

POLITICAL LIFE

Issue 83
Corby & East Northants
Conservative Association



November 2025



Dear Members,

As we enter the final month of the year, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your continued hard work, dedication, and commitment to our Association. Your efforts have contributed to a number of positive developments, not least the successful relaunch of our Association website and Facebook page—both of which I encourage you to visit and share.

These refreshed platforms will play an increasingly important role in how we communicate, engage with residents, and showcase our work across Corby and East Northamptonshire. December is set to be a significant month for the

Association, with important planning and preparation underway as we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the new year. This is a crucial period for strengthening our organisation, sharpening our focus, and building momentum across our political activity.

As we look toward 2026 and beyond, our strength continues to come from you—our membership. Your time, your energy, and your belief in what we stand for remain at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and working together to deliver a strong Conservative future for Corby and East Northamptonshire.

Warm regards,

Brett McKenna

Chair - Corby & East Northamptonshire Conservative Association

01/07

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

Hello all,

It has been a very busy few months, mostly taken up with the essential (and admittedly less glamorous) administrative work that keeps our Association functioning smoothly.

A key focus has been getting our Association bank account fully sorted, and I'm pleased to say we are now nearing the end of that particular journey.

We also received notification from CCHQ that we may be subject to an HMRC audit. While this initially caused a momentary pause, it provided the perfect opportunity to thoroughly review our financial position with CCHQ. I am pleased to report that our Association is in a stable and healthy position.

That said, we must remain mindful of the need to continue building our funds. With 2026 fast approaching, we all have a role to play in ensuring the Association is fighting fit, not only for the local elections, but also for the possibility of a snap General Election. As we all know, anything could happen with this Labour government, and we need to be prepared.

Party Conference – Manchester 2026

This year's Party Conference in Manchester proved to be both energising and thought-provoking. Myself and Deputy Chairman Jon Humberstone attended, and it was a real pleasure to meet fellow Association officers, councillors, MPs, and prospective parliamentary candidates from across the country. The atmosphere was one of determination, renewal, and readiness for the political challenges ahead.

Here's a fuller look at some of the key highlights:

• **Launch of the Withdrawal from the ECHR**

One of the most significant announcements was the formal launch of the policy to withdraw the UK from the European Convention on Human Rights. This bold step was framed as essential to restoring parliamentary sovereignty and ensuring that our immigration and border policies cannot be blocked by judicial overreach. Conference debates were lively, and there was strong grassroots support for the move, a defining moment that signals a clear Conservative direction on national security and legal independence.

• **Supporting Rural Communities**

There was a renewed and very welcome focus on the importance of rural Britain. Several sessions highlighted the pressures facing farmers and rural businesses, especially in light of Labour's increasing regulatory and tax burdens. We heard commitments to protect British agriculture, strengthen food security, and ensure rural voices are not sidelined by an urban-centric Labour agenda. This is an area of real relevance to many of our local villages and farming communities.

Chairs Update

Brett McKenna

Robert Jenrick's Talk – A Clear Conservative Future

Robert Jenrick delivered one of the standout talks of the conference. His message was a confident and unapologetically Conservative one, centred on restoring national pride, strengthening our borders, and building a slimmer, sharper state. He also spoke about the need to reconnect with working families who feel Labour has already let them down. His session was packed and received with enthusiasm, demonstrating his growing influence within the party. I must say personal favourite of mine for the conference !

Kemi Badenoch's Speech

Kemi Badenoch once again delivered a powerful and principled speech. She spoke candidly about economic competitiveness, the importance of free speech, and resisting the drift toward extreme identity politics. Her clarity, sense of purpose, and authenticity struck a chord with many attendees. She continues to be one of the most impressive voices in the party and a true champion of Conservative values.

New Policies and Renewed Direction

Across the conference there was a clear sense of momentum, with new policies unveiled on policing, immigration, housing, and economic growth. The overarching theme was unmistakable: a party preparing to govern again, focused on security, prosperity, and common sense. After a challenging period for the movement, Manchester 2026 felt like a turning point.

