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Celebrating partnership working in 2020/21

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We would like you to share your good news stories from the year, highlighting examples of successful partnership working that has made a difference, sharing best practice and letting us know what has worked well in your Parishes this past year.

As an example this could be: delivery of a project you have received funding for; a community group that has gone above and beyond to support local

residents during the pandemic; facility improvements that residents will benefit from for years to come.

To share your stories and contribute towards this celebration please email healthy.communities@southnorthants.gov.uk adding subject heading CELEBRATION. Deadline for contributing is Friday 19th March.

Best wishes

The Healthy Communities Team

1.COVID-19 Response

1.1 Community Resilience Hub Support for District and Borough Hubs – the Community Resilience Cell are working on the production of a long term plan that will support residents to phase out their reliance on support of local Community Resilience Hubs. This plan follows the Government announcement on Monday 22nd February and the roadmap to recovery. The Healthy Communities Team will ensure Parishes and residents are kept informed.

Covid Household Winter Support Scheme – The COVID-19 Household Winter Support Scheme is available to help households, especially those with children, who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and are struggling to stay warm and put food on the table this winter. This scheme enters its final month in March. Please visit <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/covid-household-winter-support-scheme.aspx> to find list of referral partners in South Northants.

DEFRA Funding – The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies is for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. The West Northants DEFRA Panel

has awarded £255,000 across three funding tranches of which almost £25,000 has gone to South Northants specific projects. There will be a fourth and final tranche of funding for local groups and organisations to apply for before the end of March. for more information on the DEFRA Fund contact Northampton Hope Centre office@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk

Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF)

NCF has awarded £810,204.10 to 273 projects to community projects providing a range of essential support including £352,292.91 to 124 projects specifically providing food aid to vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 crisis. *Overall Northamptonshire Community Foundation has allocated over £2.4 million in grant awards since 1 April 2020.*

NCF rolling programme of Coronavirus Response and Recovery Funds is now open and is making grants including repeat awards for crisis response work for up to £2000. Please check the NCF website for details:

<http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/coronavirus-response-and-recovery-fund/>

As of the end of March 1st, 2021, 287 individuals have been referred to SNC's Community Hub to arrange appropriate

help and ongoing support. Some individuals had multiple requests, generating 329 requests for help.

These covered requests for help with:

- Food deliveries (162)
- Prescription collection (114)
- Support with loneliness (25)
- Posting mail (3)
- Help to get online (7)
- Other (including medical transport) (18)

There are currently 300 registered volunteers.

1.2 Covid Community Ambassador



A campaign led by Northamptonshire County Council to recruit a network of volunteers in becoming Ambassadors within their community to help residents stay up to date with all latest news and how to protect themselves against the virus. Please visit the webpage to find out by working with the Council how you become a [Covid Community Ambassador](https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/CovidCommunityAmbassadors).

1.3 Covid Government Guidelines

For all up to date guidance and set out of the roadmap out of the current lockdown follow [here](#).

2. Other business

2.1 Housing Advice update

Most evictions of tenants and homeowners remain on hold until after 31 March 2021, except in limited circumstances.

Tenants can still be given notice and might have to attend court during this time.

Landlords are still responsible for repairs and safety checks. Tenants can ask them to delay work if they are self-isolating, shielding or if the repairs could wait.

Tenants can still move home and view properties unless self-isolating

Anyone who is homeless, concerned about becoming homeless or is sleeping rough should contact our Housing Options Team as follows

Call our Housing Options Team on [01327 322374](tel:01327322374) or email us at housing.options@southnorthants.gov.uk.

In an emergency, outside of these hours, call us on [0800 1601022](tel:08001601022).

Alternatively, [Register for help](#) online. You will need your email address and will be asked to set up a password to register. You will then need to provide details of your circumstances. This

information will be kept securely and comes through to our Housing Options Team. One of our Housing Options Officers will then contact you, usually within 24 working hours.

We can provide specific information and assistance if you or someone you know has [nowhere to sleep tonight](#).

Please note that our office at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, NN12 6AD remains **closed to the public** during the Covid-19 situation.

2.2 Armed Forces Covenant Update

New legislation to help ensure fair treatment for Armed Forces

New legislation to help ensure Armed Forces personnel, Veterans and their families are not disadvantaged by their service when accessing key public services was introduced in the House of Commons yesterday (26 January 2021). The Armed Forces Bill will embed the Armed Forces Covenant into law by introducing a legal duty for relevant UK public bodies to have due regard to the principles of the Covenant, a pledge to ensure the UK Armed Forces community is treated fairly. Focusing on healthcare, housing and education, it will increase awareness among public bodies of the unique nature of military service, improving the level of service for members of the Armed Forces community, no matter where in the UK they live.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: “For the first time ever we are putting into law the Armed Forces Covenant. This will break new ground, ensuring we live up to the principles of the Covenant and treating all UK Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their

families with fairness. It builds on progress we have already made, helping veterans into work through our guaranteed interview scheme, supporting service families with childcare, and providing personnel with more choice of accommodation.”

