

# Monthly Council Report

## April 2019

**Earls Barton Division Northamptonshire County Council**

Cllr Rob Gough

### Welcome to the April edition of My County Council Report

The last month has certainly been busy in my own family which is why this report has come out later than I would have hoped.

Still, there is some good news coming out of the County Council recently, as well as some important changes to the system of reporting highways problems.

## Balanced Budget for 2018/19

Some good news particularly for those who have been tracking the County Council's budget over the past year.

NCC is now reporting that it is projecting an underspend of £100,000 on its 2018/19 budget. If this turns out to be true this would be a huge turnaround over the past year. For years the Council has been overspending by millions each financial year. Now, with this news along with the dispensation granted by the Government last year to use capital money to wipe out the revenue debt from the 2017/18 budget, the Council no longer has any overhanging debt in it's revenue budget. Indeed, the Council is now starting to rebuild it's reserves after these had been depleted over a number of years.

Hopefully the last financial year will be the start of an improving picture in Northamptonshire moving forward and that we do not see things slip back to the years of bad management and poor financial controls.

You can see more about this [here](#).

## Section 114 Notice at County hall finally Revoked

In further good news, the Section 114 notice at Northamptonshire County Council has been lifted. We will have to see in the next month or so whether the Council's budget balanced for the 2018/19 financial year but indications are positive. Hopefully this won't be seen as a signal to go back to the bad old days of overspending and poor financial control. It's one thing for the council to stabilise its finances. Quite another to keep them improving.

You can see more about this [here](#).

# Wellingborough North/Glenvale Park Moving Forward

Some good news for Wellingborough, which will also have some impact on many of the villages locally. With the Wellingborough North/Glenvale Park development moving forward, the Borough Council has now received £10 million in proceeds of the sale of land on the site.

A portion of this money will be going to the refurbishment of the multi story car park at the Swansgate. This car park is in dire need on this and should hopefully ensure that the car park will be operating free of charge for years to come.

There will certainly be some challenges as this housing development is built but I hope Glenvale Park will contribute to satisfying housing demand in our area, and help protect our villages from over development. We will also need to keep an eye on the impact of the development on the existing transport infrastructure, and it is yet another reason why the A509 Bypass needs to be brought forward.

You can see more about this [here](#).

# New system for reporting Highways issues

Please be aware that Street Doctor has had a number of updates. You can now upload photos and it is easier to locate where highway problems have been reported.

The improved website uses FixMyStreet – the system most commonly used by local authorities across the country. Defects can also be reported via the main FixMyStreet website and app.

More info can be found [here](#).

# And Finally, a new arrival



Mathilda Shoshanna Violet Gough arrived on 8th March 2019. A lot earlier than planned, she was so eager to get into the world she came 10 weeks early weighing 2lbs 8oz. She is currently being well looked after in Gosset Ward at Northampton General Hospital. The Nurses, Doctors, Midwives, HCAs, and everyone else has been involved in her care have been fantastic. Both my wife and I would like to thank all of them for the great work they have done for Mathilda, and all the babies being looked after.

We are hoping to have her home in a few weeks time. She is already taking to her bottle and was 3lbs 10oz as of her last weigh in. Thank you for all of the kind words at this difficult time. Hopefully she will be popping along with me to some meetings in the near future.