

ENC Councillor's Annual Report 2016

There have been a number of changes to the Planning Department this year: there is a new Head of Planning and various roles have changed. It was decided to discontinue the Four Towns Plan started 9 years ago which is still not completed but to go forward with a District Plan and at the same time encourage Neighbourhood Plans to be completed as soon as possible. Villages are encouraged also to complete their own plans.

The development at Rushden Lakes is going ahead at a pace and plans for the Sustainable Urban Extension at Rushden are well in hand. This relieves the pressure on building new houses for the rest of the district although developers are still putting forward developments in some villages which many feel inappropriate.

The contract for the non-statutory leisure facilities is up for renewal soon and a committee of members and officers has been considering the way forward with a plan that involves bringing leisure activities throughout the district.

The council decided to spend £25,000 on investigating a possible way forward for unity with other district and borough councils

The council continues to have success with its re-cycling and has kept to the present system despite pressure to have more bins to separate different types of waste.

The Licensing Committee has worked with other councils to bring about improvements to the way taxi drivers are licensed. In future all applicants will have to have a good working knowledge of English and had training to combat Child Sexual Exploitation. This was especially important in the light of the report on Rotherham and the role played by taxi drivers in the exploitation of young girls.

Looking for information on East Northamptonshire Council's website is much improved and has helpful information not previously available.

The helpful information about switching energy supplier has been a success, the site to use this opportunity is: www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/ss

The council has followed a policy of prosecuting known fly tippers and anyone seeing rubbish being dumped on the side of the road is urged to call the council.

I do have Empowerment Funds available and I am always pleased to help local groups improve the opportunities available to our residents – please do not hesitate to contact me if you are a member or helper at an organisation where a small financial contribution could make a difference.

Cllr Dudley Hughes