Looking Ahead For the Association

2026 will be an extremely busy and significant year. I fully expect we will see more by-elections, particularly given the state Reform UK are in and the less-than-impressive quality of many of their local councillors. This presents a real opportunity for us to lead the fightback.

It has been a tough 18 months, but now is the time to show our dedicated supporters that we are here, we are organised, and we remain the only real party of the right capable of governing effectively.

We have already had a number of individuals come forward expressing interest in standing as Conservative councillors but there is certainly room for more. I strongly encourage every member to get actively involved in the Association's work. As part of the selection process for council candidates, prospective applicants will be expected to demonstrate meaningful support for the Association throughout 2025.

Parliamentary Candidate Selection

The selection process for new prospective parliamentary candidates nationwide is underway. For those less familiar with the process, this is how new MPs are identified and approved by CCHQ before being allocated to constituencies.

I have been in discussions with CCHQ over recent weeks, and it appears highly likely that our Association will be in the first batch of constituencies allocated for candidate selection in 2026. This is an exciting development, and it means we could soon begin the search for our next Conservative MP.

So please watch this space, big developments lie ahead for Corby & East Northants!

Political Round Up: A Local Conservative Take on This Labour Governments Activities

As the political landscape continues to shift at pace, we take a look at some of the biggest stories dominating Westminster this month, through a distinctly Conservative lens.

The November 2025 Budget: Big Words, Bigger Bills

Labour's latest Budget arrived with all the usual theatrics: soaring language about "renewal" and "fairness," accompanied by spreadsheets that seem to defy the rules of mathematics. While ministers spoke earnestly about "stability," the details told a different story, rising taxes, rising spending, and rising concern about who exactly will be funding this so-called renewal.

Spoiler: it's you.

The Budget felt less like a long-term plan and more like a wish list written on the back of taxpayers' goodwill. Conservatives remain firm: ambition is welcome, but economic discipline is essential and it's currently in short supply on the Government benches.

Labour's Tax Burden on Farmers and Rural Communities

It wouldn't be a Labour government without the countryside taking an unnecessary hit. Farmers, rural workers, and small village enterprises are once again being told to "do their bit," which in Labour-speak translates neatly into "pay more."

At a time when global markets, supply chains, and rising costs are already squeezing our agricultural sector, fresh taxes and new regulatory burdens show a startling disconnect between Labour and the rural reality.

Immigration Crackdown: Labour Discovers Borders Exist

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has unveiled a new suite of measures aimed at cracking down on illegal immigration. This is remarkable, mainly because it involves Labour acknowledging at long last that secure borders matter.

Having spent years criticising Conservative attempts to strengthen the system, the Government now appears to be rereading our old policy papers with great enthusiasm. Tough talk is welcome, of course, but tough delivery is what counts and that remains to be seen. All of a sudden Rwanda did not seem that bad a policy!

For now, we note the shift with interest. After all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Angela Rayner Resigns: Labour Turmoil Resurfaces

After months of speculation and internal turbulence, Angela Rayner has resigned in a statement that managed to express everything except the reason why. Her departure adds yet another chapter to Labour's long-running internal struggles, and it leaves a sizeable gap in their front-bench operation. The best part is we have at least another three years of this.

For a party elected on promises of professionalism and unity, the latest resignation has raised more questions than answers. Meanwhile, we, the Conservatives will continue to provide the stability and clarity the country needs without the dramatic plot twists.

NNC Councillors Update

Cllr Jon Humberstone Oundle Ward



As opposition councillors we continue to hold the Reform UK led administration to account. Six months in their leadership it is a disappointing tale and they have consistently let local people down.

