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 visitnorthants.police.uk
Always dial 999 in an emergency

Harvest Money
Call 01604 250016  harvestmoney.co.uk

Futures Housing Group
Call 0330 1234034

Bromford Housing Association
0330 1234034

Job Centre Plus
Call 0845 6043719

Government services and information
gov.uk

Citizens Advice Daventry and District
Call 01327 701640

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I write this Daventry Calling column for the final time as Leader of Daventry District Council (DDC) after 20 years in the role, as both I, and my excellent Deputy Leader Cllr Liz Griffin, will be stepping down from our respective roles on the 31 October 2019.

Liz and I will however continue to serve our local communities as DDC ward councillors.

We both felt that the time is right for a new leadership team to take Daventry District forward as we will not be standing for election to the shadow West Northamptonshire Council, which is due to take place next May. The new leadership team will be selected by the DDC Conservative Group – which forms the administration of the Council – at the end of September, thereby enabling a smooth transition ahead of 1 November.

I think it is important that the new leadership of Daventry District Council is looking to stand for the shadow unitary council, to continue to give a strong representative voice before and after the new authority comes into being on 1 November.

I consider myself fortunate to have met so many high profile figures both political and non political, over the years in my role, which has helped my understanding of how this wonderful country of ours really works. The world of Local Government has in many respects (and probably rightly so when dealing with the public purse), constraints and complexities placed upon it when trying to do anything new or positive. From our residents point of view, it can be hard to fathom why these things can take so long to deliver.

One of my last policy platforms I have been fighting on is the long-awaited Social Care and Health Integration programme which, if implemented, may assist the long-term viability of Northamptonshire’s two new Unitary Councils. I will still advocate that the future funding for Social Care costs, which are due to continually increase nationally thanks to the ageing population and an increasing number of children in care, should be funded by national taxation rather than the more unsustainable and unfair Council Tax system.

In 1998, I became a Councillor off the back of a local campaign to represent and stand up for residents and hopefully during my time have helped many people and their communities in some way to make their lives better. Whilst over the years I have got involved with Government Ministers of all political colours and senior Civil Servants on your behalf, the greatest pleasure to my role has undoubtedly been representing you, as Daventry District residents, both individually and collectively.

I would like to thank you for your interest and support as our Council continues its work to develop a better district for everyone.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council
Welcome to our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2018/19 – an overview of the many services, projects and activities carried out during the financial year April 2018 through to the end of March 2019, as well as a look at the money Daventry District Council received and spent.

All the work we do contributes to four key objectives that have been set to help achieve our vision to ‘Develop a Better District’ and this Annual Review highlights some of the work carried out during the 2018/19 financial year toward achieving those objectives.

This Council worked in partnership with other local authorities across the County on the Northamptonshire Local Government Reform Proposal. This was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in August 2018 in response to the Government’s request for council reform in Northamptonshire. The Council continues to work with partners across the County to establish two new unitary authorities in Northamptonshire on 1 April 2021.

We successfully organised and staged elections in May 2018 for a third of the seats on the Council as well as a number of parish councils in Daventry District. Four Neighbourhood Plan referendums were also organised throughout the year.

The Council and its partner Daventry Norse successfully launched a new system of waste and recycling collections in Daventry District, together with a range of other environmental services including grounds maintenance and street cleaning.

The Council launched a new mobile app featuring a bin reminder service to help people adjust to changes in waste and recycling collections. It also provides access to the latest news from the Council, and information about local facilities, services, shops, bars and restaurants. The app has been downloaded more than 7,000 times.

A Community Governance Review was launched to review town and parish councils in Daventry District and consider changes to boundaries and councillor numbers. The review considered proposals for 16 parish areas and involved two rounds of public consultation.

New Independent Persons were recruited to support the work of the Council’s Appeals and Standards Committee – the body which investigates complaints made against district, town and parish councillors.

Our elections team completed a comprehensive canvass of the District, which ensures the electoral register is up to date and aims to identify any residents who are not registered so they can be encouraged to do so.

