

POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 64**

Our Magazine is published every other month and is freely available to our members

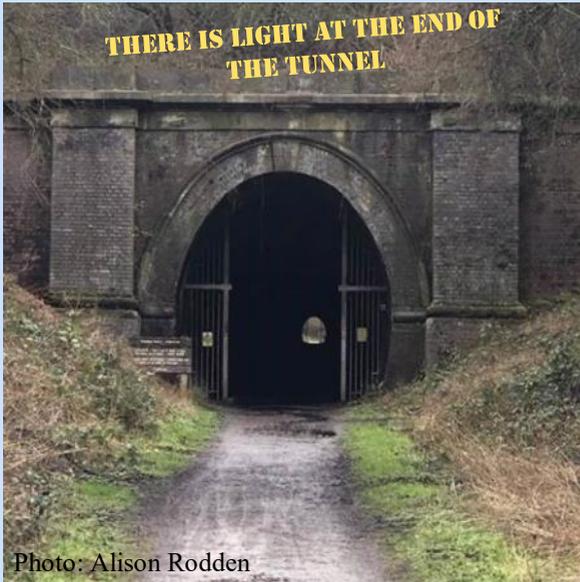
**Apr 2021
May 2021**
www.cenca.co.uk

Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

Promoted 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

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN



**STEP 1 - 8th & 29th
MARCH**

**STEP 2 - NO EARLIER
THAN 12th APRIL**

**STEP 3 - NO EARLIER
THAN 17th MAY**

**STEP 4 - NO EARLIER
THAN 21st JUNE**

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAWN UP A ROADMAP SHOWING HOW WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC.

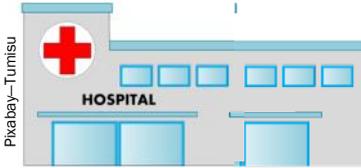
All steps depend on the continuing drop in the number of infections but do give us a clear picture of what we can expect to happen

The full roadmap is inside this issue



TOM PURSGLOVE, MP WRITES ABOUT THE NEW HOSPITAL PLANS

I want to clarify the situation with regard to the clear Government policy of delivering 48 new hospitals, including a new hospital to replace the existing one at Kettering General Hospital.



This is a firm, guaranteed pledge by the Prime Minister and his Government, and by extension the Conservative Party. Funding is being provided for these projects. As you would expect, the planning, design and construction of these hospitals will take a number of years. However, these projects are all going ahead. There is no suggestion that owing to the economic situation, any of these are to be shelved or cancelled.

In relation to the Kettering General Hospital project, I have had a number of meetings with Ministers and my parliamentary neighbours, and everything is moving forward as planned. The new hospital will be built over a number of phases - the first phase includes all the services works, demolition of existing structures and the building of a new Urgent Care Hub and Accident & Emergency Unit. Construction of these is scheduled to happen before the end of 2024 and the other phases will then follow on.

It is a great investment in the NHS in our area and something we have campaigned for for a long time. We are rightly proud of this achievement and it will be a key part of our election campaign. Ultimately, hundreds of millions of pounds will be spent on this new hospital for our area.

11 Mar 2021

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(Note: Page numbers are not shown in the magazine but the list above should help you find articles.)

A reader has spotted that there are many articles about Corby in our magazine but few from elsewhere. This is because our Corby readers submit items to publish. So let's have some more engagement from East Northants to find out what is going on in that area. All contributions welcome.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th May 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
All emails will be acknowledged.

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. Letters may be edited. 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: Sir Keir Starmer said he "never" wanted to stay in the European Medicines Agency. But that was Labour's policy while Jeremy Corbyn was leader, and Keir Starmer set out that policy to parliament when he was Shadow Brexit Secretary.
(Note that existing UK & EU law meant we had emergency powers to opt out anyway - and, thank goodness, that is exactly what Boris did)

Channel 4 Factcheck 3 Feb 2021



Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

17 Mar 2021

AGM. On 5th March CENCA held its AGM, and I was delighted to be re-elected as your Chairman – thank you for your votes and support. I was also pleased that the other Officers were re-elected, as it truly is a team effort running the Association, and we make a great team. Additionally I was thrilled that Members voted to elect Honorary Vice Presidents.



Honorary Vice Presidents are, in my eyes, people who have dedicated years, usually decades, to the Conservative Party, but more specifically to the Association, their local communities or their Branches. An Honorary Vice President is somebody who has stepped forward to take on positions and responsibility, not once, but every time they have been asked, somebody who the Association, the Party, and all of us can count on. They have, in summary, given extraordinary levels of service and dedication to the Association and the wider Branches it includes. Whilst a number of very worthy individuals were

nominated by the Management Committee, to keep it sensible I chose the 5 people with the most votes.

I would like to think that, in future years, Chairmen will choose another HVP to join those already elected.

Those elected at the AGM were: -

Honorary President – Ray Jackson

Chairman – Lee Wilkes

Deputy Chairman Membership – Helen Howell

Deputy Chairman Political – Harriet Pentland

Treasurer – Richard Levell

CPF Chairman – George Whittaker

Communications Officer – Ray Boyd

Honorary Vice Presidents:

Peter Atchison

Andrew Howard

Dudley Hughes

Rupert Reichhold

John Richardson, MBE

Elections. So now we know, the elections are definitely taking place on 6th May 2021. We have a great complement of candidates for the Unitary Election, and will field candidates in every Unitary Division. The list is below.

[Chairman's Report continues overleaf>>>](#)

Prospective Unitary Candidates. It seems like a lifetime ago since the first Selections for the Unitary positions. Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward, we are very fortunate to have so many strong candidates, although, sadly, it meant that some great candidates were not selected.

