

## NASEBY PARISH COUNCIL- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025/26

**COUNCILLORS:** We have 8 seats and during the year we lost David Brodala and David Hall who both moved away from Naseby but gained Martin Williams. Our current 6 Councillors are Paul Reedman, Stephen Davies, Antonia Collins, Aldo Rodi, Earl Harrison and Martin Williams with 2 vacancies.

Thanks to all Councillors for their work in the last year but particularly to Stephen Davies as Vice Chairman.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS:** In the year we have had 10 normal meetings and a finance advisory group meeting. All meetings were held in the Methodist Chapel other than the finance advisory group which was held by Zoom.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** The Annual Meeting of the Parish involved residents, clubs and village organisations and was held in the Methodist Chapel on 12th March. This was attended by two prospective candidates for the West Northants elections held in May 2025 including Christine Ware who was subsequently elected as the single Councillor responsible for the 'Naseby Ward' which stretches from Spratton along the A5199 to Welford and includes Naseby.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** 10 applications of various types have been examined and commented upon.

One planning permission of note was for a single house in open countryside judged to be of outstanding design quality which was granted under a specific national planning scheme(NPPF 84(e)).

An application by a different landowner under the same national planning scheme was refused but the applicant resubmitted a very similar scheme in January 2026.

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:** We received no Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions because no new qualifying houses were built.

**GRANTS:** A minor Parish Council grant of £300 was awarded to the Naseby Book Exchange.

**PLAY AREA:** Our annual independent inspection report carried out in December 2025 has identified minor items which require attention including to the toddler tunnel which will be addressed during 2026.

**GRASS CUTTING:** Both our contractors completed the final year of 3 year contracts covering cutting seasons of 2023 to 2025. A tender exercise has been undertaken and new 3 year contracts have been awarded covering cutting seasons of 2026 to 2028:

- Maximow will continue cutting the village hall playing field.
- Thompsons Ground Care will continue cutting the road verges, the churchyard, the play area, the area adjacent to the village hall car park, the 3 battlefield viewing sites, the public open space adjacent to Hammonds Mews and the off road footpaths from High Street alongside the allotments and between the Village Hall and Cottesbrooke Road.

**STREET LIGHTING:** our short lived 3 year electricity supply contract with Tomato Energy came to an end when they entered administration. We have been switched to Valda Energy under the electricity supply safeguarding arrangements.

**BUSES:** Stagecoach added Saturday services to both Northampton and Market Harborough. This is additional to the 60 bus service from Naseby to Northampton on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and 59 service to Market Harborough on Tuesday and Friday. Naseby Parish Council's

contribution to operating costs is £1,605 in 2025/26 West Northamptonshire bus passes can be used on the 59 and 60 routes and can be obtained from Brixworth library.

A bus shelter is to be provided on Church Street opposite Bakehouse Rise at no cost to the Parish Council

**BOOK EXCHANGE:** The book exchange continues to operate from the shed outside the Methodist Hall with a surfeit of books available plus new shelves.

**MARKET CROSS:** The Market Cross is a listed monument and most of its severely weathered plinth stones were replaced in 2022 with a particular limestone stipulated by the listed building permission. In less than 2 years the new stones severely weathered and started to disintegrate and have now been replaced with a durable Cumbrian limestone.

**WAR MEMORIAL:** The stone "Lion" at the School Lane / Church Street junction is owned by the Parish Council and is Grade II Listed. Weather damage has been repaired which included replacing a section of stone and restoration and repainting the engraved names of the fallen. Grants from the War Memorial Trust and Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit covered a substantial element of the cost.

**KELMARSH WIND COMMUNITY BENEFIT:** The charity has 8 trustees who are nominated by their respective parish councils and serve for a period of 3 years. There are two each from the qualifying parishes of Kelmarsh, Haselbech, Clipston and Naseby. Stephen Davies and Peter Burditt are our current trustees

**THORNBY ROAD BENCH REPLACEMENT:** The damaged timber bench on Thornby Road was replaced by a recycled plastic version funded by previous year grant from Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit.

**DEFIBRILLATORS / BLEED KIT:** two defibrillators are maintained by the Parish Council one at the Methodist Chapel and the other at the Village Hall.

A Bleed Kit cabinet is to be installed at the village hall in 2026 next to the defibrillator. This is being funded by a grant from Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit.

