late 2021 and will house up to 1,680 category C resettlement prisoners.

The Ministry of Justice signed a contract worth £253m with Kier plc to develop and build the new prison. This is the first prison to be built under a new concept aimed at providing a more rehabilitative environment with innovative modern design features such as smaller wings holding up to 20 men with closed gallery floors.

The council is working very closely with the Ministry of Justice’s Prison Estate Transformation Programme (PETP) on this project. The PETP is getting the basics right by building decent prisons to improve rehabilitation and create safe and secure environments for inmates and staff.

The Ministry of Justice has also set-up a people and skills steering group as part of the project. This will provide training to assist local people to acquire jobs in the construction industry. Once complete and operational the new prison will create hundreds of jobs.

Wellingborough Council invests in Nene Valley Crematorium

The council has invested £167,000 to enhance the green peaceful space for visitors at Nene Valley Crematorium.

The crematorium, which opened in September 2016, provides a tranquil setting for people to reflect. A memorial wall has opened, which has been designed to provide visitors with a space to remember loved ones, and is complimented by improved landscaping and planting.

At the annual meeting of the council on 21 May 2019, councillors resolved that Cllr Paul Bell will be elected as chairman of the board of directors for Wellingborough Bereavement Services, replacing Cllr Barry Graves.

Nene Valley Crematorium is operated by Wellingborough Bereavement Services Limited.

Memorial Wall at the Wendelburie Garden

To find out more about the crematorium facility and the services it offers, including how to commemorate loved ones through memorials, please contact a member of the team on 01933 229660 or email enquiries@nenevalleycrematorium.co.uk

Visit the website: www.nenevalleycrematorium.co.uk

Wellingborough’s Tresham College campus will receive a new lease of life

Planning permission has been granted for Tresham College’s Wellingborough campus, to be regenerated to provide modern post-16 educational facilities in the town centre, including replacing the external façades of the main tower.

The existing campus accommodates over 80 students, the new site will provide first-class facilities for up to 1,000 additional students by 2021 and offer adults the opportunity to retrain or improve their career opportunities closer to home.

100 car parking spaces will be provided where part of the building has been demolished and a new vehicle access point will be created off Queen Street, as well as pedestrian access from Church Street.

Leader of the council, Cllr Martin Griffiths, said: “This is one of the most significant developments to take place in Wellingborough. Councillors and staff at the council are working closely with colleagues at Tresham College and SEMLEP, who have provided funding of £7.5million through the Local Growth Fund, to deliver this ambitious project and I would like to thank everyone involved.”

Principal and CEO of The Bedford College Group which incorporates Tresham College, Ian Pryce CBE, added: “We are delighted to have been given the go ahead for the next step of our redevelopment plans for the Church Street campus. The council has been very supportive for our plans together with SEMLEP, who have granted the majority of funding to allow this project to go ahead, and I am looking forward to seeing students and staff based at the campus from September 2020.”

Judith Barker, Director for Programmes and Governance, SEMLEP added: “As one of SEMLEP’s key growth areas, supporting Wellingborough to develop their local skilled workforce is a crucial part of promoting the type of growth our communities and businesses want to see. We’re delighted that The Bedford College Group has got the go-ahead to commence works on their Tresham Campus.”

For more information regarding the planning application (WP/18/00786/FUL) visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/viewplanningapplications
Stanton Cross starts to take shape

With the first homeowners now in residence at Wendelburie Rise and Bovis Homes and The Riverside Group having announced a joint venture to take on the strategic delivery of the remainder of the site, Stanton Cross is well and truly taking shape.

And it’s not just the homes which are coming together. The construction of two major new roads, Route 4 & 9, which link Wellingborough’s existing road network with Irthlingborough Road and Finedon Road, are nearing completion and works on Midland Road have begun; once finished, this will enable the early opening of the new roads to traffic in the middle of 2019.

In addition, Route 2 – which will see the construction of a new, improved bridge over the railway line and provide an improved link to the A45 – is scheduled to finish in 2021 with the initial construction of the new rail bridge in 2020.

Wellingborough Town Centre is evolving

There are a number of exciting projects taking place across the town centre, which will help to shape the future of our market town.

The council has established a vision for the town and ambitions for the future of the town centre. This will include enhancing the town strategy, investing in our public realm, renovating the Swansgate Car Park and promoting the town.