Those successfully selected are: -

Corby Rural Division

Macaulay Nichol

David Sims

Kevin Watt

Kingswood Division

Ray Boyd

Ray Jackson

Bob Tustin

Oundle Division

Annabel De Capell Brooke

Helen Harrison

Jason Smithers

Corby West Division

Rosalie Beattie

Glenvil Greenwood-Smith

Peter Wathen

Lloyds Division

Cameron Clarke

Cesare Marinaro

Jayden Watts

Raunds Division

Helen Howell

Richard Levell

Lee Wilkes

Irthlingborough Division

Kirk Harrison

Dorothy Maxwell

Roger Powell

Oakley Division

Oliver Curtis

Lorna Garner

Alexandra Wellings

Thrapston Division

David Brackenbury

Wendy Brackenbury

Geoff Shacklock

Chairman's Report – continued>>>

Of course in addition to the disbanding of Corby Borough, East Northamptonshire District and Northamptonshire County Councils to make way for the new North Northamptonshire Council, we also have for the first time a newly created Corby Town Council. By the time this magazine is read, candidates and volunteers will have delivered leaflets and election addresses across most of the constituency – a really great team effort. With hard work and focus, we will return as many Conservative Councillors as we possibly can.

Vaccine status. Whilst the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the world, the UK leads the way with regards vaccinations. There are nearly ½ million people per day currently being vaccinated, with 25 million having received their first dose, and over 1½ million their second. The Government is aiming to offer a first vaccine dose to about 32 million people in nine priority groups by 15th April. These priority groups account for 88% of deaths so far.

New Corby Town Council. If you would like to be considered as a Conservative Candidate for the election, please get in touch with Ray Boyd at office@cenca.co.uk You will receive full support and become part of our very friendly team of helpful and knowledgeable colleagues

Take care all.

Onwards and Upwards!



Councillor Lee Wilkes

Chairman – Corby & East Northamptonshire
Conservative Association

OFFICE OPENING TIMES UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club is likely to reopen fully on 17 May 2021 and from that date we hope to be able to man the office once again from Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm.

Outside office hours you can reach me at:

Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net. The office email address is: office@cenca.co.uk. Both email addresses are monitored 7 days a week. My home telephone is: 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. Email me if you need to get in touch with Lee.

Kind regards and keep well, **Ray Boyd**

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



TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

Following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line. Telephone 020 7219 8043 to make an appointment.

Regular surgeries will continue once we get through this period of difficulty.

Your Association contact details:

Corby & E Northants Conservative
Association Office

Phone: 01536 200255

Email: office@cenca.co.uk

Web: www.cenca.co.uk

Mail: CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby,
NN17 1SZ

THE NEW LOCAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE

In April the Corby Council, together with the district and borough councils in the area will be closed and these will be replaced by two unitary authorities and four new town councils.

The elections are due to take place in May this year and residents of Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby will then be represented by, not only Unitary Councillors, but by town councillors as well. Every resident in the county will be represented by one of 270 town or parish councils.

Early in 2020 shadow councils were set up by outgoing councillors and clerical officers with the aim of taking over from the current local councils once the elections take place. Meetings have been held throughout the past year to ensure that the new town councils are legally in place by April.

The new town councils

- *Northampton - There will be 25 elected councillors.*
- *Wellingborough - There will be 23 town councillors.*
- *Kettering - There will be 20 councillors elected in May across nine wards.*
- *Corby - The new council will elect 17 town councillors at the May local elections. Talks are ongoing about costs and which services it will run although the borough's leadership has said it wants the initial precept to be 'minimal'.*

The new town councils will then have to negotiate which services and assets they wish to take on and how much of a precept they wish to levy on their electorate.

Conclusion

Unfortunately there is no doubt that residents will end up paying more for the new system. Council tax will be increasing along with the police precept and there will be an additional payment to cover the cost of the new town councils.

However, one of the positive aspects of the new system is residents will have a closer relationship with their local authority through the town council scheme and with the two new unitary authorities.

Within the Corby Borough Council area there are seven parish councils and one town council. Parish and town councils fill the same role in their area.

Parish Councils: Cottingham, Middleton, East Carlton, Gretton, Stanion, Little Stanion & Weldon and Rockingham.

Town Councils: Corby Town council

Within the East Northants District Council area there are 37 parish councils and 6 town councils.

Parish Councils: Aldwincle, Ashton, Barnwell, Benefield, Brigstock, Bulwick, Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, Collyweston, Deene & Deenethorpe, Denford, Duddington with Fineshade, Easton-on-the-Hill, Glaphorn, Great Addington, Hargrave, Harringworth, Hemington, Luddington & Thurning, Islip, Kings Cliffe, Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch, Little Addington, Lowick & Slipton, Lutton, Nassington, Ringstead, Stanwick, Sudborough, Titchmarsh, Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe, Polebrook, Twywel, Warmington, Woodford, Woodnewton, Yarwell

Town Councils: Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Oundle Town, Raunds, Rushden, Thrapston,

TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



My thoughts on the second England-wide 'lockdown' and significant Coronavirus news of recent days

11 Mar 2021

Big changes to local government in our area are coming - but what does it mean? And, of course, why you need to vote Conservative!

Understandably, with the big changes to local government in the county coming on the 1st April, people locally have been asking how that work is progressing and what the new model will look like. I would imagine that in 'normal times' we would have heard more about this, but the news agenda is a crowded field at the moment in the difficult age of COVID-19, so I thought it would be useful to say something here to set out the latest developments on this important restructuring, given that the local elections are to go ahead on the 6th May to the new North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), at which I trust you will be voting Conservative!

