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1.COVID-19 Response

1.1 Community Resilience Hub

As we return to business as usual with Government restrictions lifting, the Community Resilience Hub remains on standby as we continue to monitor the Corona virus impact.

Since March 2020 the Hub as handled the below requests for support:

- Food deliveries (165)
- Prescription collection (116)
- Support with loneliness (25)
- Posting mail (3)
- Help to get online (7)
- Other (including medical transport) (18)

2. Other Business

2.1 Home Safe

Another year of Help for South Northamptonshire Area Residents West Northamptonshire Council have for another year partnered with Care and Repair Northamptonshire Ltd to help families repair or adapt their homes. Home Safe aims to promote independence and provide a safe home by carrying out essential minor works to people's homes.

If you are on low income and either, suffer from a long term chronic illness or a physical disability, are over 65 years of age, or in hospital and need

small repairs or adaptations to enable you to be discharged home safely you may be able to get help.

Care and Repair Northamptonshire are offering a free Home Safety Check and a range of small home improvements such as small repairs, home security and energy efficiency measures, gas safety checks, fitting smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, trip reduction measures, the installation of grab and stair rails and assistance with electrics, plumbing and carpentry.

For more information on the scheme visit <https://www.careand.repair/>

Email: office@careandrepairnorthamptonshire.org.uk or call 01604 782250.



2.2 Disabled Facilities Grants

Making the right adaptation at the right time to your home is an important way of helping you stay safely in your own home for longer. Adapting your home can avoid the need to move to a new house or into residential care and can be more cost effective.

Depending on your circumstances you may be able to get help with the cost of the adaptations from your local council.

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a means-tested grant for people with a permanent disability of any sort including physical and learning

disabilities, sensory impairments and mental illness. It can enable you to make some of the more major changes to your home that will help you to continue living there.

It could be used to fund work such as:

installing a walk-in shower

installing a stair lift or through floor lift

widening doors or adapting kitchens for wheelchair access

providing ramps to enable you to get in and out of the house

converting a downstairs room to an accessible toilet or bathroom

adding ceiling track hoists

improving central heating, or adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to access and use

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to anyone who has a disability and is a homeowner, private tenant or a housing association tenant. If you are a housing association tenant, your landlord may also be able to help. The means test is free and will look at any benefits you may get, and your and any partner's income and savings. Many people will get the total cost of the works paid for; others may need to contribute something towards them.

The council must have assessed that the work is necessary and appropriate to meet your needs and we will ask for an Occupational Therapist to assess these and make a recommendation for works. We will also check that the works are reasonable and practicable and can organise the works on your behalf.

If you live in the old South Northants area and would like more information,

please do contact us by phoning 01327 322299 (direct dial) or email pshousing.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk. If you live elsewhere in West Northamptonshire please contact 0300 126 7000.

2.3 Community Cinema and rural touring schemes

After eighteen months without live performances or films in our village halls and other community spaces, many people have been looking forward to these opportunities to gather socially again during the darker months.

To those busy organising events for their communities, I say “well done!” and I hope a lot of others volunteer to help make them a success.

Many may have been wondering what has happened to Northants Touring Arts. There are plans afoot, for a new programme of subsidised live performances to start next spring and some activities to lead up to that, organised by New Perspectives Theatre Company, so watch out for news, or get in touch to make sure you hear about it (see below).

Those who were on the Phoenix Community Cinema mailing list as community promoters will have just received a message from the Leicester CEO of Phoenix, thanking them for their previous efforts and explaining why their rural cinema scheme hasn't restarted. Unfortunately, it isn't going to restart in Northants or Leicestershire.

John Rance says 'Despite our efforts to find new grants during 2020, it was not possible to develop a viable recovery plan for PCC. Closure of the

scheme is very regrettable, but I am proud of the achievements of the staff. I want to acknowledge and thank the staff of PCC who helped local volunteer groups organise regular film events across Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland for many years.'

The person we all need to thank for her work in Northants is Anna Hayward. She ran the scheme expertly for us for over a decade and even gave up the family garage to look after the projection equipment.

Information has been provided to help parishes who would like to show films. It will be uploaded to the Arts page. Maybe those who have already invested in their own projection equipment can help those who were relying on Phoenix for screenings.

Contact Sue Carverhill, Arts Development Officer for further assistance and to register your interest in live shows:

healthy.communities@westnorthants.gov.uk or 01327 322334 (Wednesday – Friday).

2.4 South Northamptonshire Art Trail 8 – 10th October



Hot on the heels of **Alderton Art Festival** and **Northants Open Studios** in the rest of the county, the **2021**

South Northamptonshire Art Trail organised by artists provides opportunities to enjoy and buy art works for ten days in October.

This year must be the most varied yet: there are painters, wood turners, photographers, sculptors, digital artists, textile artists, glass fusers, jewellery makers, printers, ceramicists, up cyclers, weavers, polymer clay crafters and more!

With 51 artists exhibiting at 20 venues, there's sure to be plenty to please everyone.

There are several new venues this year – including Whilton, Whittlebury High Street, a new Silverstone venue, Greatworth and the Lilypad Gallery near Weedon. The printed directory is now available from artists' venues and [Vitreus Art Gallery](#) at Bell Plantation (Towcester) and from the various cafes and pubs offering refreshments to add to enjoyment of the Art Trail. You can also download a PDF version from the South Northants Arts Website: <https://www.arts-sn.org.uk>.

Parish website managers, please add the link, especially if there is a venue in your area (see map).

2.5 WNC Summer Activity Club



The Kids Club that WNC ran over the Summer was a huge success. A variety

of venues were used at Boddington, Hartwell, Brackley leisure centre, Towcester Watermeadows and Kings Sutton. 272 attendances across 5 different venues in 10 days. Over the 4 weeks, we delivered 2 hours of multi-Sports activities each day targeting 5–11-year-old children. These sessions were a perfect opportunity for all to get active, have fun and make new friends

2.5 Beat the Street

Beat the Street is a fun, free initiative that will see Northampton transformed into a giant game!

See how far you can walk, cycle, run, scoot and roll in just 6 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs.

The game will start on 22 September and end on 3 November 2021. Go to the link to find out all about it – [Beat the Street](#)

Good Luck!

2.6 Northamptonshire Village Awards

Northamptonshire Acre are pleased to announce that the annual village awards, that are an opportunity for villages and groups to celebrate and share what they like about their village and what makes it a great place to live, are back. For more information about the awards visit go to: [Northamptonshire Village Awards 2022](#)