You'll all know that in various election leaflets Reform promised to cut our taxes, remove any wasteful spending and fix our potholes. None of this has happened. Last month Reform confirmed a £15.3m predicted overspend on NNC. Half of the overspend relates to The Children's Trust. This is despite them taking over a well-run council. It's therefore highly likely that council taxes will rise.

The executive have also delayed NNC's net zero plans to 2050. Whatever your views on net zero, it made no sense for them to state NNC couldn't afford net zero by 2030, despite them not costing it.

Finally the fixing of all potholes. Despite over £50m of government funding on highways, there has only been a 2-3% increase in pothole repair.

As a group and as party members we must continue to get our Conservative message out and explain to people why they need Conservative leadership at local and national level.

Cllr Jon Humberstone

Conservative Party Forum Update

Kevin Watt

CCHQ have finally confirmed the relaunch of the Party Forum. We are awaiting discussion points from CCHQ to come through. We are hoping to have our first forum in the new year!

Association Housekeeping

CENCA Dates:

Executive Committee: Will be scheduled for early 2026.

Our next Management Committee Meeting will take place on **Thursday, 5th December**, and I would like to provide a preview of the key items we will be discussing.

Management Committee Meeting – Key Items

1. Strengthening Our Association's Finances

We will be reviewing our current financial position, confirming the newly approved signatories, and considering how best to support the continued development of the Association's finances. A well-structured and transparent financial foundation is essential as we prepare for the year ahead, especially with major campaigning activity on the horizon.

2. New Data Collection Initiative

Our Deputy Chair (Political), Cllr Jon Humberstone, will be presenting a proposal to launch an enhanced data collection activity. This initiative aims to improve our voter insight, strengthen our campaigning capabilities, and help us connect more effectively with residents across Corby and East Northamptonshire.

This is an exciting development, and I look forward to keeping you updated as plans progress.

3. Election Strategy for 2026

We will begin the early discussions on our strategic approach to the 2026 local elections. Laying the groundwork now is vital. We will look at candidate development, campaign planning, messaging priorities, and how we can ensure strong Conservative representation across the area.

Association Activity and Updates

Local Candidate Selection

I am pleased to share that four individuals have come forward for possible selection as local council candidates. They will appear before a Selection Panel in December. Once the process is complete, the Association will be fully updated.

It is always encouraging to see new and enthusiastic members stepping forward to serve their communities.

Leaflet Delivery

Thank You to Our Volunteers CCHQ has provided the Association with 3,800 leaflets for distribution across Corby & East Northants. I would like to give particular thanks to Kevin Watt and Cllr Jon Humberstone for leading the charge and already beginning the delivery effort.

If you can spare an hour or two to help, please do reach out, grassroots activity is the backbone of our success!

Engaging With Our Local Community

On the next page you will see details of two upcoming local events. I will be attending both and would be delighted to see as many Association members as possible join. These community events offer an invaluable opportunity to meet residents, hear their concerns, and strengthen our presence locally.

Local Events:

CWO Coffee Morning :

Hosted by none other than our local Area Chair Pamela Goodman !



Kettering Constituency
Conservative Association

CWO Christmas Coffee Morning

Courtesy of Mrs Pamela Goodman

Date: Thursday 4th December 2025

Cost: £5.00 per person

Time: 10.00am - 12.00noon

Venue: 16 Foxlands, Desborough,
NN14 2UA



To book please contact Diane on
office@kettering-conservatives.co.uk
or 07747 779391

Please inform us of any dietary requirements.

Northampton South Event :

A chance to support one of neighbouring associations, the former seat of MP Andrew Lewer.

Northampton South Conservative Association

Christmas

DRINKS & CANAPES & Raffle

Sunday, 14th December
12.00pm until 2.00pm
Great Billing,
Northampton

£20 Per person- includes drinks & food

Email :
info@northamptonconservatives.com

to reserve ticket and for payment details

Details of venue to be sent after payment.


Promoted by Northampton South Conservative Association, White Lodge, 42 Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5DA