With this change, in North Northamptonshire we will sadly be losing Corby Borough Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough, as well as Northamptonshire County Council, which covers the whole of our area presently. The new council will absorb and incorporate all those current district and borough council areas, but all of the existing town and parish councils will remain and some new town councils will be formed, such as in Corby. Those new town councils will pick up some very local, but still important, smaller-scale services that matter a lot to residents' day-to-day lives, along with running many of the community events we all value and that we all hope will be able to recommence in the near future, with the 'road map' now in place to help achieve just that.

Meanwhile, the vast majority of the key, bigger ticket services currently provided by the councils that are disappearing will come together and be provided by the new North Northamptonshire Council. You shouldn't notice any change to your

services on day one, but rather than them being split across two layers of local government as is the case now, they will all be provided by one council. This should help to avoid any duplication and allow more funding to reach frontline services. Some services will make much more sense - for example, waste collection and disposal will all be carried out by one council, rather than separately by two.

Local democracy will continue to be at the heart of all this. There will be three elected councillors representing each of the existing Northamptonshire County Council divisions, which will be used as the electoral areas for the new council. There will be 26 electoral wards across North Northamptonshire, with three councillors per ward, totalling 78 councillors. You will be able to go to any of your three ward councillors with any issue or concern relating to local government in the future, which should make it much easier for residents to know who to contact.

Ultimately, we will have more efficient local government and more money to spend on our residents and their frontline priorities. Indeed, over the years, so many local people have commented that many of the big decisions affecting our part of the county have been taken distantly from us, by people who don't know or understand the area and our communities. And to be honest, they have often had a point and I can think of several examples over the years where decisions reached at County Hall haven't been right for us. Whilst frustrating, that has sometimes been understandable, at least in the sense that councillors elected elsewhere in the county just don't live or work here. The good news is that will no longer be the case. With this change, decisions about North Northamptonshire will be taken by people from North Northamptonshire, elected by North Northamptonshire residents.

Continued>>>>

And even within that structure, I hope decisions will be taken as locally as possible, wherever possible, with planning being an obvious example. That should certainly be the ambition, although it will be for the newly elected councillors to ultimately decide on the arrangements.

For someone who served as a local borough councillor for eight years, it will be a sad moment as we say goodbye to our existing councils that in the most part have served us well for many years. In life there will always be points of disagreement, but my experience has always been that they are made up of dedicated, hardworking men and women - elected members and officers alike - who just want to do their best by their communities. I am hugely grateful for all the work they have, and continue to do. But with change comes opportunity and we must seize it with both hands. You can find more information as we move closer to the change at: <https://futurenorthantsnorth.org>, but one thing is for sure - this will be a unique and welcome chance to look at things afresh and do some things better.

But now we must win the right as a party to run the new council and form its first administration – and the election will be tough and we will have to fight hard for every vote, whilst campaigning in a ‘COVID Secure’ way throughout. But winning these elections is crucial, as we really do need a Conservative council. Not only will it ensure we continue to have one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country, but it will also deliver high quality services. Amongst other things, it will stand up against unwanted overdevelopment, maintain and expand free car parking, concentrate on improving our roads and lever in more jobs and investment, exactly as Conservatives did in East Northamptonshire with Rushden Lakes, and as we are set to do through the next wave of regeneration in Corby through the ‘Town Deal’.

The new local hospital and urgent care centre is also something we have long campaigned for and Boris Johnson’s Government is going to deliver it.

Furthermore, we are putting more police officers out on the beat, catching criminals and deterring crime. By the end of next year, there will be double the number of officers out on our streets. This is part of the Government’s efforts to recruit an extra 20,000 police officers – and so we need local people to back Stephen Mold, our excellent Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Northamptonshire in his re-election bid, so we can deliver on that key priority with a Conservative in charge locally.

And let’s not forget, here in our area, people voted overwhelmingly to leave the European Union. Local Conservatives helped lead that campaign and we have kept our promises - delivering a proper Brexit, exactly as we said we would.

The last year has undoubtedly been tough for everyone, but the success of the vaccines is putting us well on the road to recovery. We must sustain that progress and that is exactly what we will do, by continuing to roll-out the world-leading vaccination programme and by delivering against the ‘road map’ targets, which having started on the 8th March, chart a course back to normality through a ‘gradual and irreversible’ easing of restrictions – something we all wish to see.

Yours sincerely

Tom Pursglove Member of Parliament
for Corby & East Northamptonshire

Just a Thought on Wokeness (1): Freedom of speech is at the very core of our democracy. It is absolutely right that our great universities – the historic centres of free thinking and ideas – will now have this freedom protected and bolstered with stronger legal protections. **Boris Johnson 16 Feb 2021**

Just a Thought on Wokeness (2): So we must beware of a tyranny of opinion which tries to make only one side of a question the one which may be heard. Everyone is in favour of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people’s idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage. **Winston Churchill 13 Oct 1943**

THE BUDGET 2021

One year ago, we promised the British people we would do whatever it takes to provide security and stability. We are delivering on that promise: over this year and next, we are providing £407bn of support for families, jobs and businesses, more than almost any other country in the world.

Despite this unprecedented support, the damage coronavirus has done to our economy has been acute. Since March 2020, 700,000 people have lost their jobs, the economy has shrunk by 10% – the largest fall on record – and our borrowing is at the highest it has ever been outside of wartime.

This Budget protects the jobs and livelihoods of the British people with a three-part plan:

- Supporting people and businesses through this moment of crisis.
- Beginning to fix the public finances with a fair and honest plan about how to do so.
- Building our future economy.

Supporting People And Businesses Through This Crisis

This Government is supporting livelihoods by extending the Furlough scheme until the end of September. The first part of this Budget's plan is to protect the jobs and livelihoods of British people through the remaining phase of this crisis, and this Budget delivers on that.

