

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

Climate & Nature Action Survey

Our Northamptonshire Climate & Nature Action Survey closed on Monday, and I am pleased to report that we received 180 responses from the 220 councils that we sent it to, which is **an 82% response rate**. Thank you very much indeed to all those that took the time to complete it; it makes me very proud that we can achieve that sort of response, and that parish and town councils are willing to take the time to contribute. It provides us with a very robust and valuable data set, with the only downside being that due to the phenomenal response we now have a lot of data to crunch! We have started already, and we are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to do the heavy lifting for us. There will be a headline report in the March/April *eUpdate* (due out on 28 March 2025) and then a fuller report in due course. The data will help us identify the most common actions that parish and town councils get involved in so that we can disseminate best practice across the county, and the things that councils don't currently do but wanted more information on. Thank you again... parish and town councils in Northamptonshire are the best!

Rose of Northamptonshire Awards Open

Do you have that special someone in your community who deserves recognition for all they do? It might be an unsung community volunteer who just quietly goes about their business helping others, or a councillor who is retiring this May after years of sterling public service, or that person who never expects thanks or praise but deserves it nonetheless. If so, please consider nominating them for a **Rose of Northamptonshire Award**. Run by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF) in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), nominations for the 2025 awards are now open, and the process is quick and simple. For all the details, please visit <https://www.ncf.uk.com/our-work/rose-of-northamptonshire-awards>. Nominations close on **Tuesday 22 April 2025**.

Weekend Reflections

There is no excuse whatsoever for women being treated any differently to men in the parish and town council sector. For clerks and other officers there should be equal opportunity and equal pay, and for councillors there should be equal representation and equal participation. This Saturday is **International Women's Day** (<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>), which provides an opportunity to think about how all organisations, including parish and town councils, can ensure gender equality. Councils may want to use it as a trigger to look at things like maternity, paternity, and parental leave policies, which can create a significant barrier for women, who often bear a disproportionate share of childcare responsibilities. Remember that the Code of Conduct sets standards against sexism and misogyny and requires all councillors to "*treat others with respect... and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs*".

On Sunday, it is the national **COVID-19 Day of Reflection** to mark the fifth anniversary of the pandemic. The day will be an opportunity for the public to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives during the pandemic, reflect on the sacrifices made and the impact on our daily lives, and pay tribute to the work of health and social care staff, frontline workers, researchers, and all those who volunteered and showed acts of kindness during this unprecedented time. See <https://dayofreflection.campaign.gov.uk/> for all the details as well as a map showing events, spaces for reflection, and public or private gatherings.

Launching the 17th Weetabix Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards

Is there a Northamptonshire food and drink star in your community? Entries are now open for **the Weetabix Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards 2025/26** and the organisers would love to receive your nominations in any of the categories below. All nominations are checked regarding their food hygiene rating and with the relevant Local Authority to ensure that we are supporting reputable businesses. It is a great opportunity to put forward someone from your local area who might otherwise be missed:

- **Artisan Local Drink of the Year:** Recognising the best locally produced drinks that showcase exceptional quality and craftsmanship.
- **Artisan Local Product of the Year:** Celebrating outstanding locally produced food items that highlight innovation and excellence.
- **Booker Gastro Pub of the Year:** Honouring the best gastro pubs that offer exceptional food, drink, and service.
- **Community Café of the Year:** Celebrating cafés that provide excellent food and drink while fostering a sense of community.
- **Healthy Food and Wellbeing business of the Year:** Acknowledging businesses or individuals that promote healthy eating and wellbeing through their products or with their staff.
- **Local Food Hero of the Year:** Honouring those who have made a significant impact on the local food scene through their dedication and passion.
- **World Cuisine Restaurant of the Year:** Honouring the best restaurants that offer exceptional world cuisine and dining experiences.
- **Restaurant of the Year:** Recognising the top restaurants that provide outstanding food, service, and overall dining experience.

For more information see www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk and please send your nominations to awards@northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk or call 01933 664437.

Local Council Vacancies

Rothwell is a historic market town by the A14, four miles northwest of Kettering. **Rothwell Town Council** has an immediate vacancy for a Health & Wellbeing Officer working 20 hours per week at £15/hr. The officer will manage the day to day running of Rothwell's Health & Wellbeing Strategy and will develop Health & Wellbeing events and services. The closing date for applications is **TODAY Friday 7 March 2025**.

Great Doddington Parish Council has a vacancy for a clerk. Great Doddington is a medium-sized village just south of the A45 at Wellingborough. There are 919 electors, and the council has 9 seats. The precept for 2024/25 is £30,000. The position is being advertised at just 20 hours per month and the council has

instructed Northants CALC to advertise the vacancy despite advice from us that the contracted hours are below the recommended minimum. The deadline for applications is **1700 on 14 March 2025**.

Full details of all vacancies are available at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.