Also in this issue...
Our Annual Review of 2016/17
Top Tips for slimming your bin
Daventry Canal Arm latest

WIN:
A year of swimming lessons at Daventry Leisure Centre
All the latest Council news and information online

Daventry District Council provides a wide range of services including waste and recycling collections, street cleaning and grounds maintenance, Council Tax collection and benefits, elections, Homechoice lettings, economic development and regeneration, community safety, planning and development control and environmental health issues such as dealing with food safety, noise, pollution and environmental crimes.

Call: 01327 871100
Email: comments@daventrydc.gov.uk
Web: daventrydc.gov.uk
Write to: Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry NN11 4FP

Other useful contacts

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
NCC deals with various services including: roads, paths, street lighting and drainage, potholes, bus passes and bus services, Blue Badges, road gritting, social care, schools admissions, register of births, deaths and marriages, libraries, household waste and recycling centres.
Call 0300 126 1000
northamptonshire.gov.uk

Your town or parish council
Daventry District has 72 parishes and one town council covering services such as allotments, village halls and recreation grounds, grass cutting and street cleaning, cemeteries (outside of Daventry Town). To find out contact details for your parish, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/parishcouncils

Northamptonshire Police
Call 101 or visit northants.police.uk
Always dial 999 in an emergency

Northamptonshire Credit Union
Call 01604 250016
northamptonshirecu.co.uk

Futures Housing Group
Call 0300 4562531 futureshg.co.uk

Bromford Housing Association
0330 1234034

Job Centre Plus
Call 0845 6043719

Disclaimer:
We care about accuracy and aim to correct any mistake in subsequent issues of Daventry Calling if you let us know where we’ve gone wrong. Every effort is made to ensure articles are accurate and up to date. No responsibility can be accepted for inaccuracies or omissions however caused. Contributed material does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Daventry District Council.

This magazine is printed on an FSC® certified material.

DDC cannot accept any responsibility for claims made by advertisers and their inclusion in Daventry Calling should not be taken as endorsement by Daventry District Council.
As we enter the autumn months, it is that time again when we start to set our budgets for the next financial year and reflect upon the previous progress made towards our vision to Develop a Better District.

In this edition of Daventry Calling our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2016/17 aims to give you a greater insight into our work during the past financial year, how we performed against our targets and how we spent our money towards these goals.

There were many successes last year, from delivering more affordable housing and a wide range of community events enjoyed by thousands of people, to progressing with Daventry Town Centre Vision development projects to regenerate the town with improved retail, leisure, community, business and educational facilities.

Your support as residents has been instrumental to the success of many of these activities district-wide; for example, the many parishes who took part in our paint-spraying campaign to tackle dog fouling – seeing the problem halved in nearly 30 areas; the groups of residents and volunteers who worked with us on community clean-up days and the 50 voluntary and community groups who applied for a share of £160,000 grant funding for much-needed projects and improvements. Your ongoing support continues to make all the difference as we work towards improving our District as a place to live, work and visit.

We recently received more encouraging news for our local economy when unique plans to revitalise and transform a piece of our District’s industrial heritage into a world-class aerodynamic facility received a £4.2 million Government funding boost.

The contribution towards the Catesby Aero Research Facility was agreed by the South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), from the £59 million awarded to the region through the Local Growth Fund.

We are extremely pleased to support this project, by Brackley-based Aero Research Partners, which would see the 2.7km-long Victorian railway tunnel remodelled as the only aerodynamic testing facility of its kind in Europe. It would also house a 4.5 acre science park and a research facility, creating around 50 new jobs.

The Catesby project sits firmly within our wider agenda to improve the economy of our District by attracting fresh investment and maintaining our very low unemployment levels.

It will also be the only facility of its kind in the world which will be open to the whole market.

You may also be aware of our long-term plans to deliver the Daventry Canal, a stretch of waterway linking the town to the nearby Grand Union, to create an attractive new visitor destination for tourism, leisure and economic growth (see page 11 for details).

At its July meeting, the Council decided to move forward with developing a Business Plan, which would provide a comprehensive appraisal and detailed evaluation of the project and a proposal for a phased delivery. With much media focus on the project locally, it’s important to note that, only once this Business Plan is complete and considered at a future Council by Members, will an investment decision be made on the project.

