Message from the Chairman

There is a saying ‘as you get older the time goes quicker’ and this is certainly true for my year as Chairman. I cannot believe the amount of places I have visited and enjoyed and the functions I have attended during my first few months in this role. What continues to impress me most is the beauty of this district, especially when the sun shines. I encourage you all to get out and explore; try somewhere you have never been before!

We’ve seen a big increase in visitors to the district with the opening of Rushden Lakes and its wonderful combination of retail and wildlife. The opening week saw several stores open which created many jobs for local people. Many visitors to the Lakes have now had the opportunity of seeing for themselves that we are not a place to just travel through but a place to stop and enjoy.

One way to enjoy the district is on the water and I had the pleasure of opening the Canoe2 centre at Rushden Lakes where you can hire canoes, kayaks or a pedalo swan to head out on the lake. Or if you’re feeling a bit more adventurous, hire a canoe and head up the River Nene where you will discover the most tranquil stretches of the river stopping off at places like Wadenhoe and Fotheringhay, which is steeped in history as the birth place of Richard III and execution site of Mary Queen of Scots. So much history on our doorstep!

Another great place to explore with the family is Stanwick Lakes and it now has new climbing and play equipment which the children love. There are also some great dog walks to enjoy at Stanwick Lakes; please remember to tweet your dog pics to me (@ENCChairman).

The north of the district benefitted from our Community Facilities Fund with new tennis/netball courts at King’s Cliffe. I was fortunate to be asked to open the new courts and see many local people enjoying this wonderful facility.

Another sport enjoyed by many is golf and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who supported my charity golf day and donated to The Swivel Club and The Dogs Trust. A great day was had by all.

So, whether you enjoy shopping, walking, canoeing, tennis, netball and many other fun activities, you can do it all in East Northamptonshire. Our district has so much to offer and I urge you all to enjoy what is on your doorstep, I promise you will not be disappointed.

Warmest regards Cllr Colin Wright

Over 60 or disabled?
Are you concerned about...

£ Money - call Community Law Service on 01933 313020
☎ Home - call Spire Homes on 01933 410084
❤ Wellbeing - call First for Wellbeing on 0300 126 5000
🚗 Transport - call Volunteer Action on 01832 275433
📞 Care - call Serve on 01933 315555
❓ Need advice and information? Call Serve on 01933 315555

Save time - go online www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/doitonline
Council agrees Rushden East master-planning vision

The vision for a new Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) that will provide good quality housing and employment within high quality and well-connected environments has been approved.

Councillors endorsed the broad master-planning vision and objectives that will help create "new and distinctive neighbourhoods that will offer a high quality of life for all".

Located to the east of Rushden and Higham Ferrers, beyond the A6 Liberty Way, the Rushden East SUE forms part of the Council’s planning strategy and is included in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS), which was adopted in July 2016.

The SUE will "enhance the image of Rushden and Higham Ferrers and will be well-connected to and integrated with both towns. It will contain around 2,500 new homes along with new employment, social and community facilities, and a high quality landscape setting that enhances biodiversity."

The purpose of the development is to achieve sustainable development to meet rising population pressure which also helps to protect rural areas from over-development.

Steven North, Leader of ENC explains:

"The eastern expansion of Rushden will build upon the existing strong sense of local community and will help form a distinctive place, whilst ensuring that it appropriately integrates and connects with the existing towns of Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

"Rushden East will be a mixed-use development which offers a good balance of jobs, homes and local facilities that can be accessed by all. Good transport links, connections with Rushden and Higham along with high quality green space and infrastructure will make this a very desirable place to live, work and play."

Rushden East will provide affordable and starter homes, homes for older people, larger executive homes and opportunities for custom and self-build homes in an area where demand is high.

Councillors, officers and developers are working on a master-plan which will go out for consultation where the local community and stakeholders will have the chance to comment. The master-plan will describe how the new development will look and provide a structured approach to creating a clear and consistent framework for development.

