

Ward Councillor's report (Crick) October 2021

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

I note that the consultation is on this month's Agenda. If you click on the link below you will see that there are various dates of online presentations about the consultation where you can learn more about the details and ask questions. There will also be a drop in event at Lodge Road, Daventry on 4th November between 1.30-5pm.

<https://westnorthantsplan.inconsult.uk/WNSPOptions/>

As mentioned in my report last month Spatial Option sites 3a and 3b would affect Crick and neighbouring villages. None of the sites have as yet been allocated, rather they are potential options and local feedback will be very important in the final decision making.

Climate Change "Mini-summits"

WNC's "mini-summits" are taking place, the first four focussing on business, agriculture and the rural environment, transport and housing. Although there seems limited information about the format and the content of the events, it's understood that they comprise representatives from across a range of business sectors, the public sector, groups and stakeholders. Two further summits will bring together existing environmental groups and organisations currently working in West Northants with a further event for young people.

The outcomes of these events will be shared in November in a wide ranging public consultation to coincide with COP26 in Glasgow. Cllr Jonathan Nunn, WNC's Leader has pledged that following this "we will develop a strategy and action plan that will define our commitment to making the sort of change which will meet our targets" [to ensure that WNC's carbon emissions reach net zero by 2030].

Local energy and enthusiasm for finding achievable means to help tackle climate change is definitely more visible. I was recently asked by a neighbouring parish council about grants for on street electric vehicle charging points and it was interesting to find that parish councils can apply for such grants direct. For more information see

[On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/on-street-residential-chargepoint-scheme-guidance-for-local-authorities)

Motions passed and rejected at Full Council 23rd September

9 motions were put forward at the meeting of full Council and 2 are particularly newsworthy. A Labour motion to resolve to write to Government to request that the £20 uplift in Universal Credit remains permanent received cross-party support. Almost 60,000 families in the county could be £1,040 a year worse off when the uplift is cut on 6th October and support for this motion shows a demonstrable commitment to the Council's anti-poverty strategy.

No such unity of purpose was apparent in the vote for LibDem motion to recognise and support the White Ribbon Campaign. This Campaign was founded by a group of men and encourages men to make a promise never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. A

large number of public sector bodies, including many local councils, achieve accreditation with the charity and the aims are of course completely non-political.

There is an epidemic of violence of against women in this country and yet on the day before the vigil for Sabina Nessa, the 28 year old primary school teacher murdered in a park in London, West Northants Council resolved not to stand up to this epidemic. Excuses were made that the language was “outdated” and unequal as male victims were not mentioned, yet there had been ample opportunity for an amendment to be put forward before the meeting. The majority of councillors voted against. When they returned home that evening what did they tell their girlfriends, wives and daughters?

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

15th October 2021