I would also like to place a local perspective on a recent national media issue which highlighted some councils cannot enforce new laws to stop taxis discriminating against disabled people. I’d like to reassure you all that we already have effective policies in place for ensuring taxis licensed to Daventry District carry wheelchairs and assistance animals such as guide dogs and we will take action if they fail to do so. To find out more about our stance on various licensing issues, visit daventrydc.gov.uk

Finally, we look forward to celebrating sporting achievement across our District at the annual Daventry District Sports Awards on October 19. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please nominate them by 22 September at daventrydc.gov.uk/sportsawards

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council

---

Viewpoint

Leading the way

---

Contents

Daventry District Council Annual Review 2016/17: Find out how Daventry District Council performed and spent its money during 2016/17. Pages 4-10

Daventry Canal Arm: Find out the latest on plans to transform Daventry into an attractive new destination at the heart of the country’s canal network. Page 11

Top tips for slimming your bin: Find out everything you need to know about cutting down the amount of waste and recycling you put in your bins and boxes. Page 12

A Phoenix Rising: Read how a community sports facility has been transformed in a £2 million project. Page 13

Autumn events guide: Find out what’s on where in Daventry District over the coming months. Page 14

Competition: Find out how you can win a year of swimming at Daventry Leisure Centre. Page 15
Welcome to our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2016/17 - an overview of the many services, projects and activities carried out during the financial year, as well as a look at the money Daventry District Council received and spent.

All the work we do contributes to four key objectives we set to help achieve our vision to ‘Develop a Better District’. These are:

- To be an Efficient and Effective Council
- To Promote Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals
- To Protect and Enhance our Environment
- To Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills.

Over the next seven pages we highlight some of the work carried out during the 2016/17 financial year towards achieving those objectives. It is also important to look forward, and you will find on page 10 a summary of what’s in store for 2017/18.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader - Daventry District Council

Our Aim

To be an Efficient and Effective Council

- The future of waste and recycling services beyond the end of the current contract in June 2018 was determined with the agreement of both a new 1-2-3 service design and a joint venture with Norse to deliver those services.
- We organised and staged elections in our District for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, one-third of the seats on Daventry District Council and for Braunston, Flore and Kilsby Parish Councils. We also staged the European Union (EU) Referendum for voters living in the District, as well as Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendums for Spratton, Kilsby, Flore, Barby & Onley, Moulton, Brixworth and Braunston.
- We collected 98.15% of Council Tax and 99.24% of Business Rates for the year, achieving our targets.
- We made further improvements to our online services, including the introduction of an electronic billing system for Council Tax, improvements to the online system for reporting incidents of fly-tipping and graffiti and a redesign of the website’s home page to make it more user-friendly.
- We continued to manage our finances prudently and delivered a balanced budget, with ‘invest-to-save’ schemes such as Rainsbrook Crematorium continuing to provide important revenue streams for the Council, keeping our Council Tax precept low.
- External auditors KPMG issued an ‘unqualified audit opinion’ on the Council’s accounts for the previous financial year, meaning the Council met all the criteria for providing value for money and financial resilience.
- Our annual individual voter registration canvass was held to ensure the electoral register is up to date and identify any residents who are not registered to vote so that they can be encouraged to do so.
- We reviewed the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, introducing changes to bring the scheme in line with national welfare benefit reforms and keeping the minimum Council Tax contribution level for working age claimants at 20%.
- Residents were consulted on a wide-range of issues throughout the year, including the design of new play areas, Council communications, our Ageing Well Strategy, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the planning process, and the Housing Allocations Scheme.

93%
The customer satisfaction rate achieved for the quality of our front-facing services.

49,420
The number of votes verified and counted in the Daventry District count for the EU Referendum, a local turnout of 81%.
Our Community Projects Team delivered a range of community events which were enjoyed by thousands of children and families, including a free Family Cinema Day at Daventry Country Park, a beacon-lighting ceremony for the Queen’s 90th birthday, and events during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

- A £600,000 deal to upgrade the artificial pitch and refurbish the changing block at Daventry Sports Park was reached.

- More people were able to find homes in the areas they grew up in, thanks to the delivery of 186 new affordable homes across the District, exceeding the Council’s target of 100.

- Work got underway on a £2m project to transform The Phoenix Youth Centre in Daventry, a popular community facility offering sport and leisure activities for families.

- Our Care and Repair service helped elderly and vulnerable people across the District access 102 Disabled Facilities Grants and 41 Home Repairs Assistance Grants to make necessary improvements to their homes.

