

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

HSE guidance on running an event safely

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is reminding organisers to protect event workers and the public by using their **event safety webpages**.

Whether you're organising a small gathering for 20 or large-scale event for 2,000, HSE guidance provides **practical advice** to help you meet your health and safety obligations. HSE's guidance helps to plan, manage and monitor events effectively with three key sections: Getting Started, Managing an Event, Planning for Incidents and Emergencies. For all the details please see: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/running.htm>.

Street Lighting Maintenance

Councils that used **Zeta Lighting** for the installation and/or maintenance of street lighting will probably already know that it is in Creditors Voluntary Liquidation (CVL). It is very disappointing news for parish and town councils across the midlands. In most cases, outstanding warranties are not being honoured. Parish and town councils are turning to E.ON (<https://www.eonenergy.com/business/networks-and-infrastructure/street-lighting.html>), Forde & McHugh Ltd (01908 665188), SparkX (<https://sparkx.co.uk/services/street-lighting/>) and others for street lighting services.

Great Fire of Northampton

Events to commemorate the **350th anniversary of the Great Fire of Northampton** (GFON350) have been taking place for the past few weeks, and an exciting event is scheduled to take place next Friday (4 July 2025) which looks at the Great Fire in more detail. **The Great Fire Symposium** is taking place at the University of Northampton and online from 1000 to 1600 with a range of fascinating speakers on topics including Housing in Northampton before the Fire, The Course of the Fire, and Reconstructing the lost Church of All Saints. Please visit the Discover Northamptonshire website <https://discover-northamptonshire.co.uk/event/great-fire-symposium/> for all the details and to register. For more about GFON350 please see <https://discover-northamptonshire.co.uk/great-fire-of-northampton>.

Return of Election Expenses

Yesterday we had our first wash-up meeting following the local elections with the Elections Teams from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). The deadline for **ALL COUNCILLORS** who stood for election on 1 May 2025 to return their declaration of election expenses, even if

there were none, was 29 May 2025. Shockingly, **434** councillors in North Northamptonshire and **293** councillors in West Northamptonshire are yet to return their election expenses. Failure to do so by the deadline without an authorised excuse is **a criminal offence** and Northamptonshire Police does not want to have to deal with hundreds of prosecutions! One common misunderstanding is that if the number of candidates for the election was the same as or less than the number of seats then “there wasn’t an election”. There was! It’s just that it was uncontested. You still need to declare your election expenses. The other common misunderstanding is that if a candidate did not incur any expenses (which is usually the case at parish council level) then no declaration is required. Not true! All candidates must declare their expenses, even if it is a nil declaration. You’ll find the forms at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/councillor-forms-and-documents>. Please could **ALL COUNCILLORS** check they have returned their declarations of election expenses. Thank you. Another bit of news from the meeting was that NNC and WNC are still busy calculating the precise cost of the elections, so are unlikely to be recharging parish and town councils until the autumn.

Council Vacancies

Little Addington is a small village between Irthlingborough and Thrapston. There are 267 electors and 7 councillors. The precept for 2025/26 is £16,600. **Little Addington Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk working 25 hours per month. The deadline for applications is **30 June 2025**.

Collyweston Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 10 hours per week. Collyweston is a small village with 450 electors and is the second most northerly parish in Northamptonshire. The council has 7 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £31,000. The deadline for applications is **18 July 2025**.

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

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.