

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

2023/5783 Cadman Sporting Club proposed demolition of agricultural building and additional earth bunds

Unfortunately there is still no indication when the application will be going to the North Area planning committee, although the case officer has had a recent meeting with the applicant's agents.

Purchase of St James Bus Depot Northampton

There has been local media interest in West Northants Council's recent purchase of the town's bus depot site for £3.3m under special urgency powers which have bypassed the normal decision making procedures. The site has been vacant for 10 years since it was purchased by the now defunct Northampton Borough Council and then sold to Church's Shoes on the same day for a £227,000 loss. The regeneration promised by the shoe company never happened and the derelict site has been a very poor advertisement for Northampton. There are areas of high deprivation surrounding the site, two neighbourhoods are within the top 5% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

The Council had to act quickly as the site may have gone to another developer intending to use the 4.5 acre site for warehousing and distribution, a use which would not have made any positive contribution to regeneration or to addressing the severe shortage of affordable housing in the town and beyond. There are currently 4452 applicants on the Council's housing register and around 600 households in temporary accommodation. The intention is to build 79 homes for affordable rent or shared ownership which will help ease some of the pressure on meeting housing need in the area.

Two other town centre brownfield sites close to Northampton's railway station have been in the local news. The Four Waterside and Marefair scheme is in total a 5 acre site which will be redeveloped by the Council in partnership with Cityheart developers, providing a new hotel, office space and high quality homes along the river. For more information on Northampton's regeneration projects see the link: www.wearenorthampton.com

Daventry town centre masterplan

The Council is developing a masterplan to identify improvements and interventions in the Daventry town centre to improve the quality of life for its residents by enhancing the quality of public space, enabling good connectivity with attractive walking and cycling routes and repurposing vacant units as a catalyst for economic growth. WNC councillors and Daventry town councillors are attending a briefing session next week and there has been a one day public event when the consultation boards have been on display.

Active Travel

The long delayed public consultation on the Daventry Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan should be published on 27th November and be open for 7 weeks to allow an extra week over Christmas. Officers are very hopeful that this date can be confirmed soon.

The Daventry Community Shed opened recently to provide a community workshop for men experiencing isolation to connect with others. Their members (or “shedders”) are looking for donations of unwanted bikes (adult or child) and/or scooters that can be repaired and serviced at the Shed and redistributed to those in need:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550926130964>

This month’s Cabinet meeting is due to consider a report to authorise the start of a traffic free route to enable some Northampton residents working at Brackmills to travel there by bike or on foot. The funding obtained for this scheme (as featured in the June Town and Parish WNC briefing) also includes social prescribing through walking and cycling, a cycle hub workshop and community activators to support cycle coaching and guided rides.

[Agenda frontsheet 14th-Nov-2023 18.00 Cabinet.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

9th November 2023