The furlough scheme has supported 11.2 million jobs across the UK, worth £53 billion. But to provide further certainty, we are extending the scheme until the end of September. And our scheme remains among the most generous of its kind in the world.

This Government is also delivering new Restart grants to help our businesses get going again. Non-essential retail businesses will open first and therefore receive grants of up to £6,000, while hospitality and leisure businesses – including personal care, hairdressers and gyms – will likely open later or with more restrictions and so receive grants of up to £18,000.

And this Government will extend the unprecedented 100% business rates holiday for all eligible businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors – a tax cut worth £10 billion. This will apply for the next three months until June, before cutting rates by two-thirds for the remaining nine months, up to a maximum £2 million per business. That means the vast majority of businesses will receive a 75% cut in their bill next year. We are also providing further support for homebuyers, by extending the stamp duty cut. But even with the stamp duty cut, there is still a significant barrier for people to get on the housing ladder: the cost of a deposit. That is

why, from April, lenders who commit to providing loan-to-value ratios of between 91% to 95% can get a government guarantee on the full value of those mortgages. This new mortgage guarantee will help more prospective homebuyers take their first step on the housing ladder.

Measures in Full:

- Extending furlough until the end of September
- Two further grants for the self-employed – and bringing in 19/20 starters
- Restart grants of up to £18,000 to our retail, hospitality, leisure and personal care businesses
- Business rates holiday extended for 3 months, before tapering for another 9
- Extending the VAT cut to 5% for a further six months, before tapering for another six
- Continuing our stamp duty cut for another three months, before tapering for another three
- Extending Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits by six months
- More money for apprenticeships and traineeships
- New Recovery Loans to replace our existing loan schemes
- £700 million for arts, culture and sports
- A brand new 95% mortgage guarantee for prospective homebuyers

We're Beginning to Fix our Public Finances

Between 2010 and 2019, we grew the economy by 19% – faster than France, Italy and Japan. And during this period, we helped 3.4 million more people into work.

That has enabled us to respond with £407 billion of support over this year and next. That's one of the largest fiscal support packages of any country globally. And our plan is working.

The OBR now expects the UK economy to recover to its pre-crisis level six months earlier than originally thought – the second quarter of 2022, instead of the fourth. And unemployment is now expected to peak at 6.5% instead of nearly 12%, as feared last summer.

Measures in Full:

- Asking the largest, most profitable firms to pay more in two years' time by increasing corporation tax to 25% – while still being the lowest in the G7, and the fifth lowest in the G20.

- But *also* an unprecedented Super Deduction on capital investment for businesses – a £25 billion tax cut.
- Maintaining personal tax allowances at their current levels from April 2023 until 2026

A Progressive and Fair Personal Tax Policy

The Income Tax Personal Allowance has doubled over the last decade to £12,500 under this Conservative Government, standing now as the highest basic personal tax allowance of any G20 country and meaning a typical basic rate taxpayer now pays £1,200 less tax than in 2010. Next year, it will rise in line with inflation to £12,570 – but we will keep it at this higher level until April 2026. Similarly, the Higher Rate will also increase next year to £50,270 until April 2026.

See elsewhere in this magazine for a summary.

Building our Future Economy

Today we are announcing 45 new Town Deals, locating Treasury North in Darlington, launching the £150 million Community Ownership Fund to help communities buy local assets such as pubs and theatres, and opening the first round of bids for the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund we announced at Spending Review last year to fund the infrastructure of everyday life.

And to encourage free trade and bring investment to all regions of the country through lower taxes and cheaper customs, we are today revealing the locations of the first eight freeports in England: Teesside, Humberston, Felixstowe, Thames Gateway, Solent, Plymouth, Liverpool and the East Midlands.

We are today also investing in offshore wind port infrastructure in Teesside and Humberston, announcing a new environmental retail savings product to build on our world-leading sovereign green bond, making the City a leader in carbon offset markets trading, and launching the first ever UK Infrastructure Bank – located in Leeds – to invest in public and private projects. Together, these policies will drive green growth and create green jobs.

Strengthening All Four Parts of the United Kingdom

Our future economy depends on remaining a United Kingdom. As a result of the policies announced in today's Budget, Scotland will receive £1.2 billion, Wales £740 million, and Northern Ireland £410 million in Barnett consequentials. Taken together with additional funding from last year's Spending Review, the devolved nations are receiving an extra £7.2 billion in 2021-22.

Furthermore, most of the policies today are UK-wide: extensions to furlough and self-employed schemes, Universal Credit extension, Recovery Loans, our reduced VAT cut, mortgage guarantee, Super Deduction capital investment, Community Ownership Fund, Levelling Up Fund, freeports, investment in green jobs, Help to Grow, visa reforms, Future Fund Breakthrough, and reforms to pension funds.

This Budget is also delivering bespoke projects in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are funding the Aberdeen Energy Transition Zone, North Sea Transition Deal, and Global Underwater Hub in Scotland; the Global Centre for Rail Excellence and Holyhead Hydrogen Hub in Wales; accelerating six growth deals in Wales and Scotland, and exempting the Northern Ireland Housing Executive from corporation tax.

Conclusion

And so, whilst this last year has been a test unlike any other, that which we are, we are. The fundamentals of our character as a people have not changed.

Still determined. Still generous. Still fair.

That's what got us through the last year; it's what will guide us through the next decade and beyond.

This time last year we set out to deliver on the promises we made to the British people. But the most important promise was implicit and, in truth, is made by every government, irrespective of their politics.

And that is to do what must be done, when the danger is imminent, and when no one else can.