The council was awarded £1.4 million in 2012 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to redevelop and enhance the heritage in the town centre. This grant is helping to maintain an important part of Wellingborough’s history, provide new jobs, maintain traditional skills and contribute to the town’s wider regeneration. In the last year the council has refurbished the Pagoda and Queens Hall, delivered six shop front projects, installed information boards and progressed other projects.

One of the key projects for the council is renovating the historic Hind Hotel. The Heritage Lottery Fund, council and the hotel owner are investing more than £950,000 to carry out external refurbishment of the hotel, which forms part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme.

To evolve our town centre the council has submitted an expression of interest to Central Government for the Future High Streets Fund, which aims to support local businesses to adapt to the changes occurring nationally to our high streets. The council recognises that there are challenges facing the town centre and, if successful, the bid could fund the redevelopment of the market place, former post office and upgrades to transport in the town, to include walking and cycling routes. The outcome of the funding bid will be published on the council’s website.

To view the council’s ambitions for the town centre visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/towncentrerevision
Wellingborough Council commits towards tackling homelessness

The council’s Resources Committee has dedicated more than £2.7 million towards purchasing properties that will provide residents with temporary accommodation when they are facing a housing crisis or have become homeless.

The council will work with families and residents to provide them with a safe and warm place to sleep while the housing options team work with them to find a housing solution.

The council’s 2018-23 housing plan sets out that we will continue to seek alternative accommodation solutions for households facing homelessness avoiding the use of costly emergency hotel accommodation.

Wellingborough Council is working in partnership with Corby Borough Council, who manage the properties on the council’s behalf and the housing options service allocates these homes.

If you would like to speak to a member of the housing options team at the council please call: 01933 229777, option 3. To view the housing plan visit: www.wellingborough.gov.uk/housingplan

Disabled Facilities Grants Service

The council is now the main point of contact for residents applying for Disabled Facility Grants and is responsible for all aspects of this process. Previously the authority worked with an external agency to handle the design and specification stage but this is now undertaken in-house.

These grants are available for anyone who is registered or eligible to be registered as disabled to enable them to continue living independently in their home.

A range of works and adaptations are available following recommendation by a Community Occupational Therapist. This includes installation of stair lifts or hoists, shower facilities and access for wheelchairs.

Applications can be submitted by owner-occupiers, tenants or landlords on behalf of tenants. A means test is undertaken unless an applicant is in receipt of certain benefits.

To apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant, please contact the Private Sector Housing team on 01933 229777 Option 3, Option 1 or email: privatesectorhousing@wellingborough.gov.uk

Greatwell Homes tenants should initially contact Greatwell Homes directly on 01933 234450.

HMO Licensing

A House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is a property occupied by three or more persons who form more than one household. All HMOs must meet certain standards.

Changes in legislation now require all HMOs with five or more occupants to obtain a licence, regardless of the number of floors. The council will be carrying out checks on properties to ensure that they are correctly licensed, and taking any necessary action.

To find out more information about HMO licensing and to request an application pack, please contact The Central Licensing Administration Unit by calling 01832 742102 or emailing: licensingunit@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Further information can be found at: www.northantslicensing.gov.uk

For general enquiries about housing conditions, please contact the Private Sector Housing Team by calling 01933 229777 Option 3, Option 1 or email: privatesectorhousing@wellingborough.gov.uk

Borough Council of Wellingborough Bond Scheme

The scheme helps local people in housing need to access privately rented accommodation by providing the landlord with a deposit bond for when the tenancy ends.

How does the scheme work?

We advise applicants to look for a suitable affordable property and we will speak to the landlord.

If the property is suitable we will provide a Bond Guarantee Certificate.

Landlords must agree to an inspection of the property and provide current Gas Safety and Energy Performance certificates prior to a bond being approved.

If the property is approved, we will arrange to complete the bond paper work, check and agree the inventory and complete the tenancy agreement.

So what is the bond and how long does it last?

The council’s bond can be claimed at the end of the tenancy up to the maximum of eight weeks value if there are rent arrears, uninsurable damage, also court costs in certain circumstances and runs for the duration of the tenancy.

What contact will there be once the tenant has moved in?

