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Stay 'In Touch' with the

**Corby & E Northants Conservative Association**

Published by RM Boyd on behalf of Corby & E Northants Conservative Association and Tom Pursglove MP, all at CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ. Printed by Contract Printing Services Ltd., Unit J, Cavendish Courtyard, Sallow Road, Weldon North Industrial Estate, Corby, NN17 5DZ

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

*It is now almost two months since the people of this country began to put up with restrictions on their freedom of a kind that we have never seen before in peace or war.*

*And you have shown the good sense to support those rules overwhelmingly.*

*You have put up with all the hardships of that programme of social distancing.*

*Because you understand that as things stand, and as the experience of every other country has shown, it's the only way to defeat the coronavirus – the most vicious threat this country has faced in my lifetime.*

*We have a route, and we have a plan, and everyone in government has the all-consuming pressure and challenge to save lives, restore livelihoods and gradually restore the freedoms that we need. But in the end this is a plan that everyone must make work.*

*And when I look at what you have done already.*

*The patience and common sense you have shown. The fortitude of the elderly whose isolation we all want to end as fast as we can. The incredible bravery and hard work of our NHS staff, our care workers.*

*The devotion and self-sacrifice of all those in every walk of life who are helping us to beat this disease. Police, bus drivers, train drivers, pharmacists, supermarket workers, road hauliers, bin collectors, cleaners, security guards, postal workers, our teachers and a thousand more. The scientists who are working round the clock to find a vaccine.*

*When I think of the millions of everyday acts of kindness and thoughtfulness that are being performed across this country and that have helped to get us through this first phase, I know that we can use this plan to get us through the next.*

*And if we can't do it by the planned dates, and if the alert level won't allow it, we will simply wait and go on until we have got it right*

Thank you all, **Boris Johnson**

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

20 May 2020

I was tempted to rename this Report to the Covid Report, rather than Chairman's Report, but resisted. After all, whilst all of our lives are being affected by the current awful pandemic sweeping the world, and the number of people infected continues to rise, we have to carry on and ensure we are ready for when life starts returning to normal. As an Association, we continue to operate, to help people where we are able, to keep in touch with Members, and to plan and prepare for the future – as always. Fingers crossed, it does appear that we are entering the recovery phase of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Virtual Events supported by CCHQ.** As you would imagine, as your Chairman I am in very regular contact with CCHQ and Chairman from other Associations. One of the things we have been discussing is whether there is any merit in trying to organise an online Zoom (video call) event with a guest speaker. As the regional winner of the CCHQ Incentive Award Scheme last year, CENCA automatically qualifies for early support from CCHQ. The exact details of how it would work; how we would charge for event tickets; attendee participation etc are still being discussed, but I will update Members by email should it move forwards.

**Unitary.** Details of the new Unitary are now more comprehensive. The first meeting (of 151 Councillors via online Zoom video conference!), will take place at 7:00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

All current members of the five sovereign councils representing North Northamptonshire wards/divisions (East Northants, Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and County) are automatically members of the Shadow Council, meaning that until the Unitary election in 2021 (there are no elections this year), there will be 151 Councillors of the Shadow Council.



The “Shadow Period” for the North Northamptonshire Council commenced on 11th May 2020, with Vesting Day for the new unitary authority to be 1st April 2021.

The meeting to be held on 4th June is effectively the Annual Council, and will determine certain administrative and housekeeping issues for the Shadow Council.

These will include electing a Chair, confirming committee membership, approving a Constitution and Code of Conduct etc.

Legislation has determined that the Shadow Council will be governed using Executive Arrangements. MHCLG dictate that the Executive Committee will consist of two councillors selected from each current sovereign authority (for East Northamptonshire that is Steve North (and David Jenney). Those members of the Executive will not “represent” their sovereign council, rather they will all work together to represent the Unitary Shadow Authority. The Government has also decided that Cllr Russell Roberts (BC Kettering), the Chair of the Leaders’ Oversight Board, will be the Leader for the Shadow North Northamptonshire Council and Cllr Martin Griffiths (BC Wellingborough), the Chair of the North Joint Committee, will be Deputy Leader.

The proposed governance (subject to Council approval) also allows for an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Committee and a Senior Officer Appointments Committee. Councillor representation on these committees will be subject to political proportionality rules, following discussions with the recognised political groups on the Shadow Council.

**Labour – a new Leader.** So Jeremy Corbyn has finally left the building, and we now face a new Opposition Leader in Sir Keir Starmer. There is no doubt that he will pose a more serious threat than Mr Corbyn (stop laughing at the back).

Continued>>>>

As John Macdonald, Head of Government Affairs at the Adam Smith Institute think tank, recently stated, "Starmer is no doubt more popular than the previous leader. As it stands, this is almost entirely because he is not Jeremy Corbyn."