There is a new scam going around and it seems quite widespread. The victim (and it could be you) will receive an email, apparently from the Royal Mail, which says that they have a package but can't deliver it as there is a £2 charge to pay. There is a click box to do this. Clicking on this box takes you to a fake site where you will be asked to make a payment giving your bank sort code and account number and you will be asked for your phone number. Nothing unusual about that. Once the victim does that they will receive a call asking for a few more details. All okay so far. Now the victim receives a call from their Bank(!) They will be told that an unauthorised payment of about £200 has been detected. It has not been paid but the account is now at risk so the account holder must transfer money to a new account to prevent fraud. And that is where the real fraud starts.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

STEP 1B—29 MARCH

- Rule of six or two households outdoors. No indoor mixing.
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.
- Organised outdoor sport allowed - for children and adults.
- Minimise travel - no holidays.
- Outdoor parent and child groups with up to 15 parents.
- Stay local

On the basis of the Government's assessment of the current data against the four tests, Step 1 can proceed. Step 1 will start with schools on 8 March, and include some further limited changes on 29 March to allow families to meet outdoors as most schools break up for the Easter holidays. By the time Step 1 begins, those aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable (JCV cohorts 1-4) will have received protection from their first dose of the vaccine.

STEP 2 - NO EARLIER THAN 12 APRIL

- Indoor leisure, including gyms, open for use individually or within household groups.
- Rule of six or two households outdoors. No mixing indoors.
- Outdoor attractions reopen, such as zoos, theme parks, outdoor cinemas.
- Libraries and community centres reopen.
- Personal care premises reopen such as hairdressers.
- All retail.
- Outdoor hospitality such as beer gardens - table service.
- Self-contained accommodation - household only.
- Caravan sites could soon reopen
- Domestic overnight stays - household only.
- All children's activities, indoor parent and child groups up to 15 parents.
- 30 guests at funerals and wakes, 15 at weddings and receptions.
- Minimise travel. No international holidays.
- Event pilots begin.

As set out above, around four weeks is required to see the impact of the previous step in the data and the Government has committed to provide a further week's notice to businesses. Step 2 will therefore take place no earlier than 12 April, subject to an assessment of the data against the four tests. If Step 2 is delayed, subsequent steps will need to be pushed back in order to maintain the necessary five week period to assess the impact of each step and provide notice.

STEP 3 - NO EARLIER THAN 17 MAY

- Indoor entertainment and attractions.
- Indoor hospitality - table service.
- Organised indoor adult sport such as exercise classes.
- 30 person limit outdoors, with rule of six or two households indoors - subject to review.
- Domestic overnight stays.
- 30 guests at most significant life events.
- Remaining outdoor entertainment including performances.
- Remaining accommodation.
- International travel - subject to review.
- Some large events with capacity limits.
- Social distancing limits eased.

STEP 4 - NO EARLIER THAN 21 JUNE

- No limits on social contact.
- Nightclubs reopen.
- Larger events.
- No legal limit on life events.

Step 4 will take place no earlier than 21 June, and at least five weeks after Step 3, following a further review of the data against the four tests. As before, the Government will announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned.

At every stage, our decisions will be led by data not dates. That means any decisions about moving from step to step will be subjected to four tests.

1. First, that the vaccine deployment programme continues successfully;
2. Second, that evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths;
3. Third, that infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS;
4. And fourth, that our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of Covid that cause concern.

A COUNCILLOR'S INSIDE VIEW OF CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

24 Mar 2021

Next month will see the end of Corby Borough Council as a local authority.

For the 6 years I've been a councillor I've had to endure the "how lucky Corby is to have a Labour Council" mantra regurgitated ad nauseum in the council chamber.

For the over forty years Labour has run Corby. Had Labour forty years ago promised that Corby today would have some of the most deprived areas in the East Midlands, ride high in the chart for teenage pregnancy rates and our health outcomes would trail the rest of the county voters might have made a different choices.

But Labour have constantly promised jam tomorrow, and since 2006 played the 'us and them' game of Corby versus the rest of the county.

Socialism loves monuments and in 2008 they squandered Corby's wealth to build the marmite edifice that is the Cube. Had the Cube been built on budget and housed the original planned 3,000 work force then there would be no contention but it was arguably double the original budget at over £50 million and housed only half the workforce. Its running costs were never estimated and budgeted for. The expensive roof top garden that nobody could visit had to be removed because it leaked into the council chamber. Council Taxpayers had to pay to repair the rest of the leaking roof. The fourth floor restaurant was abandoned due to fire regulations and after 10 years and many false starts that space was eventually let. This was after council taxpayers funded the outfitting meaning that even though it has tenants it's doubtful there will be a penny of profit from rents for years to come.

When Corby needed money to finish the Cube instead of getting a decent price for the Tesco Land Corby Labour sold it for £80,000 instead of the £8,000,000 the council itself believed it to be worth. At the same time the Labour Council was guaranteeing a £60,000 loan with Corby Town Football club; when do councils act as guarantors for private companies?

Recently the shared Street scene service with Conservative Kettering Borough Council has finally put paid to the myth that Corby needs a Labour Council. The improvements in service are stark and without Kettering's input it would not have been achievable.

In recent years Corby Labour have been slapping themselves on the back regarding the financial state of the council very conveniently forgetting its riches have come from the Conservative New Homes Bonus and only since the announcement of the end of Corby Borough Council have they started spending it on the people of Corby.

When the Audit commission produced its report and heavily criticized Corby Labour Council the Labour leader said lessons have been learned. In the coming weeks Labour will point to the county council conveniently forgetting their own recent calamitous history in Corby.

Now is not the time to put Labour in charge of North Northamptonshire.

Sincerely, **Kevin Watt**

(Until dissolution of Corby Borough Council Kevin was Leader of the Conservative Councillor Group)

JUST A THOUGHT: A Councillor was in tears at the historic final meeting of Corby Borough Council on Tuesday evening 23 March.

