

POLITICAL LIFE

Issue 82
Corby & East Northants
Conservative Association



August 2025



Welcome !

It is a real privilege to introduce the new Corby and East Northants Conservative Association Political Life electronic newsletter. For many years, our Association has been fortunate to have a printed magazine that not only kept members informed but also fostered a real sense of community and shared purpose.

That tradition was made possible through the dedication and commitment of our President, Ray Boyd, whose hard work and personal investment ensured its success over so many years. On behalf of the Association, I want to express our deep gratitude to Ray for all he has given in creating and sustaining such a valued publication.

As we now take the step into a digital format, we do so with great respect for the past and with confidence in the future. This newsletter will allow us to share updates, achievements, and opportunities more regularly, helping us stay connected and engaged as we continue to champion Conservative values across Corby and East Northants.

— Brett McKenna, Chairman

01/05

Promoted by Brett McKenna on behalf of Corby and East Northants Conservative Association, both of Cottingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 1SZ.

Chairs Update

Brett McKenna

As the newly elected Chairman of the Corby and East Northants Conservative Association, I am both honoured and energised to lead our team into a new chapter of service and commitment to our community.

Reflecting on the 2025 Local Election Results:

The 2025 local elections marked a significant turning point for our association. Reform UK emerged as the dominant force in North Northamptonshire, capturing control of the council from the Conservatives. In Corby, we saw the collapse of Labour and the turning point of the Lib Dems taking a seat in Oundle. These results underscore the need for introspection and renewal within our association. While the outcomes were challenging, they present an opportunity to reassess our strategies and strengthen our connection with the electorate.

Onboarding a New Management Committee:

To implement this strategy, we are in the process of onboarding a new management committee. This team will bring fresh perspectives and diverse skills, ensuring that our association is agile and responsive to the evolving political landscape. Their collective experience will be instrumental in driving our initiatives forward.

Expanding Our Digital Presence:

Recognising the importance of connecting with our community online, we have launched a new Facebook page: Corby and East Northants Conservatives. This platform will serve as a hub for updates, engagement, and dialogue with residents. We encourage all members and supporters to follow the page, share content, and actively participate in building our digital presence.

Building on the Legacy of Our Predecessors
We stand on the shoulders of those who have served before us. Their dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation for our association. Our goal is to build upon this legacy, learning from past experiences and striving to be the most effective association.

Looking Ahead:

The road ahead will require resilience, collaboration, and a shared commitment to our values. Together, we will work to restore our association's standing and ensure that we are a force for positive change in Corby and East Northants.

I look forward to working alongside each of you as we embark on this journey of renewal and progress.

Brett McKenna

NNC Councillors Update Cllr Helen Harrison Group Leader



May the 1st 2025 was a difficult and sad day for Northamptonshire Conservatives. We went from having large majorities and being in control of both North Northants Council (NNC) and West Northants Council (WNC), to becoming the official opposition to Reform UK. We lost many excellent councillors who were swept away by the Reform tsunami that was replicated across many parts of the country in the local elections that day.

When I became Leader of the Opposition on North Northants Council, I said that the Conservative Group would give the new Reform administration our support when we felt they were doing the right things and challenge when we felt they were going wrong. We want NNC to deliver the best possible services for our residents.

On the one hand, I am pleased to say that Reform are largely implementing work that the previous Conservative administration started. They have implemented our two new family hubs in Rushden and Oundle, completing the excellent work of former Conservative Councillor, Scott Edwards, and agreed the 5-year Housing Strategy worked on by former Conservative Councillor, Mark Rowley. They have also implemented our work in other areas such as the new Cultural Masterplan, led by Cllr Helen Howell, and the Transforming Adult Social Care Provider Services Strategy, led by me.

The Efficiency Review is another continuation of work that we started. We delivered £90 million of savings and efficiencies over the last four years, putting NNC on a secure financial footing. Reform must continue to work hard with officers to deliver further savings and efficiencies during their term of office.

However, the Conservative Group have some very serious concerns about Reform's broken election promises and know that local residents feel misled and let down.

Reform promised to reduce Council Tax. Just a few months after being elected, they are now admitting that this won't be possible given the increasing demand and cost of Adult Social Care. This was always obvious and pointed out by us at the time. Let's not forget the Conservative's delivered all our services whilst maintaining one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country, over £400 lower than the national average.

Furthermore, they campaigned against more mega warehouses, especially in the Thrapston ward, only to approve a devastating application against the Local Plan. This will have a terrible impact locally on traffic, amenity and nature. There were clear planning reasons for refusal, and yet they went ahead and granted permission anyway.

Let's hope they don't break anymore promises! We are holding them to account!

If you'd like to help us to get our messages out there, follow us on Facebook – North Northamptonshire Conservatives – and like and share our messages.

Have you ever felt it was difficult to work out what is going on in the rest of local political world?

Or would you like to hear from likeminded individuals?

Well look no further this section of news letter will bring you key updates from our local unitary authority. As well as exciting interviews from passionate local conservatives!

Association Strategy: Corby & East Northants 2029

"Stronger Together. We Listen, We Unite, We Deliver"

In response to the election results, I am spearheading the development of a comprehensive strategy aimed at revitalising our association. This strategy will focus on: Community Engagement: Enhancing our presence and involvement in local issues to rebuild trust and demonstrate our commitment to the community.

Campaign Innovation: Adopting modern campaigning techniques, including digital outreach and data-driven decision-making, to effectively communicate our message.

Member Development: Providing training and support to our members, empowering them to become effective advocates and leaders within the association.

Guest Piece - meet your conservative friend

Simon Clifford is a twice-elected former District Councillor and long-standing member of the South Northamptonshire Conservative Association. He has served in every senior officer role on the management team except Treasurer, including Chairman.

He first stood for election over a decade ago, has won twice, lost once, and never stopped giving back to the community. Whether chairing the Association or mentoring a new candidate, Simon's aim is always the same: practical solutions, long-term thinking, and loyalty to the people he serves.

In his rare downtime, he enjoys a quiet cup of tea, exploring books and podcasts on history, science, and technology. He also enjoys walking his current RSPCA rescue dog, whom he is fostering.

Welcome Simon Clifford!



Simon is committed to building links with other associations in the region and keen to develop opportunities for all levels of membership to build their political skills.

This ranging from campaigning experience, developing social media sites and the use of political toolkits such as Votesource.

If you would like to reach out to Simon drop the CENCA office a email.

04/05

Get in touch-

Email: office@cenca.co.uk

Telephone:

*Note - We send out automated emails so please check your junk folder! Don't miss out!

Association Housekeeping

From the Chair:

Following our first management committee held on the 5th of August 2025 a number of key decisions have been made to drive the association forward.

- The committee has appointed Adam Fernley as an officer with a responsibility for developing the association's social media profile and core website. Congratulations Adam!
- The committee has agreed to review the results of the recent local elections and to take action to understand where we lost key voters. We will be carrying out a 'listening' survey across the association area to hear what residents have to say.
- A reminder with the process of vesting and election of executive members. As part of the election of the association executive – individual branches based on the electoral ward areas need to be formed. These can hold a branch AGM where the nominations for executive members can be heard.

CENCA Dates

Executive Committee:

Scheduled for the W/C 21st of September.

Email to follow two weeks proceeding to confirm the date.

National Conference:

Manchester 5th to the 8th of October!

Local Events: Rutland Association



Conservative Party Forum Update Kevin Watt

CCHQ have still left us in the lurch! At this time we have not had a update from the central party on when they expect to commence the conservative party forum activity.

The management committee will wait until the closure of the summer reses, before following up with CCHQ.