However we won't really know how strong the opposition is until life, and Parliament, starts returning to normal, and we can see how the public really viewed the Government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Covid-19.** There is absolutely no doubt, the current pandemic will change all of our lives forever. The financial impact will be felt for generations, and the way we live our everyday lives could take years to return to what we used to consider being normal, if indeed they ever do. Fortunately, we appear to be entering the "recovery phase", as I mentioned earlier, and we can but hope that we don't see a recurrence in the months and years to come.

You will all be aware of the current situation, after all the news seems to report on nothing but the pandemic, so I won't repeat the statistics or advice here. Save to say that, as we work through the financial recovery, reducing unemployment, helping businesses recover, and beginning again to interact socially in person, I hope that we all

remember what it was like to have to look out for our neighbours and the more vulnerable, to remember we are part of a community, to be aware of the importance of our key workers, and never stop doing that.

I'd like to finish with a heartfelt Thank You to Ray Boyd. As you will know, Ray stepped in at the last minute to takeover "running" the Association on a day-to-day basis. Even in these difficult times of social isolation and working from home, Ray continues to ensure that the CENCA office runs smoothly, urgent matters are dealt with, and communication with Members continues. Whilst there are many others who contribute hugely to the Association, as your Chairman, I would be absolutely lost without Ray.

Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

Yours,



**Councillor Lee Wilkes**  
Chairman – Corby & East Northamptonshire  
Conservative Association

**WE ARE THE 2020 NUMBER ONE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION IN THE WHOLE OF THE EAST MIDLANDS.**

## TEMPORARY OFFICE CLOSURE

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club is closed for business and access to the office is therefore restricted. Mail is collected weekly on a Monday and I will be in the office from 10am to 12noon on that day.

On other days I am working from home and you can reach me via email or phone should you have urgent matters to discuss. My details are below:

Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net. The office email address is: office@cenca.co.uk and this is being monitored daily. My home telephone: 01536 742954 (Unless already registered you may have to identify yourself on this phone before being connected). If I am unavailable please leave a message and I will get back to you.

You can also contact the Chairman, Cllr Lee Wilkes, and his contact details are:

Email: l.wilkes@weteachyou.co.uk Telephone: 07720 890 273

The Government's first steps to relax the lockdown were announced on 10 May. Let us hope that we can soon get back to normality.

Kind regards and keep well, Ray Boyd

**PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR MAILCHIMP COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY GO TO YOUR EMAIL SPAM BOX**

## A READER'S VIEWS

Firstly I must say I am so sorry for anyone's loss of life during this terrible time across the world. While some wish to get back to work others, myself included, do not wish to see another spike being caused by this nasty virus. Economically our country is already suffering and life will be a lot different after we get on top of this nasty killer. I do wish that after a lot more thought will go into how we treat others in our society and give huge thanks to our N.H.S. staff and all others who have managed to supply us with so many different areas of service.

Boris and crew have a real challenge and will be chastised for doing right or wrong in the coming months, but no one knew the extent of what hit us all so could any one government have got it right, now or in the future. I just hope when the time is right that heads of ordering specialist equipment be it masks/gowns/machinery in hospital and care homes have learnt a huge lesson of 'Be Prepared' these people are usually very well paid [we pay their wages]. Each hospital or care home does NOT need expensive wall art or very best office furniture for the management to use or other wasteful luxuries - all our doctors, nurses and staff really need is equipment fit for purpose. We have in our country companies that have come forward and helped by manufacturing such equipment so let's hope that their efforts result in their getting orders in the future at an affordable cost, so we don't have to beg from other countries ever again. I do think that after this huge shock we all realise that we should have to pay more for our NHS service and totally end the 'Health Tourism'.

We all must praise Nurses, Doctors, Consultants, Auxiliary staff, so many differing roles in any way we can, clapping every Thursday is about all we can do for now, but please keep it in mind.

Wishing everyone well and please take care of you and yours.

Dee Davies [ Member ]

The comments of all Magazine contributors are obviously their own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Association or its management.

**Just a thought:** The former Conservative Party treasurer Michael Ashcroft this month satirically claimed that if the Second World War happened today, common questions would include "Does the siren apply to everyone?" "Why can't I have almond milk on my ration card?" and "Why didn't we have stockpiles of Spitfires at the start of this conflict?"

## AT LAST ! HELP WITH SCAM EMAILS



You may have seen emails and messages informing you of health tests that can tell you if you have contracted Coronavirus and how to cure it for a huge price, or had people you don't know or trust contacting you offering to help with running errands, or to pick up prescriptions and shopping.

You can rank these emails along with others offering Russian brides or vitality pills. Junk them all.

But now, at last, there is help with scam emails.

You should forward all suspected scam emails to:

[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

This is the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) which will analyse the email and they can remove the culprit sites.

Please spread the word.

Of course, knowing how the mind of the scammers works, they will probably start sending out emails pretending they are from GCHQ.

Anyway, the advice is: be on your guard.

*(The above information is courtesy of Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis).*

### TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

Following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line. Telephone 0020 7219 8043 to make an appointment. Regular surgeries will continue once we get through this period of difficulty.

# TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

13 May 2019

These are the most abnormal of times that each and every one of us are living through at the moment and I first want to start by saying that I am hugely grateful to you and your family for your patience during this time of great challenge in all our lives, and I can entirely appreciate the frustration – as I feel it too.

The commemoration of VE Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May was not the same as it would have been in normal circumstances, but it was a special moment where we all came together as a country to pay tribute to that generation, to remember their sacrifices, and to honour their legacy. I have to say I thought the programme of events came together beautifully as a fitting tribute and in the vast majority of instances we saw communities across the country come together in a managed, responsible, socially-distanced way. That said, I think many of us would concede, not least in the glorious sunshine, that it probably did bring into sharp focus just how difficult it is not to be able to see loved ones, to not be able to partake in the activities and the simple pleasures of life that we enjoy, and to not be able to go about our business as freely as we are so accustomed to, for an extended period of time. Without question, as the weeks go by, it gets harder too.

But be in no doubt - those sacrifices that each and every one of us have made over these past few weeks, although in a very different way to that generation back in the late 1930s and early 1940s, have made a huge difference – driving the rate of reproduction, or the 'R' rate below 1, helping to dramatically reduce the prevalence of the virus in our communities and flattening the curve, and to get us well on the road to beating this dreadful virus altogether. I know it is an enormous relief to us all that the death rate is falling and the transmission rate is slowing even further. I also want to say that my thoughts, and those of the whole community here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, are with those who have lost loved ones through this dreadful disease, at this most difficult of times for them.



We are also thinking of all those who are currently battling with the virus and willing them on to pull through.

The progress that has been made in recent weeks directly led to the Prime Minister being able to make an important announcement about the way forward as we move into the next phase of the emergency response, and you can read his letter about this on our CENCA website at:

[www.corbyandeastnorthantsconservatives.org.uk](http://www.corbyandeastnorthantsconservatives.org.uk)

I will be keeping my dedicated Coronavirus website tab up-to-date with the latest information, which you can find at the following link:

<https://www.vote Pursglove.co.uk/covid-19-coronavirus>.

Of course, should you have any queries thereafter, please do feel free to get in touch and I will gladly seek appropriate advice accordingly on your behalf.

Locally, there continues to be strong coordination on the ground across our various public services in responding to this challenge, and as Northamptonshire MPs, we are kept well updated and are readily able to feed local views and concerns into the system, in order that they can be addressed and solutions found where they are required. The same applies nationally – Ministers are actively engaging with us and I continue to feed local views and ideas back to them about the 'lockdown', the package of support to help people, businesses and communities through this period, and the plans for the recovery thereafter. I am really grateful to all those constituents who have fed various ideas, issues or concerns through to me, which I have then relayed to Ministers in our discussions – in many cases, solutions have subsequently been identified, and on some issues there remains work to do. As we move into this next phase,

Continued>>>>

I will continue to do my bit to help inform both the local and national response, in order to get it right for people here in Corby & East Northamptonshire.



As we move forward, I very much hope that everyone will engage constructively together to make this work and to ensure a speedy recovery for our country from this hugely challenging period. Partisan posturing and bickering have no place right now – we have a common objective of preserving life and responsibly lifting the restrictions, and that must be our focus. I know that if we continue to work together as a country, in the spirit that has characterised the last few weeks, I am confident that we will get there. Rather like at the weekend where we commemorated VE Day, and we marked that important national moment and reflected upon the huge sacrifices of that generation and all they did in the face of adversity, we must do so again in the here and now.

The circumstances are of course very different, but that spirit of common-cause, of resilience, and of community, matters now just as much as it did then.

Day in, day out, we are seeing the very best of our country and our community – our amazing doctors and nurses and our remarkable social care staff working tirelessly under great pressure, all of the exceptionally dedicated key workers and public servants who are diligently fulfilling their duties around the clock, and the volunteers who are moving heaven and earth to help others in all of our cities, towns, villages and streets. We continue to say “thank you” to them all and pay tribute to the huge contribution they are making.

The weeks ahead will continue to be enormously challenging and we must not be complacent – together, let’s stick the course, stay alert to the risks the virus poses to us all, act responsibly to ensure we do not allow it to spread, and ultimately, save lives. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in support of this most important national effort – the challenge of our time.

With best wishes,

**Tom Pursglove**

Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire



Local Conservative Policy Forum meetings are suspended for a while but we hope to resume these interesting get-togethers as soon as we are able.

The discussions at our most recent meeting were reported in our April magazine. This can still be read on line at [www.cenca.co.uk/ourmagazine](http://www.cenca.co.uk/ourmagazine)

If any members would like to submit a letter or an article for the Magazine or comment on our contributors’ articles please email the editor at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net). Letters may be edited.