- We awarded more than £160,000 of grant funding to around 50 voluntary and community sector organisations, including revenue grants of £60,000 to the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and £20,000 to Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT).

- We supported our leisure partners Everyone Active to host the 14th annual Daventry District Sports Awards, a celebration of sporting achievement in Daventry District. Everyone Active also provided a comprehensive range of sports activities throughout the district catering for people of all ages, fitness levels and abilities.

- An effective multi-agency approach to improving community safety included a range of activities such as a Good Citizens Award scheme for children age 8 to 13 and the continuation of the Street Art Project.

- We successfully prosecuted the owners of a restaurant which was not meeting food safety standards, forcing them to clean up their act after our health inspectors found an infestation of cockroaches on the premises.

- Work began on the launch of a Community Lottery scheme which will offer cash prizes, with proceeds going to local community and voluntary groups.

- The car park at Daventry Country Park was extended to provide overflow space during busy times.

- Our work to support elderly, vulnerable and isolated people in our communities continued with the development of the Good Neighbour Scheme with Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). Launched first in Moulton, the scheme creates a network of volunteers who can provide day-to-day support to those in need.

- Following consultation with parish councils and residents, the Council prevented the removal of 16 historic red telephone boxes on heritage grounds together with a further 12 modern phone boxes for which there is still demand.

- The Council became the first authority in the county to achieve the ‘Workplace Wellbeing Charter’, a nationally-recognised status awarded to organisations which demonstrate a commitment to the health and wellbeing of their staff.

- A new high quality double decker bicycle rack with a canopy was installed at Daventry Leisure Centre in Lodge Road to improve facilities for cyclists and in an effort to encourage more people to travel by bike.

- A Christmas campaign led by the Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership and the Daventry & District Forum saw dozens of comfort parcels and Christmas gifts wrapped up and donated to families living in refuges as a result of domestic violence.

- The number of new homes delivered across Daventry District to meet population growth, exceeding our target of 465.

- The amount of money raised for good causes by the 21 groups granted money through our one-off events scheme.

- The percentage of housing applications processed within the limit of ten working days.

- The average saving made by the 360 households that switched energy suppliers through our Big Switch energy scheme.
In July 2016 Daventry Country Park was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 16th time.

Dog fouling was halved across the 28 areas of Daventry District that took part in the Council’s paint spraying campaign to tackle the issue.

Recognising the importance of community involvement, we worked in partnership with Daventry Volunteer Centre to launch the Clean and Green Project, offering practical guidance to people who are trying to make a positive difference to the cleanliness of their local area, as well as to recruit new volunteers across the district.

New wildflower meadows were created in Newnhum, Barby, Long Buckby, Crick and at Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park near Boughton thanks to seed donated by the Council.

We organised and supported a number of clear-up days, lending litter picking equipment to dozens of groups in support of community events, including the Great British Spring Clean project in March.

We adopted the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to ensure that new developments have no significant effects on biodiversity, while offering guidance to help developers enhance local habitats where possible.

A review of conservation areas was launched in order to make sure the identity and heritage of our District is enhanced and protected. Public consultations regarding the conservation areas covering Harlestone, Moulton, Daventry and Brixworth were held as part of this process.

We successfully prosecuted the owner of a motorcross course for breaching a notice put in place to protect people from noise nuisance.

Innovative approaches to reducing our impact on the environment secured the Council the coveted Great Green Star award in the Investors in the Environment (iiE) annual awards for the second year running.

The villages of Spratton, Kilsby, Flore, Barby & Onley, Moulton, Brixworth and Braunston all had Neighbourhood Development Plans ‘made’ with support and assistance from the Council, helping to protect those areas from inappropriate development.

Through our involvement in the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership, in 2016/17 nearly 1,000 residents across Daventry District signed up to the ‘InToWin’ initiative which aims to reward residents who recycle their food waste. A total of 1,244 households in Daventry District are now registered to the scheme, which is driving a 15% rise in food waste recycling across the four council areas taking part.
Our Aim

Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills

- Planning permission was secured for a 2.6km stretch of waterway to connect the nearby Grand Union Canal with Daventry town centre. The scheme is part of the Council’s vision to encourage visitors to Daventry and contribute to major regeneration and development of the area.

- Henry Boot Developments Limited, the Council’s development partner for delivering two of its town centre vision development sites, submitted plans for a revised major new retail development in the Chaucer Way/Waterloo area north-west of Daventry town centre.

