

## PFCC Election

This time next week the new Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire will have been chosen. You will find all the details about the countywide election being held on Thursday 2 May 2024 at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services/election-notice-and-future-elections>. **REMEMBER**, this is the first ordinary election in Northamptonshire where Voter ID will be required. If you arrive at a polling station without an accepted form of photo ID, you will be asked to return with ID that is accepted. Good luck to all the candidates and we look forward to working closely with whoever is elected.

## Beefed Up Enforcement

One of the bugbears of parish and town councils is when building takes place that is contrary to the planning permission granted. It might be a house that overhangs a boundary by an inch more than it should, or a warehouse that is 10m higher than planned. Yesterday, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) updated the guidance to Local Planning Authorities on responding to suspected breaches of planning control, to reflect the enforcement reforms introduced through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) which came into effect yesterday. A breach of planning control is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as “...the carrying out of development without the required planning permission; or failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted.” You can read all the details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-to-strengthen-council-planning>.

## The Lowdown

On Tuesday we had our very first **Lunchtime Lowdown**, which is intended to be a series of bitesize training sessions, focused on a particular area of governance or operations. This first one was on the annual meeting of the council (**see slides**), and the feedback was very positive, so we are encouraged to continue them. The next one will be on Tuesday **4 June 2024**, 1230 – 1330, on **casual vacancies**, including the administrative process when a councillor leaves and how to attract new candidates. You will find all the details at <https://www.northantscalc.com/training-lunchtime-lowdowns>.

## Local Council Vacancies

**Badby Parish Council**, home of the famous Badby Woods near Daventry, has a vacancy for a clerk working 30 hours per month. The council has 9 councillors and there are 533 electors. The council set a precept for 2024/25 of £26,460. The deadline for applications is noon on **9 May 2024**. The vacancy at **Little Harrowden Parish Council**, just north of Wellingborough, has been advertised over the past few weeks and the closing date is today, 26 April 2024. Also, **Newnham Parish Council** has a vacancy for a clerk working 30 hours per month. There are 8 seats and 472 electors. The precept is £34,722. The deadline for applications is 10 May 2024. And finally, right in the middle of the county, just south of Northampton, **Wootton Parish Council** has a vacancy for a full-time clerk. Wootton has 5,884 (and growing) and 12 councillors. The precept for 2024/25 is £315,576. The job is based at the council’s offices at Wootton Community Centre. The deadline for applications is **6 May 2024**. Full details of

these vacancies can be found at <https://www.northantscalc.com/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a very good weekend, and good luck to **England's Red Roses** who are hoping to secure the Six Nations grand slam as they continue their build up to the **Rugby World Cup 2025** (22 August - 27 September 2025), some games of which will be held at the Cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens, the home of Northampton Saints. 🏉

Best regards,

Danny.