# RAY JACKSON - LOGISTICS AND STATISTICS

21 May 2020.

They are undoubtedly brave and deserve our praise and admiration. I am writing of course of all the NHS staff who have been risking their lives day in and out to save us from Covid 19. It is an outstanding example of a sense of duty to the public expressed by mainly young people.

Having written that, why did the managers of the NHS allow two doctors, both Indian and both highly qualified to sacrifice their lives when their talents and experience are desperately needed for strategy and planning? The campaign has been badly fought and many good BritCits have died and their families devastated. There were no restrictions on money, authority, manpower, for example. It was Germany which showed the quiet confidence and skill and saved lives. We did not cotton on to this, but with month succeeding month there was time for second thoughts. Like many others I tried to follow events. My obvious yardstick was the number of dead reported each day. I hated the ever increasing numbers especially when I could no longer trust them. It was not possible to provide numbers at the weekend on the same basis as the weekday ones. Despite the large numbers of people involved there was no one to keep the system going seven days a week. The most obvious measurement, one which you would have thought the planners would have needed above all others, was not available.

Then we learned that deaths in the thousands of care homes had been excluded but were now being included.. The emphasis shifts to promises to do a large number of tests each week.

I failed to see the significance of this except

Labour has cancelled its annual conference. The Lib Dems are expected to follow suit, but at the moment the Conservatives are still 'planning' to go ahead in Birmingham.

perhaps as a means of assessing the size of the problem. It would help presumably that it had gone over from 900 to 1000 per day. A hint of why the project was out of control was the incident when the Turkish Government promised to send us 4 million sets of protective clothing; the sort of promises handed out regularly to purchasing officers in industry. Typically the promise is followed by a delay because the goods are not ready – but could be if an alternative were acceptable from another source. Further delay because the second supplier has been tempted to sell them to another customer, but for a small increase would honour his commitment. (By this time our junior buyer smells the rat.) In our case the price increase is accepted if only to get the prime minister off the buyer's back. But delivery regrettably cannot be made because there is no transport. If the Brits could send a couple of heavy transport planes all would be well. So we do. And in the end the product is not fit for purpose. Now we can go back to wondering just why we have authorised so many test procedures. And BriCits continue to die.

We don't want the EU. We can manage much better on our own

*Ray Jackson* 200 Club Chairman



*Ray Jackson*



The monthly draw for the 200 Club prize is delayed until the office is opened again when all outstanding draws will be made

**JUST A THOUGHT:** Dominic Cummings and lockdown. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this matter remember that this row is being deliberately fanned by the enemies of Brexit, of the Conservatives and of Cummings himself. We mustn't play into their hands.

# Northamptonshire County Council News

The authority has reported an underspend of £641,000 for the 2019/20 financial year, adding to last year's underspend of £4.5 million.

The 2019-2020 position is based on a provisional outturn forecast and is still subject to change. The final figure will be confirmed in a report to cabinet in July.

This is the second year in a row that the budget has been balanced without the use of reserves, something which the council says had not been achieved in the previous 10 years. It also means that the authority now has £43.8 million in general and earmarked reserves. £23.8 million of that is earmarked, while the remaining £20 million may have to potentially cover any losses due to coronavirus. The finances appeared to have been turned around from the situation that the county council faced in 2017/18. but obviously the pandemic outbreak will now have a huge effect of the council's finances.

But the effect of the coronavirus pandemic is likely to leave a financial hole of between £14 million and £27 million for 2020/21. That is even after a £30 million handout from the Government.

Councillor Matt Golby, the Conservative leader of Northamptonshire County Council, said: "At one point in the recent past, our financial challenge stood at £64.2 million and we had a long road ahead of us.

"Since then, we have all worked extremely hard and made some real progress in our efforts to close the gap. The fact that we are able to report another end-of-year underspend – in addition to that delivered in 2018/19 – is a considerable accomplishment.

"This remarkable achievement goes to show the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in getting our finances back on track. Of course, our efforts will continue so that we can ensure we are in a strong position for the transition to the two unitary organisations.

In March, Northamptonshire County Council's cabinet agreed to endorse the purchase of two thermal repair machines to be used by KierWSP.

The machines are more environmentally friendly, cost just £35 per square metre compared to £90 per square metre using current methods, and would repair up to 100 potholes a day compared to 40 using traditional road repair methods.

The new machine had already been trialed in Wellingborough and East Northants, and according to the county council was scheduled to begin work in other areas in March.

However, the coronavirus pandemic has taken precedence in the county council's priorities.

Household Waste Recycling Centres operated by NCC re-opened on 18 May [for essential use only](#).



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Source: Northants Evening Telegraph and Northants Chronicle & Echo

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

*We are likely to have vacancies for seats in the 2021 Unitary elections and members are welcome to put their names forward for these.*

*In April next year as the Borough and District Councils are replaced by the new Unitary some areas will have new local town councils. We will need members to stand for election to these bodies.*

## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Our regular meetings have been suspended during the lockdown. Our next planned Executive meeting was scheduled for 21st August but the date/venue will be confirmed once we get more information on the easing of the restrictions.