A CREMATORIUM FOR CORBY ?

Back in 2003/4 our Magazine editor, Ray Boyd, who was a Corby councillor at the time, put forward the idea of a crematorium for Corby. The new extension to Shire Lodge cemetery in Corby was starting to be used and he calculated that it would be full within 20 years, i.e. by 2024.

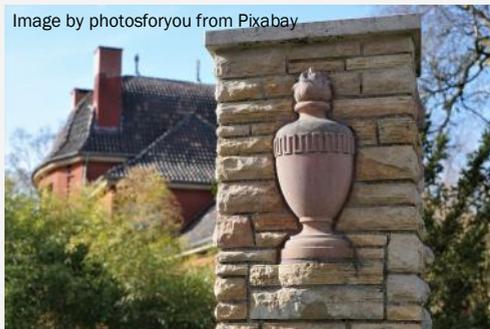
He was asked to carry out an investigation and his findings were approved by the council who decided to seek contractors to carry out this work. His suggestion was that it should be located on Rockingham Road opposite the Shire Lodge cemetery.

Unfortunately, nothing further came of this until 2020 when the idea was raised again and at a meeting of the Council in March it was agreed to at last proceed with the idea.

Dignity Funerals applied for permission to build the crematorium with a 120-seat chapel and a memorial garden. The site is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the village of Gretton.

There have been a number of objections from nearby residents and councillors.

Image by photosforyou from Pixabay



A Gretton Parish Councillor had significant concerns about the plans and said the local road network was not good enough to cope with the daily traffic which would be generated. Concerns were also expressed by Councillors David Sims and Kevin Watt who also raised the matter of flooding in the area.

Corby Council's development control committee had a lengthy discussion about the crematorium siting and eventually passed the plans with five votes for and four against.



This plan is fair: increasing the efficacy of our system so we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum.

But it is also firm: toughening our stance against illegal entry and the criminals who endanger life by enabling it, whilst making it easier to remove those from the UK who have no right to be here.

And this plan builds on the work we have already done to take back control of our borders.

We have ended free movement. We have introduced a new points-based immigration system. And now we will overhaul the broken asylum system with our New Plan for Immigration.

That is what the British people expect us to do and that is what we will deliver.

Yours sincerely,

Priti Patel
Home Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Patel".



LOCAL VILLAGERS WIN FIGHT TO STOP 3 TRAVELLER SITE APPLICATIONS

Corby Council had received a planning application to create six new pitches in a field to the south of the existing Oakley Park in open countryside.

The application had been recommended for approval by clerical officers (with conditions) but councillors from all parties raised concerns with officers over the site. There were more than 100 local objections from members of the public at the development control meeting on Tuesday 16 February.

Councillor Kevin Watt spoke against the application saying it was 'the most under-prepared he had ever seen,' adding that he had worries over highway safety.

Speaking as a member of the public and not in his role as a member of the planning committee, David Sims, commented that the development was out of scale and not in keeping with its surroundings. He also said that it places a heavy, unsustainable burden on one location and it would have a negative impact on the landscape. He said that it is out of keeping with the character of the area and it is outside of the village boundary with no footpath on a 60mph, unlit country road.

Chair of the committee Julie Riley was extremely concerned about the impact of the sewerage situation and thought that it should be the first thing that is considered for health and safety.

Cllr Jean Addison said that she did not believe that the Highways Authority had given due consideration to the dangers of the road saying that so often issues have been raised about highways and overuled. This site is on a dangerous road.

Oakley Park itself was only given permission following two appeals. Another appeal for an additional pitch on the other side of Oakley Park is currently ongoing after councillors rejected it last July.

Another application for a new site at Peasdale Hill Field, further along Ashley Road, is under consideration and at the moment is the subject of a stop notice and enforcement notice by Corby Council. A residents' action group is currently looking at ways to fight the applications.

The unanimous council vote was to reject the proposal.

Source: David Sims and Evening Telegraph

Endangered Great Crested Newts in Middleton

Further to the above report a residents' action group concerned about the potential damage to great crested newt habitats has called for swift action to protect the amphibians. Great crested newts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Worries have been growing for their safety after part of ancient Peasdale Hill field in Ashley Road was purchased and a planning application was submitted. A Stop Notice was placed on the site in February as prior to consent actually being granted tons of hardcore was unloaded on the site.

Concerned about the effect on protected wildlife the Middleton

Residents Action Group (RAG) commissioned an ecology report on the area that concluded that the ponds close to the site and the surrounding fields and hedgerow were classed as 'good locations' for the newts.

RAG pressed Corby Council to take action to prevent further damage around the sites.

David Sims, chairman of RAG, said: "It is vital that the natural habitat of areas like the Ashley Road, being close to the River Welland and set in ancient countryside, should be protected from unsustainable development.

"The Peasdale Hill site is the subject of a retrospective planning application which was submitted



after substantial damage had already been done by unapproved groundworks. Any further activity on these sites should not be allowed without thorough ecology and environmental assessments being completed and formal planning permissions granted."

Great crested newts and their breeding grounds are protected under law

RAY JACKSON - SPRING IS IN THE AIR

10 Mar 2021

It is getting warmer; there's more sunshine and brighter days. It looks as if coronavirus is becoming less of a threat, although we still have to be very conscious of its awful destructive power. And finally, election time is here again.

All Conservatives love elections. We work hard to select good candidates and feel dejection when the ideal person who agreed to stand a fortnight ago on reflection withdraws. And we start again. Eventually we get enough candidates to challenge every seat and we start canvassing often finding out on the doorstep that what we thought were important issues are secondary or even tertiary. This happens less than it used to because in Tom and his band of canvassers we are much more in touch with the electorate than we used to be. And of course there is this magazine, produced to a high quality by Ray Boyd.

