£267k of grants awarded to community projects

East Northamptonshire Council has approved £267,000 worth of grants to help build and improve community facilities across the district.

The Community Facilities Fund was set up using money the council receives from the government called New Homes Bonus. This money is based on the number of properties added to the Council Tax base each year, either as new homes occupied or empty homes brought back into use.

Councillor Steven North, Leader of the Council and Chairman, Gill Mercer presented the cheques to successful bidders. Steven said:

“We’re delighted to be able to use New Homes Bonus funding to continue to support more community facilities which are essential to those areas where new homes are being built.

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Also inside

Christmas waste collection on page 5
Chairman’s Christmas message on page 4

customerservices@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk | 01832 742000
Save time - go online www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/doitonline
Welcome to the first edition of ENCircle!

Hello and welcome to the first edition of East Northamptonshire Council’s new quarterly newsletter. As you may recall, our previous publication closed down in March 2014 due to new government legislation that restricts how often we can publish a newsletter. This new publication will come out four times a year which is within central government rules.

ENCircle is produced for residents of East Northamptonshire, giving you information about our services and news. It’s delivered to every household in the district, which is great for those who don’t enjoy good internet access and so can’t get their information online. In fact, a resident’s survey showed that the majority of people living in East Northants prefer a printed publication through their letterbox to find out about council news. If you decide you’d rather not read ENCircle, simply put it in your green lidded recycling bin.

You’ll see from our front page that the council is distributing more New Homes Bonus funding to help community groups across the district. And as the festive season is nearly upon us, we’ve provided useful information about our Christmas opening hours, rubbish and recycling collections and free parking, so you’ll have more to spend on gifts!

We hope you’ll welcome this newsletter into your home and we appreciate you taking a few minutes of your time to read it. We want to know what works for you and what doesn’t so please email any feedback or suggestions for the newsletter to communications@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk or call 01832 742217.

Meet the funders

To find out what funding is available for community groups in East Northamptonshire, come along to our free ‘Meet the Funders’ event at our offices on Cedar Drive (Thrapston) on 5 March 2015 12-3.30pm.

With our help, projects such as the building works to King’s Cliffe Village Hall, have been able to go ahead, with funding of £72,432. For more information contact Su Davies, External Funding Manager, on 01832 742191 or email sdavies@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Christmas closing and opening dates/times

Please note that the Thrapston offices and Customer Service Centres (CSC) at Thrapston, Rushden and Oundle will close for the Christmas and New Year holidays on Wednesday 24 December 2014 and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2015.

The closing/opening times for each CSC are:
Customer Service Centre Closes 24/12/14 Re-opens 05/01/15
Thrapston, Cedar Drive 5pm 8:45am
Rushden, Newton Road 4:30pm 9am
Oundle, Oundle Library 1pm 10am

Irthlingborough Library - No service on Wed 24 Dec 2014 - re-open on Wed 7 Jan 2014

You can access many of our council services at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
You can still pay council bills on our payment line (24 hours) on 01832 742259.
If you have an urgent problem which cannot wait, you can call our out of hours service on 01832 733530.
2014 marks the 40th birthday of East Northamptonshire Council and to celebrate, staff and councillors gathered for a commemorative photograph.

Nearly 50 council officers were joined by the council leader, Steven North, Chairman, Gill Mercer and councillors for a forty shaped photo to mark the historic occasion.

Who you gonna call?

We get lots of calls about services which Northamptonshire County Council provides. If you need any of the following, visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk or call 0300 126 1000 (charged at local rate and inclusive mobile phone minutes can be used)

- Street lights
- Gritting
- Bus passes
- Blue Badges
- Dropped Kerbs
- Nursing homes
- Schools

£267k of grants awarded to community projects

...continued from front page

“Last year, 13 community groups benefitted from this fund and we’re pleased to announce that a further 10 groups will get the financial help they need to improve play areas, refurbish sports pavilions, and build new community meeting places. We’re really looking forward to seeing these projects take shape and believe that each and every one will make an important contribution to local people’s health and wellbeing.”