# AN UPDATE FROM OUR CAMPAIGN MANAGER, ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG

## Lockdown Life.

I am sure that many of you think that I have spent the last 8 weeks sitting around with my feet up. Thankfully nothing could be further from the truth!

Whilst the elections have been postponed from May 2020 to May 2021, this just means that I have time to spend on tasks that may have been neglected in 2019 because of the seemingly endless round of elections.

Most of the last 8 weeks have been spent in entering the Marked Register for the 2019 General Election. The Association pays for the list of who voted (but not who they voted for) in the election, which I then manually input onto Vote Source, the Conservative Party Database. A tedious task, but it provides valuable information that can be used when targeting voters in forthcoming elections.

Alongside this I have been spending about 2 days a week training via webinars and online courses trying to improve my ability as a campaign manager. I am always amazed that the more I know, the more I realise how little I know!

I do consider myself very lucky in that I can continue with the job that I love, although I do miss being able to go out and talk to people on the doorstep.

I have really enjoyed the recent sunshine, and the spare time that has allowed me to find my vegetable garden that had succumbed to a year of neglect. I now await the fruits of my hard labour's arrival on my plate.

I know that these are difficult times for most of us, but please do bear in mind that this will all be a memory before too long. Meanwhile, may I suggest you make the most of the respite from my repeated pleas for help, as I am sure you will be hearing from me when we are able to resume normal campaigning!!

With my very best wishes and hope that you all stay safe and well,

Rosemary



22 May 2020

Sweden's lockdown-free strategy to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic is a global outlier. Business Insider reports the Nordic country has a soaring death rate, with many of the oldest, frailest people left vulnerable to catching the virus. According to The Sun, the country has the highest

coronavirus death rate in the world per capita over the last week after continuing to shun lockdown. Former state epidemiologist Annika Linde says in hindsight, Sweden probably should have instituted a lockdown after all. She said: "I think we're starting to see that the Swedish model maybe hasn't been the smartest in every respect,"

"If we had to do this over again, I think we should have imposed significantly tougher restrictions from the beginning. "We should have known how underprepared we were in healthcare, and elder care. A shutdown could have given us a chance to prepare ourselves, think things through, and radically slow the spread of infection."

# Coronavirus, it has debunked Extinction Rebellion.

16 May 2020

You will be forgiven if you are feeling a little down and despondent in the current climate. Never have we faced such a barrage of gloomy news stories than now. Every news channel seems to be looking for the worst news story they can find. Most are directed at the UK government and particularly the Prime Minister. We have a massive National Health Service with hundreds of thousands of dedicated workers, nurses and doctors. Yet the Main Stream Media (MSM) would have us believe that everything that is imperfect within the NHS is Boris Johnson's fault. It's abundantly clear that the MSM and particularly the BBC are using the Coronavirus as a post Brexit Proxy War. Labour just see it as an opportunity to recover some ground from their abysmal General Election result. The cries to extend the Brexit transition from Remainers are loud. I'm convinced they see this as their final last stand, their Battle of the Bulge, to delay and ultimately stop Brexit. The BBC cannot hide their contempt for us Tories, Laura Kuenssberg unbelievably Tweeting that Starmer the "Lawyer" was taking on Johnson the "showman". You pay her wages to insult us.

What's clear is nobody knows how Coronavirus will pan out and its ultimate fallout. Those countries that stopped the virus in its early stages are now stuck in containment until a reliable vaccine is developed. Why? Because 20% of us will be asymptomatic without illness but able to infect others and if we are ill it can take up to 5 days for the symptoms to appear in which time you could have infected more than 2 people. International travel is curtailed. Scientists have still not created a vaccine for the common cold - another coronavirus type. Boris Johnson again has been criticised for saying a vaccine may never be created but he is just reflecting the truth. We should be prepared for that eventuality.

This leads me to the main point of my article. If there is one very, very thin silver lining to this extremely black cloud it is that Extinction Rebellion have been proved to be barking up the wrong tree. Their message of a manmade global warming apocalypse as the biggest threat to mankind has been disproved.

I digress slightly, I'm an avid listener of "The infinite Monkey Cage" on Radio 4 where they discuss scientific topics, one episode theorised that we didn't physically exist but were merely one of many simulations running on a massive supercomputer. Does this remind you of the popular SIMS computer game where you built a home and added characters with their own personality traits then leave them to live their lives and watch the resulting mayhem? Well if we are a great big massive SIMS game we are now the creation of Greta Thunberg.

Here's why. Our society and way of life are massively based on consumption of energy and resources. Right now, under lockdown that consumption is dramatically reduced and yet we are surviving. We may not be able to buy as much stuff or travel as much as we want but we are coping.

And here's the rub. Within Greta's SIMS (Extinction Rebellion version) game our economy is likely to plunge into a depression none of us have seen the like of.



