

District Councillors Annual Report 6 May 2020

Dear Residents

Firstly we would like to thank you all for your continued support in your communities over the past year. Little did we realise just a few months ago that we would find ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic! It is fair to say that the recent COVID-19 pandemic has dominated much of our time recently. We have been proud and impressed in how fantastically well our local communities have pulled together to help those in need, collecting prescriptions, doing errands, shopping, or even forming food banks such as the one recently set-up in Weedon.

Updates on all matters relating to COVID-19 in the County can be found at:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/default.aspx>

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The LGR programme has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, despite this plans remain in place and to the original timescales. To achieve this, Government has passed new legislation that maps out what will happen between now and April 2021.

Below we briefly highlight the arrangements The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have put in place:

- West Northamptonshire Shadow Councils will still be set up this May
- Regulations will come into effect 21 days from now on 8 May in time for the start of the formation of the shadow authorities on 11 May.
- Instead of being made up of newly elected councillors, they will combine the membership of the existing district, borough and county councils
- Existing councillors will sit on the shadow authorities until 1 April 2021
- Elections to the new unitary councils will take place 6 May 2021
- Shadow West Northamptonshire Council will have 134 members

Dates for the meetings of the shadow council have yet to be confirmed, we understand that initially they will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 situation in line with government guidance, there will be opportunities for the public to take part. Dates and details will be posted on the futurenorthantswest.org website.

Daventry Cinema Project

The construction of the new cinema complex is well under way with contractors now erecting the steel work for the structures. Daventry District Council appointed construction firm Willmott Dixon to carry out the £12.5m transformation of the former library site. The cinema will comprise four-screens, restaurants, a public square and splash fountains. The Council has reached a deal with The Arc Cinema to run the cinema complex and is now working towards signing up tenants for the two restaurants that form part of the development. Arc will be instructing their own contractor to undertake the specialist fit out works associated with the Cinema building, and they will commence those activities toward the end of 2020, overlapping with Willmott Dixon's finishing works externally.

Reach for Health

A new purpose built health facility is due to open in Daventry in July/August 2020. The £1.48M funding to build the centre was provided by Daventry District Council. Reach for Health is a local charity specialises in physiotherapeutic exercise for local people who have experienced a traumatic health event, such as heart attacks or strokes, or are suffering from long-term or life-long illness

We three Councillors wish all residents, and Parishes best regards in these challenging times.

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