**VILLAGE HALL FIELD:** A grant for the installation of a 4th recycled plastic bench on the field has been awarded by Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit and will be installed in Spring 2026.

**XMAS TREE LIGHTING:** The Xmas tree erected in front of All Saints Church was funded by the Parish Council together with a contribution towards nibbles and mulled wine. The event was very well attended and was hosted by our new assistant priest, Reverend Lesley Tomalin.

**SPEED MONITORING UNITS:** A third solar powered speed monitoring unit has been installed on Church Street near the Nutcote junction which was substantially funded by a grant from the Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit Charity. The first two units installed on Cottesbrooke Road and Clipston Road were purchased with a grant awarded last year by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance. An earlier battery powered portable speed monitor which had been in use for some years was decommissioned.

**TREES:** A survey of trees for which the Parish Council is responsible revealed that a number required urgent tree surgery due to ash die back and risk to the public. Work was undertaken within the hedge alongside the village hall play area and at the Obelisk monument off Clipston Road. The cost of tree felling and trimming work around the village this year at £5,400 (plus VAT) was much higher than the amount allowed for in the budget.

**NASEBY RESERVOIR ACCESS:** The fishery lease at the Canal and Rivers Trust reservoir requires the tenant to lock the car park access gate from Carvells Lane to prevent access by cars and members and walkers. Following a resident complaint the Parish Council approached the Canal and Rivers Trust but were unable to negotiate continued legal pedestrian access. It is understood that pedestrians who have walked around the gate and fencing have not been challenged.

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL:** Following the council elections in May 2025 our elected 'Naseby Ward' Councillor Christine Ware has attended several Parish Council meetings and has been very helpful.

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN:** The new local plan is under preparation which will supersede the three local plans which currently govern development within the former administrative areas of Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils.

A second draft of the new plan was issued for consultation in early 2026 closing on the 27th March. This draft includes a substantial increase in housing numbers compared with the previous 2024 draft plan and has policies covering the whole of the West Northants Council's urban and rural areas.

Naseby is defined as a Rural Area Secondary Service Village which is considered to be capable of accommodating some new development. The plan stipulates that a minimum of 33 extra houses are required between 1st April 2025 and 2043.

West Northants' program anticipates that a final version of the plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2026 followed by an examination by an Inspector starting April 2027 and Adoption of the plan in November 2027.

**NASEBY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** Following the initial public meeting in September 2023 and the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan Policy Advisory Group of residents, substantial progress has been achieved. Under the guidance of our consultant Gary Kirk and his colleagues from 'YourLocale,' three different groups of residents have worked on varied subject areas and produced a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Alongside this external consultants (AECOM), funded by Central Government have produced three reports, a 'Housing Needs Assessment' a 'Design Code' document and a 'Site Assessment Report' of the various sites put forward by land owners.

In June 2025 Central Government ceased all funding for Neighbourhood plans. Fortunately this was after the bulk of external consultants and our own consultants work had been completed. The Parish Council decided to continue and to fund remaining fees for our own consultants which had not already been funded by Government grant.

The Naseby Neighbourhood Plan is required to comply with the Local Plan hence slippage of the West Northants Local Plan has delayed the Naseby Plan. A key element is the number of houses required to be built in the Parish which was finally made available when the January 2026 consultation draft of the West Northants Local Plan was published. A minimum of 33 additional houses are required to be built in Naseby between 2025 and 2043.

Negotiations with landowners are advanced on suitable sites.

It is anticipated that an open day will be held in summer 2026, prior to submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to West Northants Council who will arrange for an independent review to ensure that it complies with National Planning guidance and with the developing Local Plan. West Northants will then organise a referendum of Naseby voters where a simple majority is required before the Plan can be adopted.

**PRECEPT:** The Parish Council precept has been set at £39,124 for 2026/27 this compares with £34,045 in 2025/26.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Many thanks to

- Roger Carter for the weekly defibrillator inspections.
- Kirsty MacMillan and Margaret Diack for organising the Xmas tree event and Geoff Gould for taking down the tree in January and disposing of it.
- Liz Capel and the team who deliver Naseby News.
- Chris Woods for running the Book Exchange
- Mark Clements (chair), Barry Roberts (vice chair) and Claire Booth (secretary) plus all members of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Advisory Group.

**PARISH CLERK:** Many thanks to Josie Flavell our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for her sound advice.

Paul Reedman  
Chairman  
Naseby Parish Council

4th March 2026