Image by UnserRevier from Pixabay

Even more worrying is that the current reduction in CO2 output of 36% is nowhere near Extinction Rebellions demand of net zero by 2025. To put that in context car journeys have reduced by 80%, air travel has plunged 90%, closed businesses have drastically reduced demand on energy and yet we are nowhere near net zero. How do Extinction Rebellion think we will transform energy production in our economy in just 60 months?

In reality Extinction Rebellion would have been best putting their efforts into demonstrating against the Chinese Wet Markets where the Coronavirus originated or indeed against the overuse of antibiotics, particularly in China, which will lead to antibiotic resistance which is predicted to kill more of us than Global warming. All their infuriating demonstrations were no more than a narcissistic indulgence by, ironically, mostly people who don't work or put wealth into our economy but live off the back of it.

Post thought. Perhaps there should be a SIMS Extinction Rebellion version it might help many realise that energy production cannot be changed by the wave of a magic wand.

CBC Councillor Kevin Watt

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

To minimise local administration, the Voluntary Party's Membership Committee has recommended that no new local Standing Orders or Bank Transfers are set up from this point. They advise associations to direct members to pay through Direct Debit or Credit/Debit Card (online or via the CCHQ Membership Team). Please note, the money received by Associations remains the same whether payments are made centrally or locally.

So if you know of someone who would like to join please ask them to go to:

[www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com) and click on the 'join' tab.

Our Association was chosen as one of those to trial the new membership scheme and this system is working well. Ultimately CCHQ would like to encourage all members to renew through CCHQ to avoid the half and half system we have at the moment.

**Members should check that their membership subscription is up to date. Subscriptions fall due on the anniversary of joining, not on 1st January. Reminders are sent out. If payment is made using a VISA card please note that when your card expires payments for subscriptions stop.**

### DO YOU GET OUR MAILCHIMP EMAILS?

We have 470 members on our email list and a regular email is sent out to keep members informed of latest news.

Unfortunately a number of members have reported that they have not seen these emails. It is likely that they have gone into their spam box so this should be checked and the sender marked as acceptable for future emails.

**If you are still not receiving them please email the editor on [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net) and your address will be checked. If there is still a problem then copies of Mailchimp emails can be sent from the office email address.**

And of course you can always check our website which also contains the latest news. Go to: [www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS

East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) welcomed a new Chairman for its last Civic Year via the first virtual full council meeting.

Cllr Helen Howell (who is our Association Deputy Chairman Membership) took over from outgoing chairman Cllr Dudley Hughes, at the Annual Meeting of the council for 2020/21.

Cllr Howell has served on the council for five years and was Vice-Chairman for the past two years, she will be supported by her consort, Cllr Lee Wilkes. She will now be Chairman of ENC, until it ceases to exist on 31 March 2021 and the new North Northamptonshire Council is formed.

During the virtual meeting, Cllr Howell said:

*"Since I first became a Councillor for ENC, I have always felt part of something special, I have met so many wonderful people and hope to continue to do so over my year as Chairman.*

*"As we enter our final year, we must make it special - East Northamptonshire Council deserves to go out with a fanfare and when we are able to celebrate the district and the people who live in the communities within it, we must do so."*

And congratulations also to our Chairman, Councillor Lee Wilkes, who has been elected as Deputy Mayor of Raunds.

Also congratulations are due to Cllr Sylvia Hughes who was elected as Mayor of Raunds and to Cllr Steven North who was elected as Leader of ENDC for the 10th year running.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> July please. Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor. You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net)  
All emails will be acknowledged.

# CHANCELLOR'S FURLOUGH SCHEME UPDATE

12 May 2020

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced an extension to the furlough scheme currently subsidising the wages of millions - but the Chancellor but we all know this cannot go on indefinitely.

At least 6.3 million people are currently having up to 80% of their salaries paid by the taxpayer under the furlough system at a cost of some £8 billion.

Mr Sunak has previously said he was preparing to "wean" workers and businesses off the programme - which currently runs until the end of June - but calls have been made for it to be prolonged.

But today he revealed his plans to continue the scheme until the end of October. Until the end of July there will be no change.

The government will ask companies from that point to share the cost of the scheme.

The Chancellor said the multi-billion pound subsidy, which had been due to end next month, will stay in place for four more months, and it will still cover 80 per cent of wages up to a ceiling of £2,500 a month.

With concerns the scheme is costing £14 billion a month - roughly equivalent to the NHS budget - Mr Sunak also told the Commons that from July it will be available for workers who go back part-time, in a bid to 'wean' businesses off the support.

*'Firms will have to cover a proportion of wages if they take advantage of the 'flexibility', he said.*

The announcement came despite speculation has been mounting that he would cut the proportion of pay to 60 per cent after the existing end date of July, as ministers urge people to return to work and loosen the lockdown strangling the economy.