We will contact you as landlord after six weeks so that you are receiving rent payments and your tenant has settled in. We will also carry out checks at 12 and 24 months. The team is contactable throughout the process.

For more information email the Housing Options Team by email: housingoptions@wellingborough.gov.uk or call: 01933 229777, option 3.
If you would like to rent a home and apply to the council’s housing register please call the housing options team on 01933 229777 or email housingoptions@wellingborough.gov.uk.

To rent or buy a home through Greatwell Homes please contact the Greatwell Living Team on 01933 234450 or email: living@greatwellhomes.org.uk.

Greatwell Homes

In 2018/19 (year up to end of March 2019) Greatwell Homes, formerly Wellingborough Homes, provided the following new homes across three developments:

- 45 homes (18 affordable rent, 20 shared ownership, 7 rent to buy) at Park Farm Way, opposite Bannatyne’s gym and was delivered in partnership with local builder Snowdon Homes.
- 18 homes (9 affordable rent, 9 shared ownership) Main Road, Earls Barton in partnership with David Wilson Homes and will produce a further 50 affordable rent and 16 shared ownership homes over the next two years.
- 18 homes (9 affordable rent, 9 shared ownership) at Station Road, Earls Barton in partnership with Rentplus and Mulberry Homes.
- 12 houses have given people an opportunity to rent for a period of either 5, 10, 15 or 20 years at an affordable rent, whilst allowing them to save money for a deposit to buy their home.

New homes in the pipeline

As well as the further 66 homes at Main Road Earls Barton, Greatwell Homes are working to deliver 23 flats at Lea Way in Wellingborough, which will complete late summer 2019. 12 of these flats will be for affordable rent and 11 for rent to buy.

Work started recently on the sites at Penrith Drive in Wellingborough and Milner Road, Finedon which will yield 90 new homes over the next two years.

Further opportunities to build affordable homes are being worked on with developers at Stanton Cross, Niort Way and Little Harrowden.
Council Tax update

This year the Borough Council of Wellingborough increased its council tax by £5 on the average band D property. That’s less than 10p a week more to keep the same level of services our residents currently get. The borough council gets about £100 from each band D property a year, so for around just £2 a week we deliver a range of essential services for the residents of the borough.

A quick guide to some of the main services delivered by both the borough and county council:

**Borough council services**
- Council Tax collection and benefits administration
- Housing advice and allocations
- Building regulations and planning applications
- Elections and electoral registration
- Leisure centres
- Licensing
- Environmental health and protection
- Economic regeneration
- Disabled facilities grants
- Cemeteries, parks and open spaces

**County council services**
- Registrars
- Highways and transport
- Children’s services
- Adult social care
- Public health
- Education
- Waste disposal
- Country parks
- Trading standards
- Libraries

For County Council services call: 0300 126 1000
Email: customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

For these services call: 01933 229777
Write to us: Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BP
Email: generalenquiries@wellingborough.gov.uk

Dispose of your rubbish properly to avoid an unlimited fine

A county wide campaign has launched which aims to reduce the number of fly-tipping incidents across Northamptonshire and help the public to dispose of their waste legally.

The campaign has been launched by Northamptonshire Waste Partnership, which is formed by the county, and district and borough councils, and supported by Northamptonshire Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers Union.

Leaving waste items on the street for others to take, outside of a closed Household Waste Recycling Centre or next to a street litter bins are all examples of fly-tipping and contributed to the 22,000 fly-tipping incidents that were removed in Northamptonshire in 2017/18, at a cost of £313,000 to tax payers.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to follow the campaign’s S.C.R.A.P. code, which provides a check list to follow when arranging one-off collections of waste.

- **Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate.**
- **Check** their waste carrier’s registration details, then verify them with the Environment Agency.
- **Refuse** unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away.
- **Ask** what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.
- **Paperwork** should be obtained. Make sure you get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt for your waste removal – this should give a description of the waste and provide the waste carrier’s contact details.

The Market

The council’s Town Centre sub-committee and market traders met to discuss the future sustainability of Wellingborough’s market.

It was agreed that the market could move from the Market Square to Orient Way. The feedback has been very positive, with an increase in footfall due to its new prominent location.

Residents can visit a number of stalls offering a whole host of items every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at Orient Way and the Bric-a-Brac market, which is available every Tuesday in Market Square. Why not pop down and visit the market first-hand?