- Construction of a large extension to Hambleside Danelaw’s national headquarters in Daventry was completed. The Council invested £3.178m of capital funding in the project and is leasing the completed facility to the firm on a long-term basis.

- Work on a new £4.3 million Volvo Training and Development Centre in Daventry got underway. On completion, the site – which currently employs 32 people – will be purchased by Daventry District Council and leased back to Volvo Car UK.

- Major businesses including Amazon and Hellmann Worldwide Logistics chose to locate themselves in Daventry, bringing hundreds of new jobs to the area.

- The education offering in Daventry was strengthened with the completion of the new Daventry Hill School off Ashby Road, providing for children with special educational needs and completing Daventry’s learning quarter, also known as Site 6 in its Town Centre Vision. The Council sold the land to enable the school to be built. Northampton College also completed its new Daventry Campus on Badby Road West. The campus is home to a new Digital Academy teaching software and coding, web development, games design and social media and also supports a growing number of apprenticeships. The Council provided £2.9 million of developer contributions towards its construction.

- With our development partner Henry Boot Developments Limited, we entered into discussions over the possibility of developing a new cinema in Daventry. The proposals are being explored as part of reworked proposals for Town Centre Vision Site 1, north of High Street.

- We determined 37 major planning applications and a further 1534 non-major planning applications during the year, meeting all of our targets.

- The average occupancy rates in our commercial units for the year, delivering a vital revenue stream to help pay for Council services.

- The total number of planning applications determined by DDC in 2016/17.
Our revenue spending for 2016/17

This is the money that is spent on the day-to-day running of services including employee, premises and supplies and services costs. Before the start of each year, the Council sets a budget to finance the services it provides.

How was this money spent in 2016/17?

The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2016/17 compared to the previous year and what amount of this was met from local and national tax income – for example Council Tax, localisation of Business Rates and the Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Central Government.

How much of my council tax bill went to Daventry District Council?

We received a total of £4.192m from Council Tax – which equates to £146.14 per household* and (9.5%) of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (4.5%), Northamptonshire County Council (72.6%) and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (13.4%).

*based on DDC’s proportion of the Council Tax bill from an average Band D Property. In 2016/17 we collected 98.15% of Council Tax and 99.24% of Business Rates.

Where did the revenue money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £13.722m was spent on running services that were financed using local and national taxes.

The charts below show where this money came from:

### What we spent running our services (figures in brackets are income)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>2015/16 £millions</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Team</td>
<td>(0.198)</td>
<td>(2.099)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Team</td>
<td>1.830</td>
<td>1.321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Team</td>
<td>3.170</td>
<td>3.325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources Team</td>
<td>5.313</td>
<td>8.654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cost of Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.115</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.201</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operating Expenditure &amp; Investment Property Income</td>
<td>(0.450)</td>
<td>(0.812)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>(0.552)</td>
<td>(0.592)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue</td>
<td>0.243</td>
<td>3.620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money taken to/from Earmarked Reserves for future use</td>
<td>2.545</td>
<td>(2.848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.901</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.569</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to/(from) General Reserves</td>
<td>0.699</td>
<td>3.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.600</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.772</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How we paid for services

#### 2015/16 £millions

- Local Taxes - Council Tax: 3.225m
- National Taxes - Government Grant: 5.451m
- Business Rates: 3.924m

#### 2016/17 £millions

- Local Taxes - Council Tax: 6.375m
- National Taxes - Government Grant: 4.192m
- Business Rates: 3.205m
Did we have any money left over?

The table opposite shows the net cost of services resulted in a surplus of £3.203m in 2016/17.

Future years, due to continuing central government funding cuts, show an underlying deficit position. The Council will be addressing the budget deficit, and the affordability and sustainability of future services as part of the 2018/19 budget preparation process and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income &amp; Expenditure Account (figures in brackets are income)</th>
<th>2015/16 £millions</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Services</td>
<td>11.901</td>
<td>10.569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Local and National Taxes</td>
<td>(12.60)</td>
<td>(13.772)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the Year</td>
<td>(0.699)</td>
<td>(3.203)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Capital Spending for 2016/17

This is money that we invest in land and property, for its purchase and improvement and is accounted for separately from the day-to-day revenue expenditure.

How did we spend this money in 2016/17?