External auditors KPMG issued an ‘unqualified audit opinion’ on the Council’s accounts for the previous financial year (2017/18), meaning the Council met all the criteria for providing value for money and financial resilience despite the ongoing backdrop of public sector funding pressures and uncertainties.

The Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 – a major planning document to help guide and shape future development in Daventry District – was formally submitted for examination by a planning inspector. It was the latest step in a preparation process which started in 2015 and has involved much public consultation.

A review of polling stations across the District was launched in an effort to ensure that electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that the locations used are accessible.

Our objectives are:

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

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council
A new Landlords’ Forum was launched in partnership with DASH Landlord Accreditation to help private landlords in Daventry District better understand legal changes in the private rented sector and help ensure tenants in Daventry District are better protected.

We successfully hosted the finish of the Northamptonshire stage of the OVO Energy Women’s Tour, an international cycling race featuring some of the biggest names in women’s cycling. Thousands of people visited Daventry town centre to witness an exciting race for the finish line.

An online community lottery launched in April 2018, raising more than £25,000 for local good causes in its first year of operation.

The Council committed £205,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards funding the cost of road safety improvement projects in the villages of Chapel Brampton and Crick.

A total of £450,000 was granted to Daventry and District Sports Trust to allow it to complete its athletics track, off Western Avenue, and improve the venue for field events.

The Council approved a £1.48 million budget to build a state-of-the-art health rehabilitation centre for Daventry Health Rehabilitation Trust, which specialises in physiotherapeutic exercise for people who have experienced heart attacks or strokes, or who are suffering from long-term or life-long illness.

New pieces of public art – a ‘rain tree’ sculpture and an interactive sundial - were installed on the Middlemore housing estate in Daventry. The installations were designed with the help of residents and funded by housing developers.

The Council worked with Northamptonshire ACRE to further develop Good Neighbour Schemes in the District. The schemes are establishing networks of volunteers in Moulton, Crick, Welton and Byfield.

The Community Safety Partnership worked with partner organisations and communities in and around Daventry District to take action on a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, arson, vandalism, retailers selling black market imports and businesses employing trafficked individuals.

A range of work with children was carried out by the Community Safety Partnership – both in and out of schools - to protect our young people from exploitation, help them be good citizens and divert them from anti-social/ criminal behaviour.

People living in refuges were provided with hundreds of essential items and gifts to help them through the Christmas period thanks to the Comfort and Joy campaign led by the Community Safety Partnership with support from the Daventry & District Forum.

The Council licensed more than 40 animal premises in accordance with the new requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, which was introduced in October 2018 to ensure that animal welfare standards are improved across all aspects of care, including sales.

The Council approved more than £700,000 of Disabled Facilities Grants were delivered to make a range of necessary adaptations to enable people with disabilities to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Changes in the law on 1 October 2018 to toughen the licensing requirements for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) were widely promoted by the Council in a bid to remind landlords of their responsibilities, and to protect tenants.

The Council licensed more than 550,000 grant funding was handed out to community and voluntary groups.

A project to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War saw more than 40 memorial benches installed in public areas across the District, while a ‘Tommy’ silhouette was installed by the War Memorial in Daventry.
A new system of waste and recycling collections was introduced in Daventry District in June 2018, boosting recycling rates. The new joint venture with Daventry Norse saw a 65% increase in food recycling in the first six months, and a 20% increase in the collection of dry recycling. Around 21,000 households across the District signed up to the garden waste service.

The Council was awarded the prestigious Great Green Star award by the Investors in the Environment (iiE) scheme for the third year running. The Council received the award for its recycling rate within its offices, carbon reduction initiatives, and innovative projects which aim to engage both its staff and the wider public.

Daventry Country Park achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 19th time in recognition of its excellent facilities and high maintenance standards.

The Council agreed to invest more than £750,000 to improve Daventry Country Park with new paths, wooden walkways, a new play area, and improvements to the cafe and toilets.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was updated with new orders aimed at ensuring dogs are kept under better control in and around cemeteries, memorial gardens and schools in Daventry District. The new PSPO also introduced a ban on smoking in fenced-off children’s play areas.

The Council organised a community clean-up day on the Headlands housing estate in Daventry as part of the Great British Spring Clean in April. A campaign to encourage home composting in Daventry District was a success, with 1,000 residents taking up the offer to buy compost bins at half price.