For more information about the Community Facilities Fund, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/cff
Merry Christmas from the Chairman!

As I look back on the last year in East Northamptonshire, for me one piece of news outweighs all others - the granting of planning permission for Rushden Lakes by the Secretary of State. This is now something to look forward to for the next year, watching the work start to build it. It signals a step change in the quality of life for East Northamptonshire people especially in the south of the district, with excellent shops and wildlife pursuits, leisure and lakeside restaurants.

I am sure that as I get older each Christmas seems to come round faster. Christmas is an especially happy time for children and I am certainly looking forward to spending time with my gorgeous grandchildren.

I hope that you will all be able to spend quality time with your families and to enjoy each others company.

I look forward to meeting more people all over the district in the year to come and to applaud all the marvellous charity and volunteer work that goes on by our unsung heroes.

Happy Christmas everybody and a prosperous New Year.

ENC Chairman, Gill Mercer

Find out what the Chairman is doing by viewing her diary, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/chairman

What’s on? calendar

To publicise your event on the What’s on? calendar on our website, please complete the online form at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/submitevent

Some terms and conditions apply.

Water fine place to swim

Councillors and contractors officially re-opened the Splash Pool in Rushden with a paddle in the shallow end of the newly refurbished pool.

The £330k project, funded by East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and carried out by Jeakins Weir, has seen new air handling units and ducting installed, re-tiling in the changing rooms, showers and toilets and the installation of new changing cubicles and lockers.

For more information on the Splash Pool, visit www.culturalcommunitypartnerships.org.uk
Students get a taste of ‘the real X Factor’

Young people from across the district enjoyed a day dedicated to democracy at the fourth annual Youth in East Northamptonshire (YEN) conference hosted by the council. With lots of discussion, quizzes and practical exercises, students from the five secondary schools in East Northamptonshire learned about all the ways they can have their say as well as the importance of voting.

For all things youth-related in East Northamptonshire visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/YEN

Waste collection

Because of the way the bank holidays fall over this year’s Christmas and New Year period, some collections will be made earlier than the usual day and some later.

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*PLEASE NOTE: Monday 29, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 December are the only days collected as normal. Please ensure the correct bin is out on the changed collection day.

Remember to use your food recycling caddy for your turkey carcass and other Christmas food waste.

Garden Waste Service bins will not be collected between 20 December and 4 January.

To find out your bin collection day, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/waste

Commanding some of Britain’s most spectacular views and stunning landscapes...

…and it’s on your doorstep.

www.nenevalley.net
@_nenevalley

Photo of the River Nene taken by canoe2.co.uk
Free parking for Christmas shopping and January sales

Those who choose to shop in East Northamptonshire will have more cash for festive gifts and New Year bargains thanks to the free council run car parks in each of the six towns.

East Northamptonshire boasts 13 free car parks with generous time allowances, so shoppers can take their time searching for that perfect gift.

East Northamptonshire Council Leader, Cllr Steven North, says: “We want to encourage residents to do their festive shopping locally, to support the independent and high street shops on their doorstep. By offering free parking all year round, shoppers and visitors can enjoy a great variety of shops and excellent events hosted by our towns.”

For more information about the car parks in East Northamptonshire, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/carparking

Changes to the Code of Conduct for Councillors

East Northamptonshire Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct for its councillors on 6 October 2014. You can view the revised code at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/constitution - the Code is Part 5.1.

Some local town and parish councils have also adopted the same revised code and others are expected to follow. Please check out the relevant council website for further details of the code adopted.

Keep up-to-date with our news on Twitter!

No one wants food poisoning over the festive season.

Visit food.gov.uk/ratings and download the Food Hygiene Standards app.

Even Santa knows to check before booking a table!

Follow us @ENCouncil
Who is my councillor?
We have 40 elected councillors who decide how council services are delivered and how the council’s money is best spent. Councillors represent public interest as well as the views and opinions of individuals living within the ward in which s/he serves.

Visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/inmyarea to find out who your councillor is, their roles within the council and how to contact them.

Council meetings
East Northamptonshire Council makes its decisions at council and committee meetings. Most of these are open to the public and start at 7:30pm in the council chamber, Cedar Drive, Thrapston. There are meetings throughout the year. Visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk to view the full calendar of meetings, agendas, reports and minutes.

Reporting dog fouling
If you see a dog foul in a public place and the owner does not clean it up, please report them to our dog warden. Information such as time/date/location of the incident and description/breed of dog will help identify the offender.

Please use the online reporting dog fouling form at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/dogs or call 01832 742026.

Reporting fly tipping
Fly tipping not only blights the countryside, it’s illegal. If you see somebody dumping their waste, please report them to us. Information such as time/date/location of the incident and description of person/vehicle will help identify the offender.

Please search for ‘fly tipping’ at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk and follow the link to report or call 01832 742026.

Collection of bulky items
We offer a bulky waste collection service for all households in the district. On request, we’ll collect up to seven items for £25, including beds, sofas and carpets. To arrange a collection, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk or call 01832 742026.

Ways to pay
Although we no longer accept cash payments, there are still many ways to pay for council services with your card and account details 24/7:

- www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/onlinepayments
- 01832 742259

Our customer services centres at Thrapston, Rushden and Oundle will accept payments by debit and credit card or cheque. Some payments, such as those for Council Tax, can be paid for by direct debit at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/directdebit or on 01832 742004.

Paying the council using bank giro slips at banks or the Post Office is also an option, as is BACS transfer using the following bank details: Sort code 20-45-77 Account No. 00858846. Please call 01832 742000 if you have any queries.

Working for East Northamptonshire Council
If you’re passionate about delivering excellent customer services follow us on twitter @ENCjobs for information on all our latest vacancies.
Think green this Christmas

For many people, Christmas is a time of excitement and celebration, with lots of parties, family get-togethers, food and presents. However, it's also the time of year which creates the most waste, so we're asking residents to think green this Christmas and recycle as much of this as possible. The main sources of extra rubbish are food, cardboard boxes, bottles and jars, drinks cans, plastic packaging and cards, all of which can be recycled.

Make the most of your green-lidded bin to recycle:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans and tins, including empty aerosol cans
- Plastic bottles and containers, including ice cream tubs, yoghurt pots and margarine tubs
- Paper, including wrapping paper*
- Card and cardboard, including Christmas cards and boxes
- Food and drink cartons (Tetrapaks)
- Clean tin foil

If you've got too much recycling to fit into your green-lidded bin, we will collect extra recyclable waste which is left out in cardboard boxes or clear sacks beside the bin.

Love your leftovers

For any food which is past its best, and for food waste like the turkey carcass which can’t be eaten, use your food waste caddy to recycle it. All the food which is collected in the food waste caddies is used to create an agricultural fertiliser, so it’s a really green way to get rid of your excess food.

Compost your peelings and help your garden grow. For tips and advice on how to get composting, visit www.recyclenow.com/reduce/home-composting It’s really easy.

Recycle your real Christmas tree in your your Garden Waste Service bin (cut up) or at a local Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) - they take fake trees too! See below for contact info.

We want THE BEST recycling. We can’t collect bins which contain large amounts of contaminant material. To help keep your recycling pure, please don’t:

- Place recycling in carrier bags or black sacks - place it loose into your green lidded bin
- Put food waste into the green lidded bin (use your food waste caddy) and make sure that the recycling you do put in is clean
- Put expanded polystyrene (used a lot in packaging) in your green lidded bin
- Put dirty nappies or animal waste into the green lidded bin; put them in your black lidded bin
- Put old toys, clothes or shoes into the green lidded bin; place them in a clothes bank
- Put old or broken electrical items into your green-lidded bin - take these to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre

If you’ve got lots of extra recyclable waste, you can take it to a Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). Visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/hwrc to find your nearest centre - there are sites in Rushden, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby. Check the website for opening times.