The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2016/17 compared to the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we spent - investing in property and land</th>
<th>2015/16 £millions</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement to housing</td>
<td>0.629</td>
<td>0.704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental improvements</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>1.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development &amp; Regeneration</td>
<td>3.511</td>
<td>3.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>0.113</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery &amp; Crematoria</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.645</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.204</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are we worth?

At the end of each year we draw up a balance sheet, which represents:-

- How much our property and land is worth (i.e. the value of our assets);
- How much cash and money we have invested;
- What money is due to be paid to the Council;
- What money is due to be paid out by the Council.

The table opposite shows the Total Net Worth of the Council for 2016/17 compared to the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Net Worth</th>
<th>2015/16 £millions</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of Land and Property</td>
<td>59.714</td>
<td>62.940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Investments and Cash at Bank</td>
<td>45.943</td>
<td>49.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Owed to Daventry District Council</td>
<td>8.529</td>
<td>9.697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities (amounts in brackets are outgoing)</th>
<th>2015/16 £millions</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money Owed by Daventry District Council</td>
<td>(8.904)</td>
<td>(11.473)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Liability</td>
<td>(25.184)</td>
<td>(27.392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Long Term Liabilities</td>
<td>(2.705)</td>
<td>(1.744)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets less Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>77.393</strong></td>
<td><strong>81.171</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources Statement

As Daventry’s statutory Chief Financial Officer, I can confirm that this year’s statement of accounts has been prepared in line with the CIPFA Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. The figures in this summary of accounts have been compiled from the full statement of accounts, which is currently being audited by our appointed auditor, KPMG LLP.

A full audited statement of accounts daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts

Audra Statham Chief Financial Officer
Our Aim

What’s in store for 2017/18?

• The new Volvo Training and Development Centre in Daventry will join our portfolio of commercial premises, driving additional revenue growth to support Council services, as well providing employment and economic benefits to the District.

• We will continue to grow our investments by seeking to acquire and develop premises for local companies who are expanding in the area.

• Work to deliver a new retail development north-west of Daventry town centre will continue.

• We will continue to enhance our website, including improvements to make it compliant with mobile devices.

• The Community Safety Partnership will run another of its Young Citizens events, providing a range of safety lessons and experiences for hundreds of Year 6 pupils from schools across Daventry District and South Northamptonshire.

• The completed, refurbished and extended Daventry Phoenix Sports Academy will open its doors, offering improved facilities to the community.

• Work to build a new primary school on the Monksmoor residential estate in Daventry will get underway, with the school set to open in September 2018.

• We will continue to work towards the delivery of the Daventry Canal Arm and progress the submission of a planning application for an inclined plane boat lift.

• Preparations for a joint venture between DDC and Norse to provide waste and recycling collections and grounds maintenance services from June 2018 will continue. A planning application for a new waste transfer station and vehicle maintenance workshop at the depot in High March will be submitted as part of those preparations.

• A Strategic Employment Land Study will be commissioned to obtain evidence and a strategy for delivering employment sites for the commercial development of small to medium sized units to provide for growing and new businesses.

• Work will continue on supporting the delivery of a unique project to build an Aero Research Facility at the disused railway tunnel at Catesby in the south of the District.

• Plans for new housing and a retirement village with community facilities on Daventry’s Middlemore estate will progress.

• Proposals to develop the Council’s last remaining commercial sites at Heartlands Business Park and The Knoll in Daventry will be progressed with a view to creating new commercial units for which there is significant demand.

• The £35 million Daventry Development Link (also known as the Weedon/Flore bypass) will near completion. Paid for through a funding agreement between DDC and Northamptonshire County Council, the road paves the way for sustainable future development in Daventry.

• New pond dipping platforms will be installed at Daventry Country Park, which will also benefit from new signage designed and created by local artist Nina Cashmore.

• We will continue to offer significant funding for local community and voluntary groups throughout the District through our Community Grants schemes.

For more information visit daventrydc.gov.uk
Plans to transform Daventry into an attractive new destination at the heart of the country’s canal network are moving forward.

Daventry District Council (DDC) is progressing with proposals for the Daventry Canal, a two-mile stretch of waterway that would link the town centre to the Grand Union Canal near Braunston to encourage tourism, leisure and economic growth.

Running alongside new linear parkland, the canal would offer a valuable habitat for wildlife and new recreational space for residents, workers and visitors.

