

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

### **Question 1**

**Cllr. Duffy to Cllr. Hallam**

Wardens provide a valued service but are overstretched. There is money in the budget to employ one more. When is going to be done?

### **Response**

The employment of the additional warden was based on the receipt of income from issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices which have been dramatically reduced this year due to Covid19 and the restrictions on the Kingdom Enforcement Contract due to social distancing requirements.

**Cllr M. Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

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### **Question 2**

**Cllr. Duffy to Cllr. Hallam**

What is the Borough policy regarding abandoned vehicles and vehicles found to be uninsured?

### **Response**

The Neighbourhood Wardens investigate abandoned vehicles that have been reported to the Council or to the Police. However, since April 2020, due to COVID 19, the DVLA have closed their offices to external enforcement officers, so the Neighbourhood Wardens are unable to remove vehicles that are currently out of road tax. We have not been given a date as to when this service will resume. The Neighbourhood Wardens are not empowered to remove vehicles if they have no insurance this can only be done by the Police.

**Cllr M. Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020

### Question 3

**Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr. King**

What are the long-term plans for alleyways that are the site of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping?

### Response

We will continue to work with partners, including the police, at a neighbourhood level to identify the most appropriate response to anti-social behaviour. Residents are encouraged to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police via 101 or online at <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-b/report-antisocial-behaviour/>. Where appropriate and where there is evidence that activities carried out in the highway to be gated have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, as a result of anti-social behaviour, Northampton Borough Council will seek to obtain a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). A PSPO has been granted in the last 6 months and there are two PSPOs currently being considered, specific to alleyways, where anti-social behaviour has been evident.

We also continue to work with partners such as Veolia to produce fly tipping hot spot maps and this information is shared between relevant stakeholders to help produce an action plan to deter flytipping.

**Cllr A King**

**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

### **Question 4**

**Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr. Hallam**

Would it not be a good idea to recognise all the groups and all the individuals that regularly go out litter-picking to help keep this town clean, safe and green?

### **Response**

Great idea, I will arrange for our communications team to produce information that celebrates these groups and individuals for their efforts. Veolia's community champions continue to undertake these works in their areas, and all groups have received a newsletter this year, the scheme is currently being reviewed to enhance and improve the project and Veolia are actively engaging with groups to review this service in order to plan future projects.

**Cllr M Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

### **Question 5**

Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr Hallam

What is the policy regarding street bins? The ones in St James keep going for a walk and then come back as if new. Is it true that the same bins are moved around in different locations?

### **Response**

Veolia are aware of the issues with these bins and a programme is in place to bolt them down to stop them wandering off, members and residents are requested to report any issues through the app or call centre to help us to identify any problems in order that we can rectify them as soon as possible.

**Cllr M Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020

### Question 6

**Cllr. Stone to Cllr. King**

The foodbanks in the town urgently need support with storage and distribution centres. What is the Borough doing to meet this need. What is the timescale?

### Response

Small charities and food banks in Northamptonshire can apply **now** for funds from the “Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies” funded through DEFRA.

Two grants have been awarded to the Northampton Hope Centre, and the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough, to support local charities in the West and North of Northamptonshire and build resilience into these areas.

A working group bringing all of the foodbanks together has been established, to look at areas of need, where the gaps are and what the current issues are locally for groups that are providing food provision, including storage needs.

The funding will look to support:

Projects that directly help vulnerable people affected by the effects of COVID-19, such as by providing access to food and other essentials e.g. toiletries

Existing schemes and other support which support people struggling to afford food and other essentials, and where the need is greatest

Projects advising and providing information to people to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits

Projects that provide targeted support in areas of greatest need and deprivation, including rural areas.

To apply for this grant or to become part of the working group for the West of the County, organisations can email the Hope Centre - [robin@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk](mailto:robin@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk)

**Cllr A King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

### **Question 7**

**Cllr. Russell to Cllr Larratt**

As the largest sovereign authority in the West Northants shadow authority, what is this council doing to do to ensure elections are held in May 2021.

### **Response**

This Council is working on the premise that elections will take place as scheduled in May 2021 and our elections team is actively engaged in election planning for triple elections then. It is possible that there may be changes to the scheduled elections due to Covid, but this is a matter for Parliament as legislation may be required depending on what adjustments are needed. This Council will continue to support fully the democratic process, working positively with any legal requirements.

**Cllr P Larratt**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020

### Question 8

#### Cllr Birch to Cllr King

Please can we have an update on the NBC lottery, the amount it has raised and who has benefitted.

#### Response

I am really pleased to answer this question, as we have just passed our first year of operating the Northampton Lottery. The lottery itself is run by an external provider and the Council keeps none of the funds raised, although we do direct where the central pot goes.

As you can see from the table below there are a great number of organisations that benefit from the scheme. It is driven by how many people participate and which good cause they choose to support.

The breakdown of the £1.00 ticket is 50p directly to the cause selected, 10p goes to the central pot as does the 50ps from those that support the 'Community Pot'. This central pot is currently shared amongst five core causes, we are looking at changing that to six for 2020-21.

We had hoped to grow the lottery a bit more by now, however Covid has had an impact on our ability to promote the scheme at events and locations.



