

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

AI Workshop in Towcester

Bookings for the Northants CALC/CloudyIT/Breakthrough **Councillor Workshop on Artificial Intelligence** in Towcester from 0930 to 1500 on Friday 7 November 2025 have been slower than I imagined. We have a maximum of twenty places available, and I thought all the places would go instantly! Artificial Intelligence (AI) will completely transform the parish and town council world over the next five years, and councils need to be figuring out how to make the most of it, what new tools to consider using, what budgets to throw at it, how to manage the impact on the clerk and any other staff, how it can help with planning and community engagement, etc etc etc. Not to mention all the issues around data security and ethics. This is something that every council should want to send at least one person to! **Bookings close on Monday 3 November 2025**, and I still predict that there will be a rush for the places, so get in quick! The event is 0930 to 1500 on Friday 7 November 2025 at The Forum in Towcester. The cost is £40, which includes lunch and materials. Please **book your place** at <https://www.cloudyit.co.uk/ai-in-local-government/>.

Renewed Call for Remote Meetings Power

The **National Digital Democracy Partnership**, which includes the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Local Government Association (LGA) and a range of other leading sector bodies, has sent a letter to the Local Government Minister calling on her to think about making provision in law for remote meetings. Our member councils in Northamptonshire want the option of being able to hold a council or committee meeting by remote means (Zoom, Teams etc.). Maybe most full council meetings will be still held in a physical location, but for that 5-minute Planning Committee meeting, or the single-item extraordinary council meeting, the ability to hold a meeting online, where **it is proven that councillor and public attendance increases**, is vital. A copy of the letter can be found at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/meetings>.

WNC (Annual) Parish Conference

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) in partnership with Northants CALC hosted a conference at Franklin's Gardens yesterday for all parish and town councils in West Northamptonshire. Around **140 parish delegates** were registered and a whole team of WNC members and officers were on hand ready to engage. The conference heard from Cllr Charlie Hastie, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for parish and town councils, as well as from Stuart Timmiss, the Executive Director of Place, Economy and Environment and Steph Gibrat, Head of Planning, and Sam Simons, Head of Highways. It was also a first opportunity for parishes to meet David Johns, the new Director of Public Health who joined WNC last month. Apart from the presentations and Q&A panels, there was also a marketplace where parish and town council representatives could meet and talk to various key departments and services

within WNC that are important to parish and town councils. WNC's Leader, Cllr Mark Arnall, made a special point of returning from morning meetings in London to be able to address the conference and say how important it is to him that WNC reconnects with parish and town councils and through them, with communities. Thanks go to WNC for holding the event and to **Sophie Ellidge and Alan Burns from the Parish Liaison Team** for all the behind-the-scenes work, which was a considerable effort. There will be a report from WNC and further follow-up in due course. Roll on next year's conference?

Local Council Vacancies

Aston Le Walls is a small village approximately 9 miles northeast of Banbury. **Aston Le Walls Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 5 hours per week at a starting salary of SCP 7 (£13.69 per hour). There are 238 electors, and the council has seven seats. The precept for 2025/26 is £10,000. The deadline for applications is 1700 on **31 October 2025**.

Higham Ferrers Town Council has a vacancy for a Community Library and Wellbeing Officer. Higham Ferrers has 6,656 electors and a 16-seat town council. The council set a precept for 2025/26 of £535,600. The post is for 10 hours per week at £15.05 - £16.08 Per Hour. The deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.

The civil parish of Brington includes the villages of Great Brington and Little Brington, and the hamlet of Nobottle. The area is known for its connection to Althorp House, the Spencer family's ancestral home. **Brington Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 9 hours per week. The council has 8 seats and set a precept for 2025/26 of £23,791. There are just under 400 electors. The deadline for applications is **30 November 2025**.

Chipping Warden & Edgcote Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 4.5 hours per week. Salary SCP14-17 (£15.31-£16.08) depending on experience. The Parish consists of the village of Chipping Warden, a small village with a population around 500, about 6 miles (10 km) northeast of the Oxfordshire town of Banbury and incorporates the residents of the adjacent Edgcote Estate. The parish is bounded to the east and south by the River Cherwell, to the west by the boundary with Oxfordshire and to the north by field boundaries. The area is currently heavily impacted by Hs2 Works. Administration responsibilities include the village street lighting and mowing contractors. The council has 9 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £18,000. The deadline for applications is **6 December 2025**.

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

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.