

to improve facilities for county young

ambition

'Support important for young and community'

Benham Sports Arena – capital cost £450,000

THE arena works primarily through sports clubs with 2,000 youngsters each week coming through its doors.

Plans include facilities to meet the growing demand in the county for trampolining and a climbing wall.

The Trampolining Centre – for which work is well underway – will be a state of the art dedicated facility.

The first of its kind in the UK, it will boast eight trampolines, foam pits, offices and a viewing gallery.

Kings Park Tennis Centre – basic capital cost £100,000 plus £175,000 for all-weather bubble

THE tennis centre will work with The Lawn Tennis Association to develop Grand Slam champions of the future.

NAYE say the demand for tennis in Northamptonshire is "enormous" and coaching courses are always full to capacity.

The charity will implement a development programme of tennis skills for all age groups and develop strategies for coaching at every stage between local and international level. The money will also be used to provide all-weather floodlit outdoor courts encased in a 'bubble' for playing all year round.

Hereward Wake conference centre – capital cost £1,050,000

THE centre is already used as a base for training youth leaders from organisations across the county and caters for more



■ Sports Minister Richard Caborn on a recent visit to Northampton to discuss youth facilities with MP Sally Keeble, Tracy Whittaker and trampolinists Jamie Moore and Danny Creedon.

CE picture 060404JC5

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) says it wants to be in a position to help young people in any way it can.

They say the help is not only important for the young people themselves but for the wider community they are part of. NAYC want to establish area workers in key towns in Northamptonshire where they can oversee the surrounding areas.

They hope to use a portion of the funds to establish a worker in Northampton, Daventry, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby.

They also hope to attract a volunteer co-ordinator and a youth achievement awards co-ordinator.

Start up costs £200,000

than 15,000 people including trainee youth workers.

The largest chunk of the funds will be used to upgrade the twin bedrooms for staff used to host visiting groups and build 20 totally new bedrooms.

Three new meeting rooms will expand the amount of groups who can use the centre at one time and the hall, reception area, dining room, lounge and kitchen will also be overhauled.

Contract is major vote of support

AS the appeal for the Kings Park Conference and Sports Centre was launched, it announced a deal which is set to utilise the new facilities.

The centre's proposed upgrade received an immediate show of faith by Northamptonshire County Council, which has signed a contract to train youth leaders at the conference centre.

It will provide training for people, who currently are part of the voluntary youth work sector, as youth club leaders or youth workers or those who want to get involved for the first time.

John Whittaker, chief executive of the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs,

said: "We are pleased to be working in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council, in providing training opportunities for youth group leaders, as this has always been an important priority for NAYC.

"The training of leaders is every bit as important for the future of young people as keeping the youngsters themselves occupied."

The move represents the first stage of the county council's approach to commissioning its youth services.

Joan Kirkbride, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I am delighted NAYC has entered into a partnership with the county council to pro-

vide such a valuable service.

"The county council's strategy to engage the voluntary sector and other partners to support youth work in the county is progressing well and we can announce more positive partnerships in the near future."

The county council agreed to adopt a new approach to youth services, which includes both direct-delivery by the council and commissioned services with voluntary and partner organisations.

A small commissioning team has been established to manage the direct-delivery and to increase the capacity available within the voluntary and partner youth work organisations.

Piano concert

ACCLAIMED pianist Mark Prescott will perform pieces from Bach's *Toccat* during a concert at St Luke's Church in Duston at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and £3 for children. Call Julia Pearson on Northampton 583834 or Jan Martin on Northampton 514374 for tickets.

Run a club

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help run Brixworth Youth Club. Adults or young people aged from 18 years old who have an interest in working with the Brixworth club would be welcome. Anyone interested can email the club on brixworthyouthclub@fsmail.net or ring Councillor Frank Wiig on Northampton 880165.

Move comes after a spate of vandalism

Letters urge villagers to report crime

HUNDREDS of letters have been sent to residents in a Northamptonshire village urging them to report crimes following a spate of vandalism.

The police community support officer Norman Bareham sent out 550 letters asking Byfield villagers to report matters to the police, when it became apparent that some crimes were not being reported.

The letters followed a series of attacks by vandals, including the village hall which was last month daubed with graffiti.

The hall's managers have now called for a greater police presence to cope with the anti-social behaviour.

Village Hall committee chairman Arthur Riches said: "I'm fed up with this. The graffiti comes just after we had a window broken a few weeks ago when we had a break-in and there are little bits and pieces on a regular basis with lots of broken windows and now there are graffiti artists on the patch.

"If we raise £100 or £200 then we end up having to replace a window, we can't go forward at all as we raise have fund-raising events but all the money we raise tends to go to repairs."

"We have a very good community support officer but we would love to see more police. He can't be here at our village all

By Anna Brosnan
Chronicle Reporter

the time but it would be great if we had more village presence."

But John West, chairman of Byfield Parish Council, said there have also been problems across the village in recent months and he would like to urge locals to report any crimes they see.

He said: "On one occasion they kicked the door in of someone who lives near The Green and they threw rocks through a window. I heard they had vandalised someone's car.

"Various things have been happening and there has been a spate over recent months and the police have been trying to get a handle on it."

Pc Lyndon Harris, from the Daventry Community Action Team, said they had been aware of some of the recent incidents.

He said: "This weekend I patrolled Byfield and during that time came across a small group of youngsters who had alcohol with them.

"The alcohol was seized to prevent any alcohol-related disorder."

Anyone with information can call police on Northampton 700700.

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Making life better

TWO weeks are left before nominations close for Northamptonshire's Improving Your Patch Awards, which recognise communities which have improved their own quality of life.

Nominees can include communities of any size, such as villages, block of flats, neighbours, school groups or voluntary groups. Award winners in each area can win £100, with the overall county winner scooping a £300 prize.

The closing date for the competition is July 24 and awards will be presented on the Friday of this year's Northampton Balloon Festival. For more information contact Hugh Fenton on Northampton 786235.

Land Rover show

MOTORING enthusiasts can see hundreds of specialist vehicles at a Land Rover show being held at Billing Aquadrome on July 21 to 23. Visitors can win Goodyear tyres, a roofrack or even a safari holiday, and children can learn more about the Malaysian jungle in a special adventure show. Tickets are £8 for adults and £3 for children.



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