Reviews of conservation areas in Boughton, Flore, Braunston, Kilsby, Pitsford and Weedon were carried out in consultation with local communities, helping to protect and enhance the heritage of those villages.

The Council launched a real nappies cashback scheme to encourage more parents to make the switch from environmentally damaging disposables.

A coffee packaging recycling scheme operated by the Council generated £534 in recycling credits from the scheme’s operators Terracycle which was shared between the Chairman’s charities – the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) and the Green Health at Daventry project.

Five new trees - including hazel, rowan and silver birch saplings – were planted in New Street Rec in support of the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy, a network of global forest conservation initiatives to mark Her Majesty’s lifetime of service to the Commonwealth.

A builder who allowed three tonnes of rubble to be tipped across a road near Moulton was hit with more than £4,000 in fines and court costs following a successful fly tipping prosecution brought by the Council.

The villages of Badby, Guilsborough, Welton and Woodford cum Membris had Neighbourhood Development plans ‘made’ with support and assistance from the Council, helping to protect those villages from inappropriate development.

The Council continued to deliver the Big Switch scheme, helping residents to find the best deals on new suppliers and saving them hundreds of pounds on their energy bills.

A total of 375 litter picking kits were purchased with a High Street Community Clean-Up grant from the Government, and distributed to parish councils and community groups across the District so they can hold community clean-up days.
To Improve our Business
Economy, Learning and Skills

- A new primary school with nursery on the Monksmoor Park housing development in Daventry opened its doors to pupils in September 2018. The Council built the school using funding contributions from a housing developer as part of its planning obligations on the site.

- Planning permission was granted for Mulberry Place – a four screen cinema with two restaurants and a public square on the former library site in Daventry town centre. Work on the scheme has since got underway, with the library relocated to modern new premises in the Abbey Centre in St John’s Square and the site cleared ready for construction of the new facilities.

- More than £20,000 was handed out to businesses in Daventry town centre to help them improve their shop fronts. The scheme was launched by the Council in a bid to maintain and improve the character of the town centre, boosting its economy and helping its businesses thrive.

- The Council’s Rural Business Hub project saw grants totalling £23,495 handed out to four different projects across Daventry District to help community groups make local community centres more attractive for use by local businesses.

- The Daventry Development Link Road opened to traffic in November, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony signalling the completion of the 3.5 mile route. Funded by the SEMLEP Local Growth Deal, Daventry District Council, the Highways England Growth and Housing Fund, Northamptonshire County Council, and developers, the road relieves traffic in Flore, Weedon and Upper Heyford and supports future growth in Daventry District.

- The Council worked with SEMLEP to organise the Developing Your Future Workforce event, to show local businesses how they can benefit from providing opportunities for young people to experience the world of work.

- The www.lovedaventry.com website was redesigned with fresh content to provide information about local attractions, leisure facilities, sports clubs, events, schools and more in order to showcase the District as a great place to live, work and visit.

- The Council continued to work with partners including Aero Research Partners (ARP) to realise their goal of turning the Catesby rail tunnel into a world-class aerodynamic testing facility.

- We determined 21 major planning applications and a further 766 non-major planning applications during the year, meeting all of our targets.

- We launched www.daventrymakers.co.uk - a recruitment microsite which promotes the benefits of working for Daventry District Council as well as promoting the District as an attractive place to live and work.
Our revenue spending for 2018/19

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 2018/19?

The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2018/19 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 £4.758m from Council Tax – which equates to £156.14 per household* and (9.1%) of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (4.6%), Northamptonshire County Council (73.2%) and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (13.1%).

*based on DDC’s proportion of the Council Tax bill from an average Band D Property.

In 2018/19 we collected 97.97% of Council Tax and 98.73% of Business Rates.

Where did the money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £12.671m was spent on running services that were financed using local and national taxes.

The charts below shows where this money came from:
Did we have any money left over?
The table opposite shows the net cost of services resulted in a surplus of £2.118m in 2018/19.
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 its budget preparation process and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Our Capital Spending for 2018/19

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 2018/19?
The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2018/19 compared to the previous year.

