

## **Parish and Town Council Article, November 2018**

At the recent Parish and Town Council Forum, we agreed to provide a detailed monthly newsletter on developments, as well as a c300 word first-person article that can be cut and pasted into Parish magazines as you see fit. This document is offered as that first person article.

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### **Update from Cllr Ian McCord, Leader of South Northants Council**

To say there is a lot going on for us at South Northants Council would be an understatement.

There are the proposals to create a new unitary council for West Northants (and with it abolish South Northants, Daventry, Northampton and Northamptonshire County Councils). The short story here is that we're working hard to make sure that if the Government does go ahead with this proposal, that there will be a smooth launch of the new council in April 2020, without a dip in services in the meantime. There is lot more information though, for those interested, which you can read online at [www.southnorthants.gov.uk/lgr](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/lgr)

That's also where you can have your say on what you think the new Council should be named, if it does go ahead.

It looks like the Government's timetable for this big change might well have slipped back a few months. We don't yet know what impact this might have on local elections due next May (including at Parish and Town Council level) but we are pressing the Minister on this, and will let you know as soon as it becomes clear.

There are also changes that the County Council is introducing to get its house in order (its 'Stabilisation Plan'). Short story here: I for one am not yet convinced that this is yet a good enough plan to fix the situation they got themselves into.

Alongside that, there are other things going on here at South Northants that are of genuine interest such as whether in light of all the changes at County Council level, we should loosen our grants criteria for the funding we still have available here at South Northants Council. We do still give out hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in grants to local community initiatives, both to community groups and to Parish and Town Councils. These range from a few hundred pounds to tens of thousands. Find out more at [www.southnorthants.gov.uk/community-grants](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/community-grants)