With major plans for housing development already proposed on land to the east of the route, it would also provide an attractive location for waterside living and link to a new WaterSpace development in Daventry town centre, blending mooring and leisure facilities with offices and housing.

The canal received planning permission in January this year and this summer councillors approved plans to spend up to £300,000 to prepare a Business Plan for the scheme. This will evaluate the cost benefit of delivering the whole canal. The business plan will be put before full Council for consideration before any further investment is made.

Funding identified from the Council’s budgets for the canal project is capital money, used to invest in land and property and separate to that spent on the day-to-day running of services. If investment for a first phase is approved in the future, the £8.71m would be gradually reimbursed to the Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy – planning charges paid by developers of new housing to fund local infrastructure projects – and potentially other external funding sources.

The Council will also be seeking planning permission for an innovative inclined plane boat lift, which would be the first in the UK for more than 100 years. An alternative to locks, it would further boost visitor numbers into the area in line with similar landmark attractions elsewhere in the UK’s waterways network.

Councillor Colin Poole, DDC’s Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder said: “Attracting more visitors, business and investment into Daventry District is a priority for our Council and we believe our long-term vision for a new destination canal into Daventry will bring these benefits for all residents.

“Every town needs a unique offer to compete with other places and Daventry’s lies in its key location in a District at the centre of the historic boating network.

“Work is continuing behind the scenes towards securing the external funding needed to deliver the entire canal and we need to demonstrate to potential investors that we are prepared to match-fund the project with capital money if required.”

The Daventry Canal Arm is one of the projects contained within the well-established Daventry Town Centre Vision which was adopted by the Council in 2004 to regenerate and grow the town centre for the benefit of the local community, businesses and organisations in the face of significant future growth. It also features in the Daventry 2040 Masterplan. The Business Plan will be key to deciding if the vision is pursued.

To find out more about the Daventry Canal proposals, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/canal

The vision for the canal is supported by the Canal & River Trust, the Inland Waterways Association, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and Daventry Canal Association (DCA), a group of volunteers who work to promote the scheme. For details of how to get involved in the DCA visit daventrycanal.org.uk
Top tips for slimming your bin

Households in Northamptonshire produce more than 350,000 tonnes of waste each year. And while around half of that is recycled, we could all do more to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce.

So if you ever find yourself running out of room in your bins and boxes come collection day, read on and see if there are any ways you can slim your bin.

Many of the following top tips could also save you money!

Shop smarter:
Up to a quarter of the rubbish we throw away is packaging. Some of it is necessary to protect goods but we can reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away by choosing products with less packaging. Using reusable shopping bags will limit the number of plastic bags you’re left with after the weekly shop.

You can also waste less food and free up room in your food recycling caddy by following these top tips:
● Plan your meals, write a shopping list and only buy what you know you need
● Avoid tempting BOGOF offers on tasty treats if you cannot eat everything in time
● Check in the cupboards before going to the shop so you don’t double up on things you don’t need
● Check the temperature of your fridge to ensure everything stays cool
● Keep fruit and veg in the fridge to extend its life, except bananas that will age quicker
● Cook double portions and freeze meals for another day.

Nappies? Get real:
About eight million nappies are thrown away every day in the UK, and while disposables can be a convenient way to deal with a smelly problem, they are a quick way to fill up your bin.

Real nappies are so called because they are made from natural materials, usually cotton, and do not contain gels or chemicals. Coming in a huge range of different shapes that fit as easily as disposables, they are machine washable and can be used again and again.

And while a kit of real nappies may set you back £50-£250, the cost of using disposal nappies until potty training is estimated at around £1,000 – so there are real savings to be made. You can even loan a kit to try before you buy. Visit the Real Nappies campaign page at recyclefornorthamptonshire.co.uk to find out more.

Reuse:
One man’s trash is another man’s treasure, as the saying goes, so consider donating unwanted furniture to a reuse organisation. Daventry Contact is a charity that offers a collections service for unwanted household items, which it then refurbishes where necessary before distributing to those in need. You can find out more at daventrycontact.org or on 01327 310711.

You can also find a good home for a range of items including unwanted toys, garden equipment, furniture, pet supplies, clothes and more by giving them away via freecycle.org or donating them to a charity shop.