<b>Key Causes</b>				
The Lewis Foundation	£1,459.50	£709.84	£659.80	£2,829.14
The Lowdown	£797.50	£709.84	£659.80	£2,167.14
78 Derngate Trust	£372.00	£709.84	£659.80	£1,741.64
Inspiration FM Community Radio	£377.50	£709.84	£659.80	£1,747.14
Delapré Abbey	£82.00	£709.84	£659.80	£1,451.64
<b>Other Causes</b>				
Breast Friends Northamptonshire	£1,154.50			£1,154.50
Just4children-kelis's mountain climb	£606.00			£606.00
Northampton Martinis WI	£552.00			£552.00
Northampton Hope Centre	£505.50			£505.50
Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service	£495.00			£495.00
Northampton Irish Support Group	£481.50			£481.50
Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy	£445.00			£445.00
Project 16:15	£430.50			£430.50
Singing4breathing	£414.50			£414.50
EVE	£393.00			£393.00
The County Toy Library	£375.50			£375.50
Northamptonshire Carers	£349.50			£349.50
ABILITY	£343.50			£343.50
Friends of West Hunsbury Parks	£319.50			£319.50
Favell Day Services	£278.00			£278.00
Friends of Abington Library	£276.50			£276.50
Bellinge Community House	£245.50			£245.50
Spectrum Club (Northants)	£237.50			£237.50
Age UK Northamptonshire	£231.00			£231.00
Growing Together Northampton	£217.50			£217.50
Doddridge Centre Ltd	£209.50			£209.50
Crusader Community Boating	£206.50			£206.50
Northampton Town FC Community Trust	£198.00			£198.00
One small step for Harry	£182.00			£182.00
Headway Northampton CIO	£178.00			£178.00
34th Kingsthorpe Scouts	£175.00			£175.00
Deafconnect	£140.00			£140.00
Alfe's Cause	£128.50			£128.50
1st Hardingstone Scout Group	£124.50			£124.50
Care & Repair Northamptonshire	£118.50			£118.50
55th Northampton Scout Group	£105.50			£105.50
Pink Rooster	£100.50			£100.50
Northants Ups'n'Downs	£99.00			£99.00
Sport4Fitness CC	£98.00			£98.00
Sol Havens	£94.00			£94.00
Free2TalkCIC	£92.50			£92.50
Friends of Far Cotton Library	£89.50			£89.50
The Foundation Stones Project	£86.00			£86.00
Northamptonshire Association for the Blind	£81.00			£81.00
Northamptonshire Deaf Children's Society	£73.50			£73.50
Ngage with Aquarius	£71.50			£71.50
Warts and All Theatre	£56.50			£56.50
C2C Social Action	£51.50			£51.50
Peak Empower	£42.00			£42.00
Northamptonshire Rape Crisis	£39.50			£39.50
Everyday English	£36.00			£36.00
The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation	£35.50			£35.50
Baby Basics, Northampton	£33.00			£33.00
Northampton Community Transport	£22.00			£22.00
St James Community Library	£19.00			£19.00
Ailsa's Aim	£7.00			£7.00
Life Music Northants	£5.00			£5.00
Buddies of Becketts	£4.50			£4.50
The Lighthouse Centre	£2.50			£2.50
Northampton Transport Heritage	£1.50			£1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,746.00</b>	<b>£3,549.20</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£21,295.20</b>

**CIlr A King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020

### Question 9

**Cllr. Roberts to Cllr. Larratt**

Given the significant number of complaints and the dreadful work practices we are seeing from some of the City Fibre works and further, the state our roads, pathways and verges have been left in, what action are NBC taking and what engagement have they had with NCC and City Fibre?

### Response

We are in regular contact with CityFibre over the works throughout the town.

Good digital connectivity will allow Northampton to take advantages of a wide range of future opportunities and is essential infrastructure. Affordable full fibre connectivity is especially important to our SME's. We have been pleased to see that Full Fibre coverage in Northampton increased from 0.5% to 10.3% since April which will help to support these ambitions.

We do however recognise the recent increasing number of complaints arising from poor workmanship as a result of the rollout. These issues are mainly involved with the works that CityFibre is doing in the Highway and they are directly liaising with NCC over these. NBC have also engaged with CityFibre over the plans to address the breaches of working practices.

A number of steps that will be taken to address these issues which focus around increased supervision, audits and training with specific action taken including:

Contractor stand down day in September to provide 2hr sessions with the relevant operatives and supervisors to ensure correct working practices and policies are adhered

Funding an independent highways inspector.

Reduction in the concentration of gangs operating in areas.

We will continue to work closely with CityFibre and NCC to review works and progress.

**Cllr P Larratt**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

## Questions for Full Council – 2 November 2020

### Question 10

#### Cllr Emma Roberts to Cllr Stephen Hibbert

Following Cllr Hibbert's public agreement to review the NBC/NPH tenancy agreement relating to maintenance of trees in gardens being the responsibility of tenants, can we understand what action has been taken and what the timelines will be? This is not an issue that can be kicked in to the long grass of unitary.

#### Response

I have discussed the tree maintenance issue with NPH which, as you know, manages the Council's housing stock on our behalf. Until very recently, NPH had not raised any concerns about tree maintenance in tenants' gardens or, indeed, the wording of the tenancy agreement.

I have asked the Chief Executive of NPH to:

- Provide me with an urgent written briefing on the nature and extent of all complaints / concerns that tenants or their neighbours have already raised with NPH about trees in tenants' gardens, together with details of the action that NPH has already taken to address each of those complaints / concerns; and
- Provide me with his recommendations on the action that he thinks the Council and NPH should take to address this issue, based on NPH's knowledge, management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock.

I have also asked the Council's Director of Housing and Wellbeing to work with NPH's Assistant Director for Housing to set up a multi-disciplinary Task & Finish Group that will review the Council's tenancy conditions (including those relating to tree maintenance) and submit its recommendations to Cabinet, following the statutory period of consultation, next year.

**Cllr Stephen Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing**