

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

A6 TOWNS FORUM

5 February 2014

Present: Councillor Jan Smith (KBC/BLTC) (Chair)
Councillor Allan Matthews (DTC/NCC) (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Mike Tebbutt (KBC/DTC)
Councillor Derek Zanger (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor Christopher Lamb (KBC/BSPC)
Councillor June Derbyshire (KBC/DTC)
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor Jim Hakewill (NCC)
Councillor David Soans (KBC/DTC)

Also Present: Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Carole Stephenson (Kettering Borough Council)
Dean Mitchell (Kettering Borough Council)
Sgt Eddie McDonald (Northants Police)
Sue Watts (Age UK)
Mick Ward (Vine Community Trust)
Janice Maxey (Committee Administrator - KBC)

13.A6TF.35 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Russell Roberts, Ian Jelley, Mark Dearing, Margaret Draper, Margaret Talbot, Christopher Groom and Alan Mills.

13.A6TF.36 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th September 2013 be approved as a correct record.

13.A6TF.37 MINUTES OF THE JOINT FORUM – 28-NOVEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Joint Forum held on 28th November 2013 were noted by the forum.

13.A6TF.38 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT

FORUM MEETING HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2013

In respect of the proposed reduction in the number of Police Officers covering the rural area, outside Kettering town, members commented that it was doubtful that the number of officers had not already dropped below the required level and that the follow –up information had not reassured those who had read it.

13.A6TF.39 MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT WHO REQUEST RIGHT TO SPEAK

None.

13.A6TF.40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mike Tebbutt and David Soans declared interests in that they were both supporters of Marlow House.

13.A6TF.41 POLICE STATISTICS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sergeant Eddie McDonald from Northants Police attended the meeting to present the police statistics. He informed the forum that after presenting the statistics he would also give an update on police volunteers and an outline of the soon to be rolled out Northamptonshire Street Watch Scheme.

The police statistics in respect of crime and anti social behaviour in the A6 towns were presented. In respect of burglaries (both dwelling and vehicle) the increases had arisen mainly where dwellings and vehicles had been left insecure. He also assured the forum that contrary to reports in the media, the Northants Crime Statistics were very accurate.

Desborough

Burglaries to dwellings were down but there had been an increase in the theft from motor vehicles, mainly in respect of tools and wheel inserts.

The problems reported to the previous meeting concerning groups of teenagers hanging around the town in the summer had peaked but had now tailed off thankfully. In response to question as to whether the youths were all from Desborough, it was confirmed that they all lived in the town.

There had also been an increase in neighbour issues on the Grange estate but most had been resolved satisfactorily due to mediation.

Rothwell

Rothwell was currently the fourth worst ward for crime in the County due to an increase in burglary to dwellings which had been linked to large scale drug use. The good news was that intelligence had resulted in two very successful drug warrants and the main dealers had been arrested as a result of which the level of burglaries had decreased.

In terms of anti social behaviour there had been a slight reduction overall. Most problems had been to do with youths from Orton House and their interaction with Rothwell criminals.

Barton Seagrave

The high increase (73%) in theft from motor vehicles had been due to vehicles being left insecure and 10 offences had occurred in one weekend.

Burton Latimer

Overall, crime was lower but with an increase in burglary from dwellings. There had also been some instances of theft of fuel from buildings sites which was classed as theft from motor vehicles.

Members made the following comments on the crime statistics:-

- What happened to monies/goods seized by the police say in drug raids in Rothwell and could such money be used to benefit the community where the crime took place?
- Does the proximity of the A14 to the A6 towns make it easier for criminals to get out of the area quickly?
- Where the police doing any special reminders to residents about leaving vehicles land dwellings secure etc.

Sgt Eddie McDonald responded as follows:-

- Unfortunately monies seized by the police during raids were not earmarked for particular areas as it went into

one general fund. However, some monies were retained and made available for anti-social programmes which the police had to apply for etc.

- It was accepted that unfortunately the A14, like other routes in the country, did make it easy for criminals to target a town and then get out of the area quickly.
- In terms of burglaries, there was currently a national educational campaign being undertaken and he offered to give further details outside of the meeting. Martin Hammond added that the Community Safety Partnership was well aware of the issues and he would see if this could be localised in any way.

Police Volunteers

Latest figures were given as follows:-

- 285 special constables with a further 32 just recruited.
- Police volunteers – 482
- Other volunteers – 194 (including specialist roles)
- Police cadets – 91

It was therefore believed that the police would be on course to meeting the target of 1,000 volunteers by the end of Adam Simmonds' term.

Northamptonshire Street Watch scheme

The forum was informed that Street Watch was a scheme run by the community in partnership with the police and was about residents supporting their own communities to help tackle the low level issues that impacted on the communities and their quality of life. The main points about the scheme were outlined as follows:-

- Street Watch could be considered a natural extension to schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch which could be operated alongside existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes or could be run independently.
- Street Watch members had to commit to patrolling their streets for an average of 2 hours per month and must always patrol in pairs.
- They engage with the local community and ring the police if any problems
- They would not be working alongside the police and not replacing police jobs.
- The police would oversee the scheme.

The new scheme was discussed and in response to questions from the forum, it was also confirmed that:-

- There would be a co-ordinator in place.
- The scheme would not be limited to towns. Rural areas could be in the scheme as long as a minimum of 6 people were willing to commit 2 hours per month to patrolling their communities.
- The 'Farm Watch' scheme was now dormant.
- Eddie would investigate whether the Kettering Town Centre Pub Watch scheme could be extended or linked into the A6 Towns.

The Chair of the Forum thanked Sgt McDonald for his reports and attendance.

13.A6TF.42 MARLOW HOUSE WORKING WITH AGE UK

Carole Stephenson introduced Sue Watts from Age UK and Mick Ward of the Vine Community Trust who then gave a presentation on the Age UK Northamptonshire and Vine Community Trust joint Service Level Agreement (SLA)

The main points were:-

- The Council had four year Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with voluntary organisations for the provision of a range of services linked to corporate objectives, apart from the Independent Living Specification which had an SLA for two years. This commenced in April 2013 and would run to April 2015.
- The SLA for the Independent Living Specification had been split between Age UK and The Vine Community Trust who received:-
 - Age UK - £28,000 pa
 - Vine Community Trust - £12,000 pa.

This to be reviewed by KBC in April 2015 to consider if the SLA would continue.

- The SLA had asked them to provide:-
 - Day Centres
 - 20 services
 - Case studies
 - 20,000 contacts annually

- Satisfaction surveys
- Services provided included:-
 - Meals on Wheels – 500 per month
 - Bathing
 - Support in the Community
 - KGH Support Services
 - Information and advice
- Joint SLA:-
 - Specialist Rehab Unit
 - Early Dementia Support Unit
 - Hot Meals Provision
 - Joint Policy Review
- Action Plan
 - Marlow House
 - Four Seasons Launch – 4 March
 - Feasibility Study
- Challenges and Opportunities
 - Clinical Commissioning Groups
 - