

Whittlewood Ward – Annual Village Meeting 2021
Cllr Abigail Smith (nee Medina)

The purpose of this report is to reflect on the outcomes of SNC for 2020/21 and to provide some scope of what to expect from WNC beyond the 1st of April 2021.

On 24th of March 2021, SNC held its final full council meeting whereby a number of [reports](#) were discussed and approved, with recommendations they be taken forward by the leader, Cllr Ian McCord, to WNC. These [reports](#) succinctly capture SNC undertakings over the last year and include:

- ✓ Cherwell Separation Report
- ✓ Scrutiny Report
- ✓ Performance Overview
- ✓ SNC’s Strategic Projects

As I look towards the new unitary authority, my perspective is a combination of hope and optimism with elements of uncertainty. The uncertainty I must acknowledge, regrettably, lies with the elected members. Namely, the party politics I’ve observed at full council meetings. Perhaps I haven’t enough life experience or my expectations are too high, but it is my sincere hope that all members can come together and work together for the West Northamptonshire community. It is with great relief that I note the work of the council is, for the most part, undertaken by officers and not members.

The hope and optimism is evident in the effectiveness and attitudes of the senior leadership team for WNC, 4 of which are/ will be former SNC senior leaders. This provides an excellent starting point, knowing that the officers at the helm for WNC are experienced, respected and experts in their field. Additionally, the Chief Executive, from what I can discern through communications over the last 3 months, has set a good tone for how she intends to carry out her responsibilities. Below I include the latest infographic for officer appointees. My optimism further stems from a recognition that on a micro-level, there are community “experts”, namely the clerks and parish councillor’s who will, I trust, be re-elected and continue in a manner I’ve witnessed over the last 2 and a half years – selflessly; assiduously and passionately. Your service to the Whittlewood Ward is commendable and I am very grateful for the support I have received from clerks and councillor’s alike.



With this said, I would like to point to two current sources of information which I would encourage clerks and councillor's to become accustomed with. Indeed, the former website will in due course be replaced by the latter:

- ✓ [News - Future Northants West](#)
- ✓ [West Northants | West Northamptonshire Council | From 1 April](#)

My final thoughts are that of gratitude and well wishes. I am both thankful for the opportunity being a district councillor has provided to both my personal and professional life and I am thankful for serving alongside the likes of both Whittlebury and Potterspury Clerks and Parish Councillor's. I'm grateful to the residents whose patient dealings made "learning the ropes" easier. As for well wishes, it is with a sincere heart, that I look to the future of Whittlewood Ward. May these villages be sanctuaries where community thrives and generations are nurtured, both young and mature alike.

With warm regards,
Abigail