Cut down on junk mail:
Households across Northamptonshire receive an incredible 4kg of junk mail per year on average, and let’s face it – most of it goes straight in the recycling. The good news is you can reduce the amount of junk mail you receive by registering with the Mailing Preference Service for free at mpsonline.org.uk

Use your local recycling centre:
Northamptonshire County Council manages ten household waste recycling centres across the county, providing a service for the public to bring household waste, garden waste, recyclables and other items such as unwanted furniture and white goods for disposal, reuse and recycling.

The Daventry recycling centre is in Browns Road, NN11 4NS, and opens five days a week from 10am until 6pm. It is closed on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Brixworth centre in Scaldwell Road, NN6 9YE, is also open five days a week from 10am until 6pm. It is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Find out more at daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling

Try composting:
Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden. It’s easy to make and use, reduces the amount of waste going into your household waste bin, and your plants and flowers will love it!

Recycle for Northamptonshire also has a deal with getcomposting.com to offer good deals on home composters to county residents.

Find out more top tips at recyclefornorthamptonshire.co.uk
A new-look sports facility will open its doors to the community this autumn following a £2 million renovation and extension project.

The Phoenix Youth Centre in Ashby Road has been transformed into the Daventry Phoenix Sports Academy – a state-of-the-art centre offering a wide range of sporting activities for all.

The revamped and extended hall features a new sprung floor, two floor-level trampolines and a new pitted dismount area.

There is a new wheelchair-friendly access lift to the lower gym hall, providing access to all, and the centre benefits from new toilets and showers together with a number of new changing areas, including male and female disabled facilities.

The centre has a new café area and parent viewing lounge, while the upper sports hall has been completely refurbished with the addition of a new pitched roof.

Gymnastics will return to the centre this month (September) having been held in a unit on High March while work on the centre took place.

A range of other sports and activities will follow over the course of the autumn, including parent and child sessions, pre-school activities and sports clubs, basketball, football, free-running and judo, as well as a range of activities aimed at people with disabilities.

Daventry District Council (DDC) has worked with the Daventry Phoenix Sports Academy on the project, which has also had major financial support from Sport England and Landform Estates.

Marie Bannigan, Centre Director at the Daventry Phoenix Sports Academy, said: “The centre has been utterly transformed and we can’t wait to see the looks on the children’s faces when they see the changes.

“On behalf of the trustees, staff and the young people of Daventry and District we would like to say a massive thank you to DDC for their continued support and belief in the Phoenix Centre, to Sports England and Landform Estates for their support and vision of the future of Daventry, and to Keith Bedford who has volunteered so much of his time to help make this happen.”

Councillor Alan Hills, DDC’s Community, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder, said: “We have been very pleased to work with the Phoenix and our other partners on this project, which will be of enormous benefit to young people right across the District.”

Find out more on the centre’s new website at daventryphoenixsportsacademy.org

Come along to a committee meeting at civic offices

All the meetings listed right start at 6.15pm and take place at the civic offices in Lodge Road, Daventry.

All meetings are open for the public to attend. For more information visit daventrydc.gov.uk/meetings, email governance@daventrydc.gov.uk or phone 01327 871100.

To listen to an audio recording of a meeting, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/audiorecordings
Events in Daventry District

September 9
Sponsored ‘Ride & Stride’ at Lilbourne from 10am-6pm in aid of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. Call 01788 860742 or email jkalexander51@gmail.com for more.

September 14
Curator’s Talk for Macdonald Gill: Charting his Age at Kelmarsh Hall, featuring an exhibition of his decorative maps and artworks. Visit kelmarsh.com

September 17
Viridian Daventry Triathlon
with a 400m swim at Daventry Leisure Centre, a 20km bike ride and a 5km run in aid of The Air Ambulance and Genetic Disorders UK. Visit rugbytriathlon.org.uk

Dahlia Festival at Kelmarsh Hall
with specially-themed activities and talks. Visit kelmarsh.com

September 21
An Evening with Dale Pinnock
the Medicinal Chef at Daventry’s Sheaf Street Health Store from 7pm. Tickets cost £10 from the store.

September 22
Live music at Holy Cross Church with Voci Vivo. Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12.50 per person on 01327 871118.

September 23
Daventry Food Festival in High Street from 10am-4pm with free entry. Anyone wishing to exhibit should call 01327 301246.

September 24
Cycle 4 Cynthia from Lamport Hall, with 5, 25 or 50-mile routes available. Entry costs £20 for adults and £10 for children. Visit cycle4cynthia.co.uk

Daventry Museum
The development of Daventry and significant periods in time that have contributed to its rich heritage are explored in the latest exhibition at Daventry Museum.