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 2018/19 compared to the previous year.

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.

Please note the external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 has not yet been completed by our external auditors, EY LLP, due to EY's resourcing pressures. Further information about the Council's finances accounts can be viewed at daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts
Audra Statham Chief Financial Officer
Bin changes bring boost to recycling

Changes to bin collections in Daventry District helped increase recycling rates in the first year of operation, figures have revealed.

A total of 2,328 tonnes of food waste was collected for recycling between the launch of the 123+ service in June 2018 and the end of May this year – an 85% increase on the 12-month period leading up to the new service.

At the same time people also recycled 8,298 tonnes of cans, glass, paper and other dry recyclables in their blue lidded bins, which is a 35% increase.

There has also been a 25% reduction in the amount of rubbish being put in the black bins – from 16,081 tonnes down to 12,065 tonnes.

The 123+ waste and recycling collections were introduced on 4 June 2018 and are run by Daventry Norse – a joint venture between Daventry District Council (DDC) and Norse Commercial Services.

Under the service, residents receive a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly mixed recycling collection in a blue-lidded wheelie bin, and a general waste black bin collection every three weeks.

Around 21,000 people signed-up to the optional garden waste collection service in the first year, with even more people signed up to the service this year.

Meanwhile around 7,000 people downloaded the new Council mobile app, which was launched to help people get to grips with their new collection schedule.

Daventry District Council’s Environment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Jo Gilford said: “These are excellent results which really show how making small individual adjustments to our recycling habits can add up and make a huge difference.

I would like to thank all of our residents for their support in our efforts to increase our District’s recycling performance, and I look forward to an even better set of results next year.”

People can find out more about recycling services in the District at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling

Refill scheme is tackling plastic pollution

Thirsty shoppers can refill their water bottles for free at a range of Daventry town centre retailers, thanks to a new initiative which is aiming to reduce the use of single-use plastic.

Daventry District Council worked with the Sheaf Street Health Store and City to Sea to launch Refill Daventry District, a new local scheme to encourage local businesses to act as water ‘refill stations’.

Businesses which sign-up are encouraged to put a sticker in their window telling passers-by that they are welcome to fill up their water bottle for free.

They can add themselves to the Refill mobile app, which people can download for free in order to find their nearest refill station.

At the time Daventry Calling went to press there were 18 Refill Stations in the town centre. Businesses across the District are encouraged to sign-up.

Councillor Jo Gilford, Environment Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council, said: “Every time we refill a re-useable bottle instead of buying and throwing away a single-use bottle, we not only reduce the amount of plastic and fuel being used, but save a bit of money and help clean up our towns and open spaces too.

“Please look out for the Refill stickers in the windows of businesses across our District or check the free app to find out where you can refill for free.”

To find out more visit the Refill website at www.refill.org.uk

Disability grants

People with a disability who need help to improve or adapt their home are urged to contact Daventry District Council for a grant.

Disabled Facilities Grants of up to £30,000 are available to help fund the cost of a range of adaptations, from converting a ground floor room to a bedroom, to creating a walk-in shower room, widening doorways or installing ramps or stair lifts.

The Council’s Care & Repair team offers support and advice on any work required and can recommend trusted traders to carry it out, eliminating any stress.

To find out more, give them a call on: 01327 871100
email: careandrepair@daventrydc.gov.uk
or visit: www.daventrydc.gov.uk/careandrepair

Find out more at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/refill
A helping hand to keep District homes warm

Vulnerable households across Daventry District are being offered a helping hand to reduce their energy bills from the Warm Homes Fund.

The Northants Warm Homes partnership has secured nearly £4 million to provide fully-funded central heating for homes across Northamptonshire that do not already have it.

The money will be matched by other grant monies and by contributions from landlords and local authorities to ensure that eligible homes will not need to pay a penny.

Those households eligible for the Warm Homes Fund are those most in need of support, including people on a low income that have high energy bills, and who are vulnerable to the cold because of health conditions.

Both owner-occupiers and private tenants can apply, and tenants will need the permission of their landlord.