**Just a thought:** "We're likely to face a severe recession the likes of which we have not seen, and of course that will have an impact on unemployment." **Rishi Sunak, MP 19 May 2020**

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## BBC PANORAMA 4th May 2020

The edition of BBC1's Panorama in early May investigated the undeniably serious fiasco of PPE. Fair enough. The Government has many questions to answer.

It has since emerged that all five of the doctors and nurses Panorama chose to interview were longstanding Labour Party activists or supporters.

This was not shared with viewers, in what appears to be a flagrant breach of BBC guidelines.

This failure to level with its audience was almost certainly a breach of the Beeb's own guidelines. The following are the so-called experts in this field. Most of the interviewees' left-wing activism and criticisms pre-date the pandemic.

Mr Sunak told MPs: 'Until the end of July there will be no changes whatsoever.'

'Then from August to October, the scheme will continue for all sectors and regions of the UK but with greater flexibility to support the transition back to work.'

'Employers currently using the scheme will be able to bring furloughed employees back part-time.'

'And we will ask employers to start sharing with the Government the cost of paying people's salaries.'

'Full details will follow by the end of May.'

But some workers in sectors facing months more of uncertainty could reportedly receive supplements if they cannot return to work, or only return part-time.

Mr Sunak has insisted there will be no 'cliff edge' to the support, but admitted the scale of the bailouts are not 'sustainable'.

Boris Johnson's roadmap for releasing the lockdown, published on 11 May 2020, suggested that hospitality businesses and others like hairdressers and gyms, face being closed until July at the earliest.

Taking questions from MPs, Mr Johnson said: *'I do think that the furloughing scheme has been one of the most remarkable features of the Government's response and it is unlike anything seen internationally.'*

*'Six-and-a-half million people currently are being supported. It is absolutely right that we should do it.'*

Source: Mailonline 12 May 2020



**Dr. Sonia Adesara** A former Labour candidate who has featured in Corbyn videos, shared a stage with him and has spoken at Corbyn rally. Wikipedia entry is dedicated to her activism.

**Nurse Libby Nolan** Unison Union Shop Steward who has attended Corbyn rallies, called for Matt Hancock to be sacked and called for action against the government

**Dr. Irial Eno** Member of 'Docs not Cops', wants free migrant NHS access, describes Tories as 'Privatising, Warmongering, Immigrant-hating Prats and is Anti-Israel.

**Dr. Asif Munaf** Pro-Corbyn, attacked new Tory Red Wall voters and is anti-Tory

**Dr. Abhi Mantgani** Forced to stand down from Wirral CCG, supported Momentum, Supportive of Labour and called Minister 'Pompous Fool'.



# Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

15 May 2020

These are very strange times we are living in. For the last few weeks, everyone has been rightly preoccupied with staying home, keeping safe and preventing the spread of this virus.

I have been out on patrol with Northamptonshire Police officers several times, to get a feel for how they are engaging with people and I hope that if you have comments to make you will email me.

Both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue are working hard and in new ways and I felt the time was right to update you on some of the activities underway as both organisations continue to strive to keep you safe.

I have funded the purchase of 500 extra laptops to ensure that the Force retains capacity and is resilient and can allow staff to work from home. These laptops have allowed members of the Force Control Room with health conditions that put them in the 'at risk' category to work from home and for the first time, to receive calls from the public as they would in the control room.

No 999 or first contact 101 calls are managed by staff working from home in case the remote connection fails during a call: only those calls that have been triaged and risk assessed by someone in the FCR are routed to those working at home.

Staff working from home are currently able to receive and deal with inbound non-emergency calls, administrative functions, crime recording and processing of single online home reports received adding a valuable contribution to FCR daily business.

This initiative has ensured that there is no disruption to the service that the public receive,



and capacity has been maintained during the outbreak so far.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have also taken on a variety of different roles to support the community and the response to the Covid 19 outbreak.

The Fire and Rescue Service will be among the six Fire and Rescue services across the East Midlands joining East Midlands Ambulance Service to commence training to

support the response to COVID-19.

If the need arises in the coming weeks, fire service personnel will work alongside EMAS Urgent Care colleagues and will carry out support tasks such as driving Urgent Care vehicles and the safe moving and handling of patients.



Firefighters and staff from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have also been working with pharmacies to deliver essential medication to vulnerable people across the county. They will be delivering for community pharmacies and dispensing GP practices, which will free up pharmacy staff to cope with increased demand for support and advice, while also ensuring that vulnerable people are able to stay at home instead of coming out to collect medication.

I am proud of the way our emergency services have responded to the challenges of dealing with COVID 19 pandemic. I am equally proud of the work the force has been undertaken to deal with burglaries in the county.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

The number of home invasions across Northamptonshire has reduced by over 34% in the first year Northamptonshire Police's dedicated burglary team has been operating, meaning that there have been 1,000 fewer victims of crime. The work also means that burglary overall is now at its lowest level since June 2008,



Operation Crooked is the Force's campaign to reduce home invasions - a crime which I asked the Chief Constable to make a priority. As part of the operation, the Burglary Team, which sits within CID, ensures that every burglary victim in Northamptonshire is guaranteed a visit from the police. The team also work to review and drive up the quality of investigations, manage and progress forensic hits, hunt down wanted people, organise police patrols in areas of concern and gather intelligence to prevent burglaries before they happen.

In one area of Northampton for example, burglaries have fallen by over 50%. Also, since the operation began, over 250 people have been arrested for burglary offences. This is fantastic news as people have told me that they wanted to see a focus on crimes that really affect their community like burglary and Northamptonshire Police have truly delivered. Not only has the Force cracked down hard on burglary, but they have also worked hard to explain to people how they can help to prevent crime and I am sure that all of these actions will have had a very positive effect on the confidence and safety of communities across Northamptonshire.

Details of how you can protect your home and beat the burglar can be found on our new website, which can be found at:

<http://protectyourhomenorthants.co.uk/>

These are difficult times and if you need any help or advice please get in touch with me at:

[commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk)

## Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

Please be aware that there are thieves out there using the Coronavirus to scare people into parting with their money. Watch out for bogus callers at your door who may pretend to be from the council or perhaps the water board, etc. Don't be taken in—and don't let them in.

### Election of Officers of CENCA:

The following were elected to office at the 2020 AGM:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Eileen Kemp</b>	<b>(Honorary)</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Lee Wilkes</b>	<b>(2 years to serve)</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Richard Levell</b>	<b>(1 year to serve)</b>
<b>Dep Chairman (Political):</b>	<b>Harriet Pentland</b>	<b>(1 year to serve)</b>
<b>Dep Chairman (Memb):</b>	<b>Helen Howell</b>	<b>(1 year to serve)</b>
<b>CPF Chairman:</b>	<b>George Whittaker</b>	<b>(2 years to serve)</b>
<b>200 Club/Fundraising):</b>	<b>Ray Jackson</b>	<b>(2 years to serve)</b>
<b>Communications:</b>	<b>Ray Boyd</b>	<b>(2 years to serve)</b>

### FACEBOOK GROUP 'CORBY CHATS BACK'

This group is not a genuine chat group of friendly Corby folk. It was started by a Labour activist and is a thinly-disguised Labour Party advertising sheet.

The nasty trolls on it spreading poison and using foul language give Corby a bad name and it should be called  
**'Corby Rants Back'**

## THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'WE SHOULD ADMIT TO OUR ERRORS

14 May 2020

I would say I hope that you have all enjoyed the spring and the wonderful April we've had but I'm sure, like me, you remain concerned about the invisible enemy within our midst. With regards to that I want to add my tribute to those of others to say what a tremendous army of essential service personnel we have in our great Country. We should be justly proud of them at this time when they have all played their part in helping us through this crisis. And long may they continue to form an essential, hard-working and important part of the UK infrastructure going forward.

Now i would like us to take part in a history lesson.....

Can you remember which cabinet Minister in July 2018 forgot his wife's nationality?

Can you remember who presided over the NHS for the longest period in its wonderful history?

Can you remember what that same Minister did not tell us in October 2016?

Well, no surprise its Jeremy Hunt, and as far as I'm aware he has still not admitted to keeping Exercise Cygnus a secret from us. I would urge you to google Exercise Cygnus and you can read for yourselves the whole report on the Guardian website. It makes terrible reading. It also gives many suggestions as to what was wrong at that time with the NHS. It was not the excellent workers who have tirelessly given of their time and also sometimes their lives to help us through this crisis, but it was the infrastructure and the lack of equipment such as ventilators and PPE which this exercise criticised - But the report was 'buried'.

We should all write to our respective Members and demand that this report is made public, then perhaps Mr Hunt would sit so comfortably as Health and Social Care Select Committee Chair for which he receives an

addition to his salary of almost two thirds of the State pension value.....

And what about Social Care? There is no doubt that this crisis allowed Hospitals to release Covid 19 patients back into Social Care when they should have remained for care in Hospital. Indeed I know of one person who was taken to hospital from a Dementia home following falls and dismissed from hospital to another Care home only to find that he had Covid 19 and needed to be taken back to hospital. Thankfully he seems to be on the mend and is now settled into the necessary Social Care environment.

When this is all over, and it will be, the present Conservative administration should be in no fear of being critical of its predecessor's administration for the catalogue of disastrous decisions it made not only over the NHS and Social Care but in other areas of Society. We should admit to our errors and also admit that in order to allow our excellent carers to do their jobs we should ensure that these services are funded well and remain so for ever outside of Party Political politics. We have one chance at this and believe me, Sir Kier will be hot on Boris's heels if we don't make that move.

And of course, we should remember, how many of us could - following retirement - amass £1million in earnings for a few speeches whilst apparently still having a full time position in the House of Commons. You've guessed it - it's Mr Hunt's old boss.....But that's another story!

Keep safe and well

Bye for now,

**MOG**



MOG's comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Conservative Association or its management.

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[www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)

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