Daventry Through the Ages runs at the Museum, in New Street, until Friday 15 December. The Museum is free to visit and opens from 9.30am -1.30pm Tuesday to Friday as well as the first Saturday in the month from 10am-4pm.

Harvest Festival and Supper from 6pm at Lilbourne’s All Saints Church. Email jkalexander51@gmail.com or call 01788 860742.

September 30
Camel Racing evening at Barby Village hall at 7.30pm. Call 01788 890835 for more.

October 5 -8
Althorp Literary Festival featuring a range of guest speakers. Visit spencerofalthorp.com

October 13
Race Night at Overstone Village Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8, which includes a fish and chip supper, on 01604 670029/645510.

October 26
Canterville Ghost performed by the Don’t Go in to the Cellar Theatre Company at Daventry Museum at 5pm. Aimed at young audiences, tickets are free but must be reserved on 01327 301246.

October 27
High Street Fashion Show at Barby Village Hall from 7.30pm. Call 01788 891483/ 891968 for more.

November 4
Daventry Town Fireworks Display at Parker E-Act Academy in Ashby Road, Daventry with free admission. Gates open at 6pm for a 7.30pm start.

November 12
Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial off Abbey Street at 10.50am, followed by a church service at Holy Cross.

Barby Village Hall Quiz Night at 7.30pm. Call 01788 891091 for more.

November 17
Live music with Whalebone in Hannington Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 on 01604 781850 or 07904 329342.

November 24 and 25
The Ghost Train performance at Yelvertoft Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 on 01788 822072 or 07966025206.

November 25
Full English Breakfast at Overstone Village Hall from 9.30 with tea and coffee for £5 per person. Book on 01604 670029/645510.

If you would like to include forthcoming events in the District in Daventry Calling please email news@daventrydc.gov.uk

Please note that due to distribution schedules, some areas of the district may receive Daventry Calling later than date of some featured events.
Get active this half term with sports camps

Everyone Active is offering a range of Activity Camps at the Leisure Centre during the October half term holiday (23 to 27 October).

The camps offer sports, team challenges and competitions delivered by qualified sports leader professionals at a cost of £14 per day, with reduced rates available for people booking five days.

Children taking part in the camps can also be booked into the Connections Club, which offers a variety of games and activities before and after the camps, at a cost of £4.80 per day or £2.40 per am or pm session.

For a full timetable of activities and to make a booking, phone Daventry Leisure Centre on 01327 871144 or visit everyoneactive.com/Daventry

Swimming is a great activity for kids, not only for their health but also as an essential life skill.

And with Daventry District Council’s leisure partner Everyone Active offering a nationally recognised swimming lesson programme, there is no better place for children (and adults!) to learn to swim or develop their swimming and water safety skills.

Lessons with the Swim England (or equivalent) qualified instructors at Daventry Leisure Centre start for children as young as 4 months old and are rewarding and progressive, with badges and certificates to collect.

And Daventry Calling has teamed up with Everyone Active to offer one lucky winner the chance to win a year’s worth of swimming lessons.

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

At what age can children start swimming lessons with Everyone Active?

To enter visit everyoneactive.com/daventrycalling and fill in the answer along with your details. You will then be entered into the draw for a chance to win.

The competition closing date is 30 November 2017.

Short terms and conditions: UK 16+ only. Prize consists of one x 30 minute swimming lesson per week for 50 weeks. Minimum age for lessons is 4 months.

Visit everyoneactive.com/DaventryCalling for the full terms and conditions.

Turn over to find out how you can win a family trip to Lapland with Everyone Active.

Discover more days out at lovedaventry.com/whats-on
MATCH & WIN - Look out for our exclusive postcards being delivered in your area. Each postcard has a unique code printed on it. **There are two fantastic fitness breaks for 2 adults, 50 annual fitness memberships and 2000 class and gym passes to be won.**

For more information contact us in centre

**Daventry Leisure Centre**
Lodge Road, Daventry NN11 4FP
01327 871144

GB 18+. Prize draw, one entry per adult or child enrolled. Those already on Direct Debit or paid in full for lessons are in draw. Valid email address required to enter. Closing date 31 October 2017. Participating centres only. Holiday: 2 adults & 2 children, B&B, date restrictions apply, domestic transfers excluded.

visit www.everyoneactive.com/matchandwin