Your monthly news update from Northamptonshire County Council*

**Featured**

**The Get Involved Hub**
Search for countywide volunteering opportunities online.

**Race to the Top**
Our strategy to make our schools among the best in the country by 2020.

**Go superfast**
90% of Northants households should have access to superfast broadband by the end of the year.

**Social Work Academy**
We’re recruiting the best newly-qualified social workers by offering a year-long intensive training and support programme and a competitive salary.

**In the Headlines**

**Towcester library and registration office are moving**

We’re excited to be moving into a brand new building in Towcester along with South Northamptonshire Council.

**Library moving dates**
You’ll be able to explore Towcester’s new library at The Forum in Moat Lane when it opens its doors for the first time on Thursday 9th April.

The current library in Richmond Road will close on Monday 16th March, when staff and volunteers will begin to move stock – including 15,000 new books – into the new building.

Any items borrowed from the current library after Monday 23rd February will not be due back to the new building until Monday 13th April and there is no need to renew.

**Get Involved**
To celebrate the opening of the new building, you’re invited to take part in a ‘human chain’ to pass the very last book from the old library to the new one on Saturday 11th April. Meet at the old library in Richmond Road at 9am.

Towcester Library and The Forum are also recruiting volunteers to help with the move and settling in to the new building.
• If you’d like to help the library team move into the new building, ask at the library or email towlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk
• If you’re interested in a more regular volunteering role at The Forum, find available roles on The Get Involved Hub

Registration office moving dates
Registration services in Towcester will also be relocated to The Forum. Towcester Register Office will close on **Tuesday 7th April** and reopen in the new venue on **Thursday 9th April**.

• **Book a registration appointment online**

Adult Learning at The Forum
The Forum will become a new community hub and will host a number of adult learning courses, including dress making, sign language, digital photography, and more.

• Search the course catalogue for a full list

Moat Lane Regeneration Project
The Forum is part of a wider regeneration project in the Moat Lane area of Towcester. Find out more about the plans on South Northamptonshire Council’s webpages and follow progress on the Moat Lane Regeneration Facebook Page.

Night-time closures as resurfacing work completes Northampton Gas Street roundabout works

Improvements at Northampton’s Gas Street roundabout are now moving into the final phase with resurfacing work underway at the busy intersection.

To minimise disruption to travel and businesses while maintaining safety standards, the work will take place overnight with a series of road closures set to be put in place.

**When will the work take place?**
The work will take place in two phases with the first 12-night tranche between Monday, March 2 and Friday, March 13 and the second 10-night block between Monday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 25.

Work during the daytime will continue with night time working and road closures between 8pm and 6am.

Cllr Michael Clarke, county council cabinet member for transport, highways and environment, said: “The wider project at this busy junction is to increase capacity and therefore traffic flows.

“The resurfacing work will greatly improve the area and provide a surface with an extended life. We are taking this opportunity to provide a more long term solution to improve the standard of the road and are ensuring this resurfacing work is done before the busy trading period of Easter.
“Working at night has several advantages in that it is less disruptive as less traffic is diverted and trade in the local shops and businesses can continue.

“The work can also be carried out more effectively and more quickly as well as being safer to work at night when the streets are quieter and there are fewer pedestrians.”

- Find out more about the whole scheme

**All 16 Teams for 2015 Friends Life Women’s Tour announced**

Some of the top professional women’s cycling teams are returning to Northamptonshire in June for the 2015 Friends Life Women’s Tour.

Stage three of this year’s event will take the cyclists from **Oundle to Kettering on Friday 19 June**.

Teams competing include:
- Ale Cipollini (Italy)
- Bigla Pro Cycling Team (Switzerland)
- Boels Dolmans Cycling Team (Netherlands)
- Germany national team
- Lotto Soudal (Belgium)
- Matrix Fitness (Great Britain)
- Optum p/b Kelly Benefit Strategies (USA)
- Orica AIS (Australia)
- Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International (Great Britain)
- Poitou-Charentes Futuroscope-86 (France)
- Rabo Liv Cycling Team (Netherlands)
- Team Liv Plantur (Netherlands)
- UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling (USA)
- USA national team
- Velocio SRAM (Germany)
- Wiggle Honda (Great Britain)

- Visit our Women’s Tour site for all the latest news

What’s on
22 March – CarKraft Young Driver Training at Silverstone – If you are aged 15 to 25 then CarKraft is for you. CarKraft is the premier, award winning driver experience, designed especially for young people. You don’t even need to have a driving licence. Find out more.

11 April – Celebrate Towcester’s new library - To celebrate the opening of the new building, you’re invited to take part in a ‘human chain’ to pass the very last book from the old library to the new one on Saturday 11th April. Meet at the old library in Richmond Road at 9am.

Get outside this spring at county parks – From Nature Tots to jogging groups, there are lots of events happening this spring to help you get active outside and enjoy our county parks. Find out what’s happening at your nearest park on the events calendar.

Get news as it happens!

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