

WNC Councillors Report

Braunston & Crick Ward

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| To: | Barby & Onley Parish Council Meeting |
| Date: | 10th November 2025 |
| From: | Cllr Rosie Humphreys Cllr Andrew Simpson |

1. WNC Matters

a) Management of council homes

At its next meeting on 11th November, WNC's Cabinet will decide whether to bring WNC's social housing stock and related housing services, currently delivered by Northamptonshire Partnership Homes (NPH) back into direct management by the Council. The decision comes after a report last November found serious failings in how NPH complied to home safety and quality standards of the 11,500 properties it manages. A recent consultation of tenants and leaseholders indicated a majority supported returning to direct management by WNC. The meeting agenda will be published on 3/11/25: [Browse meetings - Cabinet - West Northamptonshire Council](#)

b) WNC progress summary October 2025

WNC has issued a list of actions and achievements this year. Many of these are focused on Northampton - visitor numbers during the Rugby World Cup, recent events in Northampton's Market Square, targeting substandard houses in multiple occupation - although there is reference to the recent town and parish councils' annual conference and the development of a charter to increase engagement and partnership working.

As the number of children in WNC's care is at its highest since 2022-23 (an increase reflected nationally) the expansion of Family Hubs is of course to be welcomed. Part of the purpose of the hubs is to prevent family and parenting issues escalating. They offer support and a welcoming space for families with children from 0-19 years (or to 25 for a child with a special educational need or disability) The Hub in Daventry opens on 15th November. [Family Hubs | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

The report refers to the ongoing "*toughest budget-setting process for the Council yet*", meaning that this is the most challenging year, financially for the WNC, now in its fifth year. Spiralling costs of adult and children's services continue to be the cause of the financial pressures. The Cabinet meeting where the draft budget for 2026-27 will be published has been put back until 22nd December by which time there will be confirmation of the amount of the first multi-year settlement awarded to WNC, following the fair funding reforms announced by the government.

2. Local Issues

a) Barby in pilot scheme to for additional recycling of soft plastic

Barby has been selected, along with Kilsby, Braunston, Lilbourne, Norton and 500 properties in Daventry to be part of a pilot scheme for collection of soft plastic bags and wrapping to be collected as part of the normal blue bin collection. The pilot is being run ahead of a launch across the whole of West Northamptonshire in 2027.

This recycled plastic can be used to make plastic packaging, "bags for life" and materials used in farming and construction. Almost all new plastic comes from fossil fuels which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

The pilot has been launched as a result of a visit in May by the Kilsby Environment Group and attended by various parish councillors from neighbouring villages to the Sherbourne recycling facility near Coventry where WNC takes recyclable waste. It is a state of the art facility which accepts soft plastic and the local residents attending were keen to communicate to their communities that soft plastic can in fact be collected from homes in the Daventry and South Northants area.(This does not apply to Northampton residents. Their recyclable waste goes to a different facility which cannot process soft plastic.) Since the visit Rosie has been liaising with WNC as to a pilot project, which is now underway. Information leaflets have been printed for every household and WNC has asked for the community's help in delivering these.

b) 2023/5783/MAF Cadman Sporting Club

The case officer Eamon McDowell has recently advised that he is still chasing ecology information and when received there will be a further full 21 day consultation. This will mean that *"any potential planning committee would be into early 2026 (January or February) assuming no new issues arise from the consultation exercise."* So regrettably there is continuing uncertainty as to when the additional bund application will come to the planning committee.

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