The Warm Homes Fund scheme will run until 2021 and fit efficient gas central heating in around 1,400 fuel-poor homes across the county. It is run by Surefire Management Services on behalf of local authorities in the county, including Daventry District Council.

Nationally, the Warm Homes Fund has been established by National Grid and is administered by Affordable Warmth Solutions.

Councillor Richard Auger, Environmental Health and Housing Portfolio Holder on Daventry District Council, said: “This Council believes that everyone should have a good quality and safe place to live.

"Being able to heat your home properly and efficiently is an important part of that and we hope this new programme will help reduce fuel poverty and have a positive impact on people's health.

“I would urge anyone who thinks they might be eligible to visit the website or call the freephone number to find out more."

All support through the Warm Homes Fund scheme is subject to the eligibility criteria. To find out more go to www.northantswarmhomes.com or call freephone 0800 029 4542. All visits will be by appointment only and assessors will carry photo ID.

Funding agreed for Braunston cycle link

Funding for a new cycleway and footpath to provide a safe link between Braunston and Daventry has been agreed.

The £730,000 scheme is set to run from the Middlemore housing estate down to the canal towpath at the western entrance of the Braunston Tunnel.

Daventry District Councillors have agreed to fund the project using contributions from local housing developers, subject to planning permission being granted.

Linking to the existing surfaced cycleway running along the former railway line, the route would provide cyclists and pedestrians with a safe route from Eastern Way in Daventry all the way to Braunston.

The extension to Braunston would start at Farnborough Drive and run from about 1km behind homes in Brampton Grange Drive and then across fields to the canal. This avoids drainage and safety issues that would arise from continuing the path along the route of the former railway line, as well as the need to clear vegetation.

Daventry District Council also hopes to reach an agreement with the Canal & River Trust to carry out improvement works on the towpath near the tunnel entrance, to improve its suitability for walking and cycling.

Plans for the extension follow the completion earlier this year of a new cycleway running from the top of New Forest Way down to the old railway line.

Councillor David James, Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council, said: “The creation of a safe link from Daventry to Braunston is a long-term ambition of the Council, so it's very pleasing to be able to commit these funds towards achieving that, subject to planning considerations.”
Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council are working together on the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, which will set out the direction of economic and population growth for the area up to the year 2050.

The new plan will follow on from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy published five years ago, which needs updating to reflect revised national policies and changing local circumstances. These include plans for a new West Northamptonshire unitary authority and the area’s location within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc which the government has identified as an area of significant economic potential.

Residents are invited to give their feedback on an ‘Issues Consultation Paper’, an early-stage document which aims to stimulate an initial public debate about what sort of things the new Strategic Plan should consider, such as housing requirements, priorities for economic development and community infrastructure needs.

The consultation was launched on 5 August and runs until 11 October 2019. Councillor Mike Warren, Chairman of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Infrastructure Programme Board, which is co-ordinating the Plan on behalf of the councils, said: “Since the Joint Core Strategy was adopted five years ago, there have been significant changes to national and local circumstances, meaning its policies on key issues such as future housing requirement and economic growth need to be updated.

“A new Strategic Plan is required to review and update these policies and build upon the vision for the growth of West Northamptonshire over the next 30 years.

“At this early stage we are encouraging people to tell us what they think are the issues facing their local communities in the face of future growth.

“This is by no means the last chance that residents will have to give their feedback, but the responses from this consultation will go a long way in moving our work on the new Plan forward.”

Committee               Date of meeting
Planning Committee      Wednesday 25 September
Corporate Governance Committee  Thursday 26 September
Council                Thursday 10 October
Strategy Group         Thursday 17 October
Planning Committee     Wednesday 23 October
Licensing Committee    Tuesday 12 November
Strategy Group         Thursday 14 November
Scrutiny & Improvement Tuesday 19 November
Planning Committee     Wednesday 20 November
Daventry service and asset transfer proposals agreed

Some open spaces and local services in Daventry are set to be transferred from Daventry District Council (DDC) to Daventry Town Council (DTC).