The elections this year are perhaps the most vital most of us have known. We are electing members for the new Unitary Council and for Corby Town Council. Some of our bright and experienced officers are being promoted to work on the Unitary and are keen to get started and will do a good job for us as they always have. They will be joined by equally enthusiastic officers from other councils in our area and possibly others from outside. While the basic skeleton is being put together there are big decisions about who does what and to whom, as the old, very rude, limerick ends. The division of responsibilities has to be decided. The Unitary being in a stronger position will take all they want and pass the mundane stuff on to the town Council, says he cynically. They will also in future take all the flak. But the Town Councillors, although unpaid, are that much closer to the electorate and have a better sense of what can go wrong, especially regarding money and management. The Town will pay a precept to the Unitary, assessed presumably on the work the former does for the latter. There will be some bitter infighting. And that is why we voters must go out and vote and question candidates thoroughly. We must be sure both councils are Conservative led. We need to see matters close to Corby's heart are managed by Corby councillors and getting the right tone!

So, for this election go out and vote - and persuade your neighbour to vote also. We are the keen ones for these elections: apathy is for the others.



Ray Jackson

CHINA

My concern has been that the Press takes every opportunity to blame the Chinese Government for killing the Uighurs, for sterilising their women, for sending them out to forced labour in the cotton fields, but no one produces any hard evidence. By 2060 China will have the largest population of Christians in the world as well as being the most prosperous and wealthy country.

We must recognise it is in our interest to remain on good terms with them. I like them. I like to hear President Xi claim the week before last he has raised 10 million of his people out of poverty. Could he advise us how to raise our 600,000 children out of poverty? I wrote to Tom asking him possibly to raise the issue with his friend Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary. Not only did Tom do this but included the Minister concerned at the Foreign Office. I feel a bit out of my depth, but if we don't raise issues which concern us, what's the point of living in a democracy.

That's why, despite any inconvenience we shall all be voting Conservative at the Elections!

Ray Jackson

President and 200 Club organiser

If you have joined the Conservatives in the last two or three years and would like to join in the challenge and fun of the elections, give Ray Jackson, the Association President a ring on 01536 746206 or email him on rgjackson@btinternet.com

A READER WRITES

3 Mar 2021

Here in the UK vaccinations against the nasty virus are well underway and well ahead of the promised targets, but I please request that the younger generation who are still waiting for their first inoculation to still adhere to all advice given to prevent another hike in numbers being affected, as Europe are currently seeing.

With local elections coming up, people of Corby should make use of their voting rights and place their trust in those who present themselves as candidates with caution.

Central Corby is a Labour stronghold and has been for most of its existence. But only a few people can actually point out visually their local Labour councillor/candidate and don't know the name for the area in which they live. So many can't - they see a name on the voting slip that they recognise because it's been there for years so they tick that box. I was disgusted to read Tom Beatty's rampage to a resident of Corby reported in the Evening Telegraph recently, but NOT surprised as on eight separate occasions I have personally seen this sort of behaviour from Labour councillors. The face and voice presented is so different at election times, this time may be different as many Labour councillors will not stand for election to the new Town council. There are no cash rewards for our new councillors so it will not be the same as previous years. I applaud our Conservative candidates for standing as it is an uphill challenge to try and work when grossly outnumbered by Labour councillors, many of whom shout down anyone who disagrees with them. A councillor who was still on our Corby council once confided to me. "I will win whatever I say or do because I am Labour and that's the way it is in Corby, almost forever". That is the worrying arrogance so it is time for a change.

I will take this opportunity to wish all Conservative candidates the very best for the elections. I just wish more residents had the courage to put their names forward for election

Dee Davies [Member]

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB NEWS

Now we have news of a possible end to this pandemic nightmare the Club committee has met to discuss the future.

Financially, thanks to the government grant scheme and the other measures taken the Club is managing to survive during the lockdown. The committee is now planning how to proceed once they can reopen.

The current plan is that the Club will be able to open with restrictions from 17 May and then fully open from 17 May. The Committee is therefore contacting various bands able to provide entertainment once the lockdown is totally over. It is hoped that the very popular August Bank Holiday gig will be able to go ahead and the monthly entertainment in the Games Room will resume.

The Secretary reports that the Club has had a lot of enquiries for private bookings and is trying to fit them in around those which were postponed last year. Last year's Christmas Day lunch was cancelled because of the pandemic and almost everyone has transferred their booking to this year - so, incredibly, Christmas Day Lunch is fully booked already.

Many members have been asking about subscription payments. A large number pay by standing order and these have gone through as normal. No cash/cheque payments have been accepted since January but members will be able to pay their subscriptions at the Club once it begins to open again. Nobody will lose their membership because of the pandemic.

Club committee meetings are resuming and the postponed AGM will go ahead in a few month's time. The 2020 accounts have already been audited.

Association members could help the Club considerably in two ways:

1. Perhaps consider joining the Club.
2. Make use of the Club once it reopens.

You can find details of how to join and see what facilities are on offer at: www.the-cons.co.uk

Our two organisations are mutually reliant on each other and it would be great to see us helping each other. We have a number of Club members on our books and a few more have joined us this year. The Club has over 1,000 members and each one pays us a small subscription to show their support. We do have some of our members who already have Club membership but more would be really appreciated. The Association Annual Christmas Lunch will be held at the Club in early December.

200 CLUB NEWS

No monthly draws have been held for our club since March 2020. There are three reasons:

1. We couldn't meet up to draw the numbers,
2. We couldn't write cheques as signatories could not be visited, and
3. It would have been difficult for winners to actually get to their banks to deposit their cheques.



