

# Rural South Northamptonshire Ward Newsletter

## March 2026 Edition

### Finance & Budget

WNC provide a wide range of services to West Northamptonshire's 430,000 residents, spending more than £1.3 billion annually. These include things like social care for children and adults, schools, waste disposal, public health, libraries and roads.

Council tax bills for everyone in West Northamptonshire Reform Led Council will go up from April 2026 and two hours of free parking in Northampton town centre will be scrapped however car parking charges for Towcester, Daventry and Brackley have been dropped partly due to additional Government grants. Green Bin charges are going up to £69, not the £80 proposed.

This will take the average charge for a band D property up to £1,959.40, which is an annual increase of £92.42. People's council tax bill will also include other contributions to parish and town councils and a precept to the police and fire services, which are set separately.

In recent years, spending pressures have led to overspends on children's services and residential and nursing care for older people, and these services are continuing to face increasing demand and higher costs.

Since 2021, WNC have found **£146 million** in savings and income generation in order to manage spending.

Over the next year, the cost of delivering WNC services is expected to rise by around **£64 million**.

### Local Plan

We're now halfway through the eight-week consultation on the draft Local Plan, the blueprint for how our towns, villages and rural communities will grow and change over the next 20 years.

The draft Plan sets out where new homes, jobs and infrastructure could go, while protecting the green spaces and character that make West Northants special. Your feedback will help shape what gets built, where, and how we plan for the future.

Read the draft Plan, view the evidence and complete the survey here:

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-plan](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-plan)

### **Why this matters**

- The Local Plan is the long-term blueprint for development across West Northamptonshire for the next 20 years.
- It sets out proposed locations for new homes, employment sites, infrastructure, and protections for green spaces and community character.
- Community input is essential to ensure the Plan reflects local priorities.

### **Key proposals**

- The new Local Plan will replace previous plans for Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire with a single unified strategy guiding growth to 2043.
- It includes a refreshed spatial strategy that supports regeneration and development on previously developed (brownfield) land as well as planned growth in rural areas.
- There are policies to help achieve net zero carbon emissions and improve health outcomes through planning decisions.
- The draft includes enhanced protections for valued green spaces, and communities can nominate additional Local Green Space designations as part of the consultation.
- Updated guidance on housing mix and affordable homes aims to ensure different types of homes are provided where they are most needed.
- The Plan sets requirements for employment land and supports economic development alongside housing, helping guide where new jobs should go.
- Feedback now will help shape the next draft (Regulation 19) later in 2026 ahead of independent examination.

### **Final deadline**

- Consultation closes **11:59pm on Friday 27 March 2026**.

### **HS2**

We continue to liaise with HS2, WNC and local Parish Councils along the route to mitigate the impacts. Road closures and the impact of traffic on the road surfaces continue to be the main issues.

We plan to submit another report in June, if you wish to make contact, then don't hesitate to do so

**Charles Manners** 07836 550356 **Alison Eastwood** 07967 867726 **David Smith** 07845 120924 - **Ward Councillors – Rural South Northamptonshire Ward.**