The development is likely to be completed in the early 2030s and is currently being promoted by a development consortium which includes the Duchy of Lancaster, Barratts and Taylor Wimpey.
£40k council funding for East Northants residents

We’re helping more communities in the district with £40,000 of funding for local projects.

Each of our district councillors is allocated £1,000 per year to award to parish/town councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities working in East Northamptonshire.

Thanks to our Member Empowerment Fund (MEF), these types of projects can be funded:
- Community events, fayres and carnivals
- Community/Neighbourhood Planning activities
- Activities that promote participation in physical activity/healthy lifestyles
- Environmental improvements e.g. tidying up, new planting schemes
- Community facility improvements
- Support for new groups e.g. first aid, committee skills training
- Equipment for use by the local community
- Young people projects including equipment for youth groups
- Safer communities e.g. parking schemes, speed reduction measures

Since the scheme began in June 2011, communities have benefitted from over £190,000 of grant funding to support their projects, including most recently:
- A PA system and attendance of St John’s Ambulance staff at the 10th anniversary re-dedication of the village memorial community event in Chelveston (shown).
- A defibrillator for adult and youth football training sessions and games at Stanwick Rovers FC.
- Wildflower plants and seeds to improve the new pond area on Maltings Green in Kings Cliffe.
- A grit bin for residents of Lilford.

Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE, district councillor for Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward, supported the purchase of a Public Address system for local community events. He said:

“Small amounts granted from a councillor’s MEF always seem to make large differences to those communities receiving it.

“In this case, Chelveston is a small village who had already expended funds, from a limited amount, towards the Rededication of Memorial to the USAF 305th Bomber Group Memorial event. The community would have found it difficult to purchase a suitable PA system, of a quality that would last, with their remaining funds.

“Being able to make a contribution from my MEF ensured the PA system could be purchased in the first place, and it should last for years to come, benefiting so many different members of the community.”

Councillor Steven North, Leader of ENC, added: “This is a great small fund that allows our members to financially support the communities in their area. If you need a bit of assistance to make your project a reality, have a chat with your local councillor who may be able to help.”

For more information, to apply and see more examples where MEFs have been granted, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/mef
A quick update from Freedom Leisure

It’s been six months since we took over management of three wonderful centres on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council, with many exciting developments and many more in the pipeline.

The Nene Centre got its brand-new children’s indoor climbing wall in July which has proven extremely popular, giving many local youngsters the opportunity to try climbing for the first time. In August, the gyms at both Nene and Pemberton centres received new cardiovascular and functional equipment, plus new top-of-the-range spin bikes – with the virtual Myride studio at Pemberton upgraded significantly, making it one of the best Myride facilities in the area!

Finally, some very exciting news regarding The Splash Leisure Pool. This month work starts to reopen the much-loved water flume and the centre is also getting its very own brand-new gym.

Council leader hails opening of Rushden Lakes a momentous occasion for the district

The next generation shopping and leisure destination is now open with 33 shops and eight lakeside restaurants and cafes welcoming customers over the next few weeks.

Our Leader, Steven North says:

“Rushden Lakes is the retail, dining and leisure experience that the people of this district deserve. It has taken many years of hard work by many people but the day has arrived. We’re very excited to see people enjoying this unique site be it shopping, eating out or enjoying a walk around the lake. Rushden Lakes offers it all.

“The positive impact of this development will be enjoyed for many years. The regenerated site, new jobs, wonderful retail offer, unique leisure opportunities and green connections with Rushden town and the surrounding area means that East Northamptonshire has much to be proud of.”

Works on phase two of the development that includes a 14 screen cinema, indoor trampoline, climbing facilities, 18 more restaurants, eight more retailers and 461 extra parking spaces, will start soon.
Learn more about Rushden and Higham Ferrers with new town guides

Two new free guides encouraging people to explore the rich heritage and attractions of Rushden and Higham Ferrers have been launched.

The booklets have been produced to promote the towns and include maps as well as information on local amenities, events, attractions, recreation and leisure, parks and open spaces as well as features on history and heritage.

