

Food Waste and Community

In the UK we waste a quarter of all the food and drink we buy! Last year, this waste was enough to have fed 30 million people. It produces 18 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year (imagine 36 million water butts full of petrol on fire) which contributes towards climate change.

Food Waste Prevention

Reducing food waste is a great way to save money, whilst helping your environment. An average family can save £1,000 a year by reducing their food waste. Around 70% of household food waste is edible – that means we are throwing our cash in the bin, too!

Some top tips to help:

1. **Plan ahead** – Shopping lists and checking what you already have first can help reduce overspending on things you don't need.
2. **Know your dates** – 'Best Before' dates are recommendations and most food is fine to eat after. 'Use By' dates refer to safety and food should not be eaten after this date.
3. **Optimise your food** – correct storage of your food can extend its life by weeks. Your fridge should be below 5°C

and remember to freeze any food approaching its Use By date!

4. **Perfect Portions** – cook only what you need or save any leftovers for another meal another day.
5. **Donate** – Any edible food you have that would be thrown away, check local food banks and shelters to see if your waste can help feed someone in need.



Food Waste Recycling

Any food waste you do have can be "recycled" by putting it in the food waste bin instead of general waste (it is the same collection day.) It's easy to start reducing and recycling your food waste – you can get an indoor and outdoor food bin **free of charge** from West Northamptonshire council! You can now use any bag to line the bins, or you can buy a roll of caddy bags from WNC libraries for £1.

Useful numbers

West Northamptonshire Council

www.westnorthants.gov.uk
T: 0300 126 7000

Police: 101 (non-emergencies)

999 Emergencies only

NHS 111

Allotments

T: 01604 436622
northampton.allotments@idverde.co.uk

Cemeteries

Cemetery Office
Camp Hill Depot, Dayrell Road
Northampton NN4 9RR

T: 01604 436622 (option 1)
northampton.cemeteries@idverde.co.uk

Food Aid Far Cotton supports vulnerable families in our local community by providing both ambient and fresh food as well as toiletries and household essentials - admin@foodaidfarcotton.co.uk
To obtain support please do get in touch or contact Restore Northampton for a list of referral agencies to obtain a code www.restorenorthampton.org.uk/agencies

Community Council Meetings

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly Full Council and Planning Committee meetings. Although council meetings are quite formal, we always set aside time for residents to raise any questions or comments, should you wish to attend. Our Full Council meeting usually occurs on the third Tuesday of each month, and will next take place on **18 March, 15 April and 20 May**.

The Planning Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month, with the next meetings scheduled for **10 April and 8 May 2025**.

We also hold a bi-monthly Residents Forum, which is open to all residents of Far Cotton and Delapre. We provide updates on what we've been doing, invite guest speakers to attend, and listen to your views on the local issues that matter to you. Our next Residents Forum will be held on **Tuesday 1 April**.

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held at the Rec Centre, Towcester Road, Far Cotton.



Scan this QR Code to go directly to our Facebook page



A large print version of this newsletter is available on request

The latest news and reports from Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council



Inside: all you need to know about the parish elections 2025

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council Newsletter. We hope you have all had a positive start to the year, and we are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2025. You may have noticed that we recently added the finishing touch to the Far Cotton Rec Play Area: a helpful sign welcoming play area users in ten of the most spoken languages in our community. The sign also displays important safety information, including the park's what3words location and nearby defibrillators and bleed kits.

We will be holding a free Afternoon tea and entertainment event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day on 8 May at Towcester Road Methodist Church. Booking is essential and must be completed by Thursday 24 April. Please call **01604 906077** if you would like to attend.



Neighbourhood Plan

Last year the neighbourhood planning steering group met to identify the green spaces in our area. Following on from this we have put together a consultation to gather information about how these spaces are used, and how you'd like to see them used in future. This consultation will likely take around five minutes to complete, and we'd be really grateful to hear from you. Please scan the QR code to complete the survey.



The steering group also met in February to discuss Far Cotton and Delapre's heritage assets. Together with local experts and residents we compiled an extensive list of all the heritage assets Far Cotton and Delapre have to offer. Moving forward, some details outlining each asset's historical value and local importance will be applied, and this will all be included in our Neighbourhood Plan. We also shared the results of our Gloucester Avenue survey, where, much like St Leonard's Road, the subject of parking was a prominent issue. You can view the full results of this on the Neighbourhood planning page of our website: www.farcottonanddelapre-cc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning.

If you'd like a paper copy of the Green Spaces Consultation or need help filling it out, please get in touch: info@farcottonanddelapre-cc.gov.uk or **01604 906077**.

Family Film Evening

At the end of last year, Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council formed an Entertainment Working Group, with the aim of providing free or low cost entertainment options for families across Far Cotton and Delapre. After putting out a poll to the community about the sorts of entertainment you'd like to see, the



Community Council decided to host a free family film evening during February half term. The film screened was the BAFTA nominated 'The Wild Robot'. We had a fantastic turnout and really positive feedback from everyone who attended. Meetu Varshney, who came along with her husband and two children said: "A huge Thank You to Far Cotton & Delapre Community Council. Our family had an amazing time watching 'The Wild Robot'. We truly appreciate the effort in bringing the community together for such a wonderful event. Looking forward to more. Thank you!"

