

Mini eUpdate from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

Local By-Elections

There are no countywide ordinary elections in Northamptonshire this year, but congratulations to Northamptonshire's newest local councillor, **Cllr Allannah Colson**, who was elected last night in a by-election to Kettering Town Council as the Green Party representative for the Hanwood Park ward of the town council. Congratulations also to the county's newest principal councillor, **Cllr Laura Weston**, who won the by-election last night for the Hackleton and Roade ward of West Northamptonshire Council for Reform UK. Whilst not attracting quite the profile of the ordinary elections nationally, these by-elections are nonetheless important, and thanks go to all the candidates who stood for election and helped keep democracy alive and well. No mayoral election for Northamptonshire either this year: In a parallel universe, the county may have gone to the polls yesterday to elect a mayor for a new Strategic Authority for the South Midlands, but it wasn't to be. Yet.

Attenborough 100

Happy birthday to David Attenborough who is 100 today. All over the country, communities are using the amazing milestone as inspiration to encourage nature locally, from tree planting to new wildflower meadows. **Green Council** has published a new blog titled "*How Councils Can Use May Planting Schemes to Boost Biodiversity and Community Wellbeing*", including establishing **pollinator-friendly habitats** ahead of peak summer activity, improving visual appeal in parks, town centres, and roadside verges, and supporting local wildlife during breeding and feeding seasons. Read the full blog at <https://www.greencouncilsolutions.org/post/how-councils-can-use-may-planting-schemes-to-boost-biodiversity-and-community-wellbeing>. **No Mow May**, an initiative started in 2019 by the charity Plantlife, is an annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature from your doorstep. From May onwards, people are encouraged to simply stop mowing their lawn (or even just a small part of it) and do more by doing less. Even the tiniest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies and give wildlife the best start to summer. For more details and inspiration, please see <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>.

VE Day

Today is VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), commemorating **8 May 1945**, when the Second World War ended in Europe with the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. For many, it was a day of immense relief and joy after almost six years of conflict, hardship, and loss, marked by street parties, shared celebrations and a renewed sense of hope. VE Day is also a moment for reflection. It reminds us of the sacrifices made by communities at home and abroad, and of **the values of democracy, cooperation, and peace** that were so hard-won. As we remember those events, we are reminded of the importance of standing together in challenging

times. To read more about VE Day, please visit <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>.

Local Council Vacancies

Wilby Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk working 6 hours per week. Wilby is a small village just to the southwest of Wellingborough. There are 550 electors and a 7-seat council. The precept for 2026/27 is £16,000. The deadline for applications is TODAY **8 May 2026**.

Stanion is a medium village a few miles southeast of Corby. There are 802 electors. **Stanion Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 10 hours per week. There are 9 councillors and the precept for 2026/27 is £30,800. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **22 May 2026**.

Croughton Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk working 10 hours per week. Croughton is one of the most southerly parishes in Northamptonshire, being 5 miles southwest of Brackley. The council has 9 seats and set a precept for 2026/27 of £51,439. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **21 May 2026**.

Two similar and adjacent councils are each recruiting for a Clerk: Helmdon is a medium village 4 miles north of Brackley in South Northamptonshire. **Helmdon Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk working 11 hours per week. There are 723 electors and the council has nine seats. The precept for 2026/27 is £32,618. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **14 May 2026**. Greatworth is a medium village 5 miles northwest of Brackley. There are 696 electors a nine-seat council. **Greatworth & Halse Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk working 10 hours per week. The precept for 2026/27 is £52,500. The closing date for applications is 5pm on **15 May 2026**. These are two completely separate employments, but prospective candidates looking for 21 hours per week may consider applying for both.

Lutton is a tiny village and one of the most easterly parishes in Northamptonshire, being 10 miles southwest of Peterborough. **Lutton Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working just 8 hours per month (which is below the recommended minimum of 19.5 hours per month). There are 116 electors and 5 councillors. The deadline for applications is **31 July 2026** but shortlisting and interviews may take place prior to the closing date.

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

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.

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