



## Message from the Leader

**Dear resident,**

The way we live our lives has drastically changed over the past few weeks, and I wanted to let you know through this special edition of In Northamptonshire about the work taking place at Northamptonshire County Council to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We are giving this ever evolving situation our full attention, and I want to reassure you that our essential frontline services will continue to run with minimal disruption. The Council has implemented its Critical Incident Plan, meaning staff across the organisation are being redeployed to help deliver our most key services, so we can continue to look after our most vulnerable residents, children, young people and families and the elderly, as well as delivering other vital services.

Our partnership working is strong and we have come together to establish a joint COVID-19 command structure which includes representatives from local Councils, Health, Police and the Armed Forces. Work is happening at a fast pace enabling us to manage the impact of the outbreak, and our Emergency Planning team are working tirelessly to support this along with many other teams at the Council. We are all working together to do all we can do manage this difficult situation effectively.

Over the past few weeks, the Council has received a huge amount of offers of help and support from local communities, and it's heart-warming to see that, although an uncertain and unnerving time for us all, many of our residents are making it their mission to help others. I'm proud to say that community spirit is really shining through which will help immensely with keeping our communities connected. Thank you for everything you are doing.

If you want to get involved with helping those in need, find out more about the Community Resilience Service which we have just launched in conjunction with our partners, and register your offer of support [here](#).

With restrictions now in place for our daily routines and lives, we are all having to reset and create a new temporary normal. We are here for you, and if you are struggling with this in any way, our Community Resilience Service can support you. We have just launched a dedicated Coronavirus Support Line to help our county's most vulnerable residents through these uncertain times, read more about this in this special edition of In Northamptonshire and if you need to get in touch with the team you can do so by calling **0300 126 1000, option 5**.

We are working with fantastic local support groups and individuals to deliver this vital resource, which includes help for you to have essential supplies delivered including food and medication, as well as providing a listening ear and signposting to additional support if you need it.

Please do all you can to follow the Government advice and guidelines to help in the worldwide mission to deal with this pandemic. We need to do all we can to keep ourselves, and each other safe. Our dedicated [Coronavirus web pages](#) provide up to date information and useful links, and we are sharing information daily through our [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#).

This situation is unprecedented, and I know you will be feeling worried and unsure of what the next few months will bring. Please be reassured that together with our partners and our wonderful communities we are doing all we can to get through it, and we appreciate everything you are all doing to support this.

**Councillor Matt Golby**  
**Leader of Northamptonshire County Council**

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## In the headlines

**Coronavirus community support service launched**



**Supporting our most vulnerable residents through the Coronavirus pandemic is a key priority right now, and if you, or someone you know is**

**unable to leave home to buy food and other essential supplies, our Community Resilience Service can help.**

A dedicated phone line has been set up for people who have no one to call upon for help and support during this challenging time, and ensures people have access to what they need.

Requests for support are being co-ordinated through the service which we are delivering in conjunction with Northamptonshire's District and Borough Councils. We are working with the fantastic local community groups, volunteers and voluntary organisations who have come forward to offer their help to support others during the COVID-19 outbreak.

As well as supporting vulnerable members of our communities with essential shopping, the service can also help people get the medication they need, run errands, and for those that may be feeling lonely and isolated, it will provide a listening ear and signpost to further support if needed.

Councillor Matt Golby, Leader of Northamptonshire County Council said: "The launch of this new service means we can provide care and support to those that really need our help.

"By working together with our Borough and District Council colleagues, and with the many groups and individuals who have volunteered their help, we will be able to provide coordinated local support to our most vulnerable residents."

To find out more visit our [web page](#). People needing help at this time can call the support line on **0300 126 1000, option 5**.



**Volunteer and help those in need during the Coronavirus crisis**

**Pop-up Good Samaritans and community groups keen to get involved in the fight against Coronavirus are being urged to make themselves known to the Northamptonshire COVID-19 Community Resilience team, to ensure there is adequate support across the county for people in at risk groups, those living alone and those self-isolating from COVID-19.**

Since the crisis began to unfold, countless groups have emerged and individuals have come forward to help in the effort to get essential supplies to those people who are in isolation and have no one to call upon for support.

With social distancing measures in place and the public urged to stay at home, these groups and individuals play an increasingly important role in keeping our most vulnerable people safe and stocked up with medications and supplies.

We are urging these individuals and groups to come forward to register themselves, in order to ensure they receive up to date information and access to critical supply chains. People can register by either completing an [online form](#) or by [emailing](#) the team.

Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adult Services at Northamptonshire County Council, Anna Earnshaw, said:

“It is incredible how many people have made themselves available to help those most in need in these extraordinary times. It is these examples of selfless community spirit which will help us through this. We are aware people are advertising their services in their local areas through Facebook or mail drops. The level of community response is amazing to see.

“We are asking these support groups to contact us and register their details. This will not only mean they will be able to receive the very latest up to date information about the current situation in their local area, it will also allow them to access essential supply chains for the people needing help. It will also allow us to point them to people that we know need help.

“We will also be able to map out where such offers of support are available in the county and where there are areas of less support which need addressing. Together we can work to ensure those people who need the most help receive it.”

**We have already received thousands of offers of support. Thank you Northamptonshire for everything you are doing to support our elderly and most vulnerable residents!**

## News in brief



### **Important service changes**

We have had to make temporary changes to some services as part of our response to the Coronavirus outbreak. This includes bus services, adult learning courses, school admissions and parking enforcements. Keep up to date with these changes [here](#).



### **Join the virtual library**

Social distancing restrictions mean that libraries across the county are closed until further notice. You can still use the online services provided by libraries and we are encouraging members to access audiobooks, e-



### **Protect yourself from COVID-19 scams**

Sadly, some individuals are taking advantage of the current situation in a negative way, and are using it as an opportunity to mislead and scam the population. Our Trading Standards service have stepped in. Find advice and information to protect yourself and others [here](#).



### **Country park closures**

Country park car parks, play areas and public buildings are closed for the foreseeable future, this applies to the parks at Sywell, Brixworth, Fermyn Woods, and Barnwell. The grounds remain open in accordance with the Government restrictions around social distancing, and this must be followed if you are using the parks.

**Daily updates can be found on our website with information about changes to services as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please use our [website](#) to get the most up to date information.**

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## Getting through the COVID-19 outbreak together

The logo consists of the text "#NORTHANTS" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font, positioned above the word "TOGETHER" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed within a thin, light blue rectangular border.

Thank you Northamptonshire for everything you are doing right now to look out for, and support each other during this uncertain period of time, and for following Government advice and restrictions to help slow the spread of Coronavirus.

We're working with a huge variety of local organisations and Key Workers as part of our response to COVID-19, as well as an army of dedicated volunteers, and we want to tell you about the fantastic work that's happening.

We are so proud to have joined forces with our partners to launch **#NorthantsTogether** which is a new campaign that shares important information and advice relating to the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as sharing news of the fantastic work being done by so many people in our county to help and support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Look out for **#NorthantsTogether** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and please join in with sharing and retweeting so we can spread the messages far and wide.

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## Keeping occupied during isolation

**Our routines have all changed massively over the past few weeks, and we are all getting used to the restrictions that have been temporarily put on our daily lives.**

Self-isolation doesn't mean you have to be bored or lonely. Here's some healthy and ways to stay occupied over the coming weeks.

- **Read** – although our libraries are now closed until further notice, you can still use the free online services [here](#) and [join the virtual library online](#) for free to access subscription resources.
- **Volunteer** - [join the thousands](#) of volunteers who have signed up to help others in need across the county and help deliver essential supplies, collect medication, or be a listening ear.
- **Workout** – Northamptonshire Sport are running a Virtual Home Pentathlon, why not challenge your friends and family! Check out their [Twitter feed](#) to get involved. Also take a look at Sport England's [Join the Movement](#) campaign for ideas on how to stay active in and around your home.
- **Learn to cook** – find new recipes online or in those forgotten cookery books hiding in the cupboard. Now is the perfect time to master a new dish.
- **Plant some seeds** – grow some flowers or start your own herb garden.
- **Spring clean your home** – it may not be the most exciting task but having a good clean can be good for the mind and free up some extra space.
- **Practise mindfulness** – evidence shows that just a few minutes meditation per day reduces inflammation and enhances our immune functions. Try downloading an app to get started.
- **Connect with friends** – whether over the phone, video chats or on social media, there is no need to feel alone during this time. Search your app store or online for social networking platforms.

## And finally...



**Protect yourself and others**

There's lots of useful advice and guidance on how you can protect yourself, loved ones and others, and help minimise the spread of Coronavirus available at [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Keep up to date with the information by checking the [website](#) regularly.



### **Thank you key workers**

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all the key workers working across Northamptonshire to help support others during these unprecedented times. Massive thanks to the NHS teams in our county and across the UK, we appreciate you!