Members should not worry though as we **will** be drawing all the winners for 2020 and 2021 once we can get together again, so there will be a bumper payout. Our plan is to hold our annual lunch at Glaphorn in August when we will draw the winning numbers, including the big one for December 2020.

As soon as the lockdown ends we will book the Glaphorn village hall and invitations will be sent out to all members.

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/join

Conservative Policy Forum



The CPF continues to hold discussions on-line and all members are invited to take part.

Any member who would like to be involved now or in the future should contact Ray Boyd for information on this important forum. Members really do have an input to Party policy.

Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, will get our local discussions going again as soon as permitted.

Just a thought: "New ideas pass through three periods: 1) It can't be done. 2) It probably can be done, but it's not worth doing. 3) I knew it was a good idea all along!" – Arthur C. Clarke **Apr issue**

THE BUDGET—A PROGRESSIVE AND FAIR PERSONAL TAX POLICY

The Income Tax Personal Allowance has doubled over the last decade to £12,500 under this Conservative Government, standing now as the highest basic personal tax allowance of any G20 country and meaning a typical basic rate taxpayer now pays £1,200 less tax than in 2010. Next year, it will rise in line with inflation to £12,570 – but we will keep it at this higher level until April 2026.

Similarly, the Higher Rate will also increase next year to £50,270 until April 2026.

We are clear that this does remove the incremental benefit had thresholds continued to increase with inflation. However:

- Current take home pay is not affected by this policy.
- This is a progressive measure: the richest households will contribute the most.

This only starts in 2022 and even then only raises revenue slowly over time, supporting our recovery.

We will also maintain inheritance, CGT and the pensions lifetime allowances, and the VAT threshold at present levels.

The inheritance tax-free thresholds will remain at existing levels until April 2026 (the Nil Rate band has been frozen since 2009). A surviving spouse or civil partner can pass on up to £1 million to their family without inheritance tax. The lifetime allowance will be maintained at just over £1 million until April 2026, but 95% of individuals approaching retirement will be unaffected by this change.

And for two years from April 2022, the VAT threshold will remain at £85,000, still more than twice as high as the EU and OECD averages.

Lastly, and importantly, we are standing by our manifesto pledge NOT to increase Income Tax, NICs or VAT and we are freezing alcohol and fuel duty. And to keep the cost of living down, all alcohol duties will be frozen, and fuel duty will be frozen for the eleventh year in a row, saving motorists £1,600 since 2010.

WE ARE THE 2020 NUMBER TWO CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION IN THE WHOLE OF THE EAST MIDLANDS - SO WE TRY HARDER

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. When you find our email just click on 'Add to Address Book' at the end.

If you are still not receiving them please email the editor on 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 magazine and other news. Go to: www.cenca.co.uk

Just a thought: Q. Why is our party called the Tory party?

A. As a political term, Tory was an insult (derived from the Middle Irish word *tóraidhe*, modern Irish *tóraí*, meaning "outlaw", "robber", from the Irish word *tóir*, meaning "pursuit" since outlaws were "pursued men") that entered English politics during the Exclusion Bill crisis of 1678–1681.

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'WE ARE ALMOST THERE'

24 Mar 2021

As I write this month's ditty I am celebrating the fact that not only have my wife and I been vaccinated against this awful virus but so indeed have half of the population of this fair land.

This is truly something to celebrate, and I now look forward to the careful roadmap which Boris Johnson has provided to allow us to get back to as near normal as possible by the end of June.

We owe a great deal to Professor Sarah Gilbert, her team and people like her (and she is Kettering born and bred) for having the ability and knowledge to lead the fight against this enemy.

We have proved that our great Scientists and their institutions once again have led the world in this quest to find a cure and vaccine for this disease.

So, here I am celebrating, and then what should happen.

Firstly, we hear about the refurbishment of 11 Downing Street flat costing a considerable amount of money. The opposition and the BBC have been making a lot of noise about this expenditure but in actual fact I don't think the electorate care very much about it—they are just happy that it is not coming out of their pocket. And if you look back you will see that Tony Blair in his time spent a huge sum renovating the flat.

So let's not worry too much about that.

Secondly, I can't blame Boris or the current government but I hear the our past Prime Minister David Cameron who so spectacularly threw his toys out of the pram

following his defeat in the European referendum is in trouble with some financial indiscretion.



Again, who really cares? The electorate worry about the present not about the past. The Labour party are so determined to dig the dirt at this time that they don't get it - we are more concerned with getting back to normality. And they will pay dearly for their obsession with this stuff.

But let's get back to the good news about vaccines. Now we are told that the EU under that lady who runs it is about to try to stop export of vaccines to the UK. This will undoubtedly backfire spectacularly on the Commission and be termed as sour grapes due to Brexit.

But what I can see happening is that the good people in Europe will see through this awful charade from Brussels and vote with their feet.

Mark my words, the EU is crumbling and we started the train moving - and that train cannot be stopped.....

That's the end of another 'rant' so all I can do is to wish you all a very happy spring and summer and let's hope that things will begin to get back to normal soon.

Warmest regards.

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. MOG is a long-time active, subscribing member of the Party.

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ABSOLUTELY WITH
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Photo: R Boyd



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POLITICAL LIFE

Our magazine is available as a small printed booklet.

Issues are also available in a format suitable for reading on iphones, ipads and PCs. Details of publication date are emailed to members via Mailchimp.

A copy of recent magazines is also available on our website at

www.cenca.co.uk

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

Non-members who would like to receive news of our magazine regularly will need to join the Association.

Please contact our office by email at office@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536 742954

Our address is CENCA,
Cottingham Road,
Corby,
NN17 1SZ