

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

An Opportunity to Work for Northants CALC

Last shout for this because the closing date is **1700 on Monday**. Are you an experienced and qualified clerk, or an experienced councillor with other relevant skills or qualifications? We are recruiting for a **Senior Advisory Services Manager** to lead our advisory services and deliver real impact for member councils. The role will be home-based with occasional travel across Northamptonshire and Northants CALC will provide ongoing training, support, and professional development. Find out more and to apply this weekend please visit: www.northantscalc.gov.uk/sasm.

Making AGAR Digital

A project is underway to move from paper Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) forms to a **digital platform**, and this week Marie Reilly met with the Project Manager to discuss how clerks and RFOs in Northamptonshire can be involved and kept informed. It is going to be a long project – it is not expected that the digital AGAR will be mandatory for all councils until 2029 – but Marie is working on holding the first **briefing workshop in November 2026**. It's as you were for the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2026, but changes will gradually be seen in subsequent years. The digital platform will not only make things easier, but it will allow for more data on the sector to be captured and analysed.

No Fireworks Please on Remembrance Sunday

The juxtaposition of Guy Fawkes Night on 5 November and Remembrance Sunday being on the closest Sunday to 11 November means that in some years events marking the two occasions can come into **very close proximity**. In 2026, Bonfire Night is on Thursday 5 November and Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 8 November. The plea from organisations representing veterans is that there should be no fireworks celebrations on that Sunday due to **the impact on those suffering from PTSD** after active service (e.g. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7095nwrx22o>). Whenever fireworks displays are held, the key is good publicity particularly around the time that the actual fireworks will start and finish.

Local Council Vacancies

Old Stratford is a large village on the A5 approximately 8 miles northwest of central Milton Keynes. There are 1,822 electors and the council has 11 seats. The precept for 2025/26 is £90,000. **Old Stratford Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 15 hours per week. The deadline for applications is **5pm TODAY, 23 January 2026**.

Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council has a vacancy for a Family and Young Persons' Support Officer. The position is part time at 4 hours per week. The role includes planning a fun and engaging weekly programme before leading the Stay and Play each Thursday in term time. The salary is £13.05 per hour and the deadline for applications is **31 January 2026**.

Welton is a small village 2 miles north of Daventry. The council has 9 seats and there are 495 electors. **Welton Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 6.9 hours per week at £15.06 per hour. The council set a precept for 2025/26 of £18,485. The deadline for applications is **5pm on 20 February 2026**.

Glaphorn Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 20 hours per month. Glaphorn is a small village with just 272 electors two miles northeast of Oundle in east Northamptonshire. The council has seven seats and it set a precept for 2025/26 of £19,000. The deadline for applications is **5pm on 6 February 2026**.

Wilbarston is a medium sized village midway between Market Harborough and Corby. **Wilbarston Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 7.5 hours per week. There are 539 electors and the 8-seat council set a precept for 2025/26 of £15,100. The closing date for applications is **5pm on 30 January 2026**.

Cogenhoe is medium village 6 miles southeast of Northampton town centre. **Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working around 26 hours per week. The parish consists of the village of Cogenhoe and the hamlet of Whiston with combined population of 1,550. The council places a huge importance on community well-being, and the role includes managing the community bus scheme (known as the Village Hopper), the village hall (separate charitable status) and extensive program of community outreach activities. The council has 11 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £39,300 (but with further income of £150,000 from the bus operation & £50,000 from Village Hall).

Full details of all vacancies are at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.