

New community building: one month to go

There is just under a month left until the new community building, The Forum, opens to the public.

The new facility, which will house South Northamptonshire Council's (SNC) offices and Northamptonshire County Council's library, adult learning facilities and registration service, will open its doors to the public on Thursday, 9 April. Rooms will also be available for community groups and business meetings. There will also be a café opening later in the spring.

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, portfolio holder for economic development and regeneration, said: "Creating a community building in the heart of Towcester's historic Moat Lane is an important step towards the revitalisation of the town.

"This partnership project will deliver improved services to South Northamptonshire residents in a fantastic new setting.

"This building is a modern, efficient to run facility and will act as a community hub.

"It will be a lot more convenient for residents too. They will be able to visit the library, self-service kiosks and café seven days a week.

"The next stage of the Moat Lane project will see life injected into Whittons Lane.

"This is set to become a vibrant row of shops, businesses and town centre homes that will further enhance Towcester.

"This regeneration will mean that our market town has a lot more to offer both residents and visitors in years to come."

The last day that SNC will operate out of the Springfields building will be Thursday, 2 April and the move will take place over the bank holiday weekend to minimise service disruption.

Staff will be taking calls and emails on Tuesday, 7 April and Wednesday, 8 April and the building will be open for business as usual on Thursday, 9 April. This will allow time to install the computer and phone systems.

The Forum will provide a new experience for SNC customers. Services will be streamlined in the new building. Customers will be able use the new self-service kiosks to complete many of the most popular services requests and reports.

Appointments will be given to those who need to talk face to face. More services will be available online minimising the need to make unnecessary trips to the offices.