The move could see Daventry Market and Welton Road Cemetery pass to the Town Council, along with street furniture in the town that is not county council-owned. New Street Recreation Ground and other public open spaces and play areas in the town could also transfer to the Town Council, along with responsibility for maintaining the Holy Cross churchyard and roadside verges in the town and care for the Mulberry Place public square, once developed. DTC may also take on responsibility for the proposed development of a new cemetery in Daventry.

Daventry and Borough Hill Country Parks, which serve the wider District, are not included in the package of transfers.

The services will only transfer if Parliament formally approves an order to replace DDC with a new West Northamptonshire Council. The approval is expected in the autumn, but had not been made at the time Daventry Calling went to print.

The package was drawn up by DDC following a request by DTC in the light of plans to reorganise local government in Northamptonshire. Many of the services set to be transferred by DDC are typically run by parish councils in other areas of the District.

Councillor David James, DDC’s Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder said: “With legislation expected to be passed to replace our District Council with a larger unitary authority, it was timely to consider whether some of our services or assets could be taken on by DTC so they continue to be managed closer to the people of Daventry.

“We will be working closely with the Town Council to move these preparations forward.”

Bridge set to provide a safe route

Work on a much-needed road safety project in Daventry District is set to get underway.

Daventry District Council is contributing £113,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to help deliver a new cycle and footbridge next to where the A428 crosses the Grand Union Canal in Crick.

The new bridge will provide a safe route between the village and the canal for pedestrians and those with pushchairs or people in mobility vehicles, who currently have to move into the road to cross because of the narrow footpath on the road bridge.

The route links the village to Crick Marina and is busy all-year round, but is especially well-used during the annual Crick Boat Show, which attracts around 25,000 visitors.

DDC’s contribution from CIL, which is made up of financial contributions from local housing developers, has bridged a funding shortfall, allowing the proposal by Northamptonshire County Council to go ahead.

Other funding has come from the DIRFT Additional Highway Works Fund, Crick Parish Council, and the Winwick Warren wind farm. It’s hoped that work on the project can begin this autumn.

Residents who have not completed their electoral registration form yet may soon receive a visit from one of Daventry District Council’s canvassers.

In July, Daventry District Council (DDC) sent forms to every household in the district as part of its annual individual voter registration canvass. People need to reply to stay on the electoral register so they can vote in future elections, and anyone who does not complete the form could be fined up to £1,000.

Those who have not responded will receive a visit from one of the Council’s canvassers. All the canvassers carry identification.

If people are at home when one of the canvassers visits they will help complete a registration form with them on their doorstep. Residents who are not in will receive a card to let them know the canvassers have been and to remind them to complete their registration form.

Those who do not have changes to make to the form sent to them can quickly respond using one of the following options:

- Visit www.householdresponse.com/Daventry
- Call 0800 197 9871 – you may be charged by your mobile provider for this service
- Text 80212 quoting ‘NOCHANGE’ – you may be charged by your mobile provider for this service.

Residents who don’t receive their form can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or contact the elections team at Daventry District Council on 01327 871100.

Find out more at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/canvass
Daventry vying to be the rising star of UK’s high streets

People are being encouraged to show their support by casting their vote to help Daventry town centre win a national award.

There’s still time to vote for Daventry in the Rising Star category of The Great British High Street Awards 2019 – visit www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk or vote online directly via http://bit.ly/VoteDaventry. Individuals can vote multiple times on a daily basis until the competition closes on 7 October.

The winning town centre will receive £15,000. The shortlisted entry was submitted by the Daventry Retail Forum, with the support of the District and Town Councils.

Formed in 2018, the Forum is an independent community of local retailers who are passionate about improving life in Daventry and raising awareness of everything the town has to offer.

The Great British High Street Awards judges have been visiting all ten shortlisted high streets across the UK. The judges’ scores will make up 80% of Daventry’s final score, with the remaining 20% coming from public online voting.

Lorna White Coordinator of The Daventry Retail Forum said: “We are really proud to have been shortlisted for this prestigious award run by the Great British High Street and to be in with a chance of winning the £15K first prize for Daventry. To win we need the public to get behind us.”