Copies of the booklets have been delivered to households in Rushden and Higham Ferrers and are available online at www.rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk or www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk or at many local outlets including the libraries, the town council offices and Rushden Lakes.

Julie Thorneycroft, Town Manager for Rushden and Higham Ferrers who managed the production of the new guides said: “The focus for the Rushden Guide is local events and the history of the town while the Higham Ferrers Guide is about the unique retail offer and town’s heritage.”

For more information or a copy of the guide, call 01933 316216.

Organising an event? Then you might need a TENs

If you are organising an event where you will be:
• selling alcohol (note if alcohol is provided at an event a sale may be deemed to be included in any entry or ticket fee),
• serving alcohol to members of a private club,
• providing entertainment, such as music, dancing or indoor sporting events*,
• serving hot food or drink between 11pm and 5am (known as late night refreshment),
then you will need to complete a Temporary Event Notice (TEN).

You will also need a TEN if a particular licensable activity is not included in the terms of the existing licence for the premises your event will be held at, for example holding a wedding reception at a community centre.

*Events held in private dwellings are generally not licensable unless those attending are charged for any of the above activities with a view to making a profit (including raising money for charity).

Your application should be served to us no later than 10 clear working days before the event (but we recommend sooner to allow for any problems).

Things to consider:
• If the premises where the event is to be held is in areas governed by two or more local authorities an application must be made to each.
• You must also give a copy of the notice to the police and environmental health no later than ten clear working days before the event.
• You must be 18 years or older to give a TEN and you can give a maximum of five TENs per year.
• If you are a personal licence holder, you can give a maximum of 50 TENs per year.
• A person cannot apply for a separate TEN on the same premises without a gap of at least 24 hours between events.
• Your event must involve no more than 499 people at any one time and last no more than 168 hours.
• A premises can only be authorised to hold a maximum of 15 temporary events over a maximum period of 21 days in any calendar year.

For more information and to apply visit: www.northantslicensing.gov.uk
A festival which celebrates the unique heritage, wildlife and culture of the Nene Valley is back for its fourth year this autumn

From 16 – 24 September, the Nene Valley Festival will present an eclectic programme of outdoor family events, guided tours, water pursuits, concerts, cycle rides, local walks, foodie events and much more!

Featuring over 75 events at key locations along the Nene Valley, from Northampton to Peterborough, the festival is a must for wildlife and culture lovers of all ages looking for inspiration, tranquillity and new experiences.

The Nene Valley Festival is being organised through the Destination Nene Valley (DNV) project, which is a key priority within our new Enterprising East Northants initiative, the Council’s economic development plan for the district. DNV aims to promote the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination offering wildlife and heritage to a mixture of local, national and international audiences.

East Northamptonshire Councillor and Board Member for the DNV project, Sarah Peacock, said:

“Our programme has a strong active and outdoors focus for 2017. We want to inspire more people to connect with the wildlife and heritage of the Nene Valley and we hope that our residents and visitors will enjoy all the activities on offer this autumn.”

The Festival is one of the key projects within the Nenescape Landscape Partnership scheme, a heritage lottery funded scheme that works in partnership with organisations stretching along the River Nene, to conserve and protect its natural and built history.

Amanda Johnson, Nenescape Project Development Manager, said: “The Nene Valley Festival is a wonderful celebration of everything that makes this beautiful stretch of countryside extraordinary. The Nenescape Landscape Partnership is thrilled to be supporting Destination Nene Valley with this annual event.”

Visit the Nene Valley website www.nenevalley.net and follow @nenevalley #nenevalley2017 on Twitter for up-to-date information on the Festival programme.

Say “hello” to Beaky McBeakface!

In the last issue of ENCircle we asked you to name this stunning Heron. We had a wide range to choose from (Bertie, Dave and Heronimus to name but a few), but we felt the chosen name would be popular.
Celebrating the Wildlife, Heritage & Culture of the Nene Valley

Enjoy an eclectic programme of outdoor events, art workshops, concerts, foodie events and much more!

@_nenevalley  #nenevalley2017  nenevalley.net