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Johnny Mercer said: “More than 6,000 businesses, charities and public organisations have already pledged to support veterans, service personnel and their families by signing the Armed Forces Covenant. This a fantastic feat and has changed lives up and down the country.”

Find out more at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legislation-to-help-ensure-fair-treatment-for-armed-forces>

Armed Forces Day - Saturday 26 June 2021

This year Armed Forces Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday 26 June. The Ministry of Defence is offering a grant for Armed Forces Day events up to the value of £10,000, depending on the size and format of the event. This grant is match-funded and can cover up to half the total cost of the event. For example, if the total cost of the event is £10,000 and you raise £5,000, the grant could cover up to £5,000. Application must be submitted before 1 March and further details are at:

<https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/organise-your-own-event/apply-for-funding/>

2.3 Climate Change

Last summer we included an update in this newsletter about a funding bid we were pursuing to install electric vehicle charge points in the district. We heard

from a number of you that this was something you might want to consider in the future but the deadline for submissions meant that it wasn't something you could do at the time. The good news now is that the Government have announced that they will be extending the funding to cover the financial year 2021/22 meaning for anyone who is interested there is now plenty of time to apply for funding!

The fund available is the On-Street Residential Charge-point Scheme (ORCS). The reason that this fund was created is because many electric vehicle owners do most of their charging at home, but they need to off-street parking to do this. Therefore, those that do not have off-street parking may find this to be a barrier preventing them from owning an electric vehicle. The ORCS scheme provides funding to local authorities (including Parish and Town Councils) to install charge-points in residential areas to remove this barrier to electric vehicle ownership.

The ORCS scheme provides 75% of the capital costs to procure and install charge points, the rest of the funding must be found from elsewhere. This may be from your own funds or can be sourced from private investment from a third party. For our bid we partnered with a private company who provided the 25% match funding in exchange for them installing and then operating the charge points and therefore receiving any income from them. We found this to be a really great option for us as not only did this mean that we didn't have to provide any capital costs, but we also had their support and expertise throughout the bidding process and they will carry out the maintenance and

operation of the charge points once they are installed.

The Energy Savings Trust (EST) administer the grant on behalf of the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) and we found that they were really helpful when we came to put together our application and they will review and make suggestions on all applications before submitting them to OZEV. They have a lot of really great resources available at <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/street-residential-chargepoint-scheme/> providing everything you need to know about the grant and how to apply.

We would really like to encourage as many of you as possible to explore the possibility of installing charge points in your localities and take advantage of this grant funding whilst it is available. We do understand that this might be outside of your usual area of expertise, but having gone through the application process ourselves we would like to assure you that the assistance we received from the EST made the whole task a lot less daunting. It is also possible to submit a joint bid with other councils so it might worth speaking to your neighbouring parishes to see if this would be a worthwhile approach.

2.4 Economic Growth Toolbox

A new toolbox to help budding and existing local entrepreneurs as they navigate the uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic has been launched by the Economic Growth team at South Northamptonshire Council (SNC).

With unemployment rising sharply across the district, many residents are deciding to start their own businesses and SNC has created the free Business

Toolbox to help them get off to the right start.

Cllr Stephen Clarke, portfolio holder for economic growth, said: “The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the job market significantly and, with unemployment rates rising, we are continuing to expand our efforts to support residents throughout this uncertain time.

“Statistics also highlight Northamptonshire as the third highest area in the country for new business creation, which indicates that there are likely to be individuals who have recently lost their jobs and are looking to start their own business venture in favour of returning to employment.

“We are always looking at current trends and new ways to assist businesses. Therefore we have provided this free resource, not only to those at the very start of their journey but also to those looking to build upon previous knowledge and experience.”

The SNC Business Toolbox has several templates and resources which will aid the day-to-day running of a business as well as the development of longer-term strategies.

They are available in Microsoft Word and Excel formats and include a business plan, cash flow forecast, business modelling method, marketing plan, SWOT analysis, income and expenditure management, and profit and loss accounts.

For further information or to download the toolbox, visit www.southnorthants.gov.uk/businessstoolbox.



2.5 Playwaze App

Playwaze is the leading digital platform that makes it easy to organise and participate in sport and physical activity online and in an app. The app is completely Free to download from your app store and SNC will be using this platform led by our own Youth Activator Kieren Westbury.

“For February Half Term I created the community ‘South Northants Council’ where I encouraged primarily young people in the district to ‘join’ our community and take part in several challenges I released throughout the week. We had 24 members register in total. 3 winners of £25 gift card vouchers for sending their attempts in.”

Playwaze is a fantastic opportunity for young people to engage in physical activity, improve their skills, and compete against other children. The virtual platform is easy to navigate and is an innovative way of ensuring our young people keep both their body and mind healthy through participating in sport and physical activity.

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