Due to the event's success we have set the date for our next Family Film Evening as Thursday 17th April, 2025. Keep an eye on our social media pages for more information.

Budget 2025/2026

In January 2025, your Community Council set its share of the Council Tax for 2025/2026. After careful consideration, we agreed that the amount each household pays towards the precept will **remain the same**. This will see anyone living in a band D continue to pay £50.21 per annum. You will pay less if your home is in council tax bands A-C. (Around 85% of homes in Far Cotton and Delapre fall within council tax bands A-C) You will pay more if your home is in band E or higher.

Some of the plans for the upcoming year include:

- Extending our In Bloom Displays
- Working with Community Payback to clean up the local area
- Continuing our community grants programme
- Expanding our successful Community Fun Day

- Continuing our Men's breakfast Club
- Continuing our Weekly Stay and Play Group
- Looking into provision for a women-only wellbeing group
- Expanding our summer holiday programme
- Looking into providing a youth club
- Re-vamping our St. Leonard's Road Christmas light display
- Improving play equipment in local green spaces by investing £15,000 in those areas
- Creating a programme of free family entertainment.

Please do get in touch if you would any more detail on any of our plans.

You can view the detailed budget for 2025/2026 at <https://www.farcottonanddelapre-cc.gov.uk/finance.html>



COUNCIL INCOME

Precept	£159,392
Bank Interest	£7,500
MISC	£500
Grant Income	£5,000

TOTAL INCOME £172,392

EXPENDITURE

Staffing Costs

Office Salaries including employers HMRC	£50,425
Environmental Support Officer*	£24,000
Employers Pension Contributions	£2,000
Training	£2,500
HR Support	£2,000
Staffing Total:	£ 80,925

Administration

Council Van*	£3,500
Software	£750
Website and Email	£625
Office IT and Phone	£2,592
Printing, postage and stationery	£550
Office rental/meeting room hire	£7,500
Insurance	£1,500
Subscriptions	£4,000
Audit/professional fees	£1,350
Bank Charges	£150
Administration Total:	£22,517

Allotments

Water	£1,500
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* New services to be introduced during 2025-2026

Community Projects

CCTV*	£10,000
Family Entertainment	£1,500
Climate/Sustainability*	£2,000
School Holiday programme	£4,000
Youth Club*	£3,750
In Bloom	£15,000
Poppy Displays	£250
Community Safety	£5,000
Newsletter	£7,500
Community Grants	£7,500
Engagement Events	£5,500
Residents Forum	£250
Neighbourhood Plan	£5,000
Noticeboards	£1,000
Wellbeing	£2,500
Stay & Play	£2,500
Men's Breakfast Club	£2,000
Flood Resilience	£2,000
Play Equipment	£15,000
Christmas lights (inc. annual testing, install & dismantle)	£5,500
Community Projects Total:	£97,950

Total Income:	£172,392
Total Expenditure:	£202,692
Net Expenditure (to be met from council reserves):	-£30,300

Community Speedwatch

In recent years, Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council have taken part in Community Speed Watch. Speed Watch trains volunteers to use a calibrated speed gun (the same as the police use) and anyone caught speeding is sent a letter from the police. Although fines are not issued, repeat offenders can expect a visit from the police. This year we will be taking part again, and we will have use of the equipment from the 28 June to 26 July. We are looking for community volunteers to get involved and help make local roads safer.

If you think you can help please get in touch and training will be provided. We always work in pairs, or ideally groups of three, so it's a great opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals from the community. All evidence collected from Speed Watch can be used in future discussions with West Northamptonshire Council over possible traffic calming methods.



Elections 2025

Are you Registered to Vote?

The local and parish council elections will be held this year on 1 May, where you will have the opportunity to elect 3 ward Councillors and 12 Community Councillors. It is important to ensure that you are registered to vote if you would like to have your say on who represents Far Cotton and Delapre. The deadline for this is 11 April, and you can do this online at gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Could you be a Community Councillor?

At its formation in 2021, Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council had an uncontested election, as more seats were available than nominations for candidates. Further nominations were sought and the community council co-opted a further 7 councillors to make up the shortfall.

We believe the best thing for local democracy is to have enough nominations to make an election necessary, giving people in our community a choice about who it is that represents them in the council.

If you live or work in the area and believe you could make a positive impact, generate new ideas and initiatives, or have a local issue you are particularly passionate about, you may find being a councillor very rewarding. And you will be doing your bit to make sure the council is meaningfully community led.

Being a Councillor also offers numerous opportunities for growth and personal development through valuable experience and training programmes. So, why not stand for nomination?

Nomination papers must be filled out by hand on a hard copy and submitted to West Northamptonshire Council by **Wednesday 2 April**. Scan the QR code to find a nomination pack ready to print off.





FAR COTTON AND DELAPRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

1 MAY 2025

Are you interested in driving change by becoming a member of a community-led council?!



WWW.FARCOTTONANDELAPRE-CC.GOV.UK

You can find more information on deadlines, eligibility criteria and standing as a candidate on our website: <https://www.farcottonanddelapre-cc.gov.uk/elections-2025>

If you would like any more information about the upcoming election, contact us: clerk@farcottonanddelapre-cc.gov.uk or **01604 906077**