

Report from Councillor Alan Chantler

Cabinet Reshuffle Councillor Adam Brown takes over as Leader of West Northants Council with immediate effect. Following the change of Leadership there has been a reallocation of Cabinet responsibilities. These are due to be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting to be held on May 16th. A new member joins the Cabinet, Councillor Rosie Herring, following the resignation of Councillor Jonathan Nunn.

PFCC The new Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Danielle Stone, started in post on 9th May. In her acceptance speech on taking office she stressed the need to hold to account the providers of the services by employing close scrutiny. The appointment is for four years so we do not expect to see radical changes immediately. We await developments.

Settlement Hierarchy The Parish Council received a request from WNC that they complete a survey regarding the Settlement Hierarchy for the new Local Plan. It also has been asked to comment on the settlement boundary. The responses are now being considered by the Planning Policy team. It is anticipated that policies in the new Local Plan will reflect the responses.

Local Plan The revised Draft Local Plan is out for public consultation for 8 weeks starting in April. Responses are encouraged and welcomed from anyone and everyone. The Parish Council will be making a submission but individuals are welcome to comment as well. The document is nearly 400 pages long but you only really need to look at the introduction and the section on Rural Development. The Plan includes robust policies to control development outside settlement boundaries. Most proposed development is restricted to the four urban areas of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. Please help to ensure that people know about this opportunity to influence the future development of West Northants.

Highways WNC has been given a sum of money from the so-called HS2 Cancellation Bonus Fund. This amounts to about £2.7 million and will be used to support highways improvements in the coming year or so. Progress with road maintenance has been slower than anticipated owing to the almost continuous heavy rain. The summer plan of works has been released and it contains a great deal of resurfacing and patching to be carried out. Do not expect miracles but you should notice a lot of ongoing work during the better weather to come. People are encouraged to keep reporting road defects using Fix My Street, the only effective means.

Remember that your Ward Councillors are here to serve you. Do not hesitate to get in touch.

Eur Ing Councillor Alan Chantler BSc(Eng) CEng FBCS CITP

Braunston & Crick Ward

Chairman of Yelvertoft Parish Council

alan.chantler@westnorthants.gov.uk