Councillor David James, Daventry District Council’s Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder said: “It’s fantastic news that Daventry Town Centre has been shortlisted for this prestigious national award. It reflects the great pride and excellent efforts of local businesses, organisations and residents who are working together to transform and improve the heart of our town as a place to shop, work and visit.

“I would encourage as many people as possible to show their support for their local high street and cast their vote for Daventry Town Centre.”

Plans progress for new eastern leisure centre

Plans are moving forward to develop a new leisure centre to serve communities in the east of Daventry District.

Daventry District Council (DDC) and Moulton College have agreed that DDC will buy the Chris Moody Centre, an existing sports facility on the College’s campus and convert it into a public leisure centre. Providing a new leisure and sports facility for residents and community use in the eastern part of the District is a priority for the Council, which plans to use developer contributions to fund the project.

The new centre would include a swimming pool, state of the art fitness suite and multi-purpose rooms for classes, functions and group cycling. Local schools and clubs currently using the facilities at Moulton would continue to be able to do so under the Council’s proposals.

DDC will be applying for planning permission for the changes, in the hope that work could begin on the new leisure centre in early 2020.

Councillor Alan Hills, DDC’s Community Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder, said: “We are pleased to be working with Moulton College to achieve our vision for the new leisure centre. It will be an important hub for sport and leisure activity across the east of our District, helping to meet the need for more local amenities in the light of major future housing growth in the area.”

Corrie Harris, Principal of Moulton College said: “We are delighted to be able to engage with the local and regional community and contribute positively to the council’s investment strategy. The centre will be a superb leisure facility that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

“The current facility is not central to the college’s educational offer and its conversion into a public leisure centre will widen its use among the community by local people, schools and clubs.”

Plans for a new leisure centre in the eastern part of Daventry District were identified as the top priority within the Council’s Sports Facilities Investment Strategy, which was adopted in February this year following public consultation.
What’s on this Autumn

Sat-Sun 12 & 13 October
Autumn Gift & Craft Fair at Lamport Hall from 10am-4pm each day with more than 80 stalls showcasing a range of goods. For more details visit www.lamport hall.co.uk

Sun 13 October
Autumn Food and Drink Festival at Moulton Community Centre featuring an exciting range of food and drink from local food vendors from 10.30am-3.30pm. Sellers interested in running a stall should email moultonevents@outlook.com

Sat 26 October
Whalebone at Hannington Village Hall. An evening of guitar music featuring both original and familiar melodies. Tickets cost £10 on 01604 781850. Find out more at www.whalebone-music.com

Sat 2 November
Daventry Town Fireworks Display at Parker E-Act Academy in Ashby Road, Daventry with free admission. Gates open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start.

Sat 9 November
Christmas Eco Fair at the Nene Hall, Daventry (NN11 4RB) featuring a range of ethical and environmentally-minded stalls to help people enjoy an environmentally-friendly Christmas. Workshops on gift wrapping with fabric, cooking without waste, and making cocktails with foraged fruits and herbs are among the other attractions at the event, which runs from 11am to 3pm.

Moulton Literary Festival at Moulton Community Centre, featuring author events, book signings, activities and more. For more information visit www.moultoncommunitycentre.org.uk

Sat-Sun 9 & 10 November
Festive Gift Fair at Holdenby House from 10am-5pm both days. Held in heated marquees the event will feature gifts for the family, arts and crafts, local produce and street food, a visit from Father Christmas and entertainment. Adult tickets are £6 (children go free). Find out more at www.holdenby.com

Sun 10 November
Remembrance Day Parade at the War Memorial off Abbey Street at 10.50am, followed by a church service at the Holy Cross Church. Find out more at www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Sat 16 November
Daventry Christmas Lights and Late-Night Shopping in Daventry town centre hosted by Daventry Town Council and Discover Daventry. Watch the Christmas lights switch-on, listen to live music and get your Christmas shopping done with a range of shops open until 8pm.

Thurs 28 November
Speakers Corner at Ravensthorpe Village Hall will feature an intriguing talk on the story of Wallis Simpson and the abdication crisis of 1936, delivered by Roy Smart. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and tickets cost £5 on 01604 770482. Visit www.ravensthorpe.me.uk/the-village-hall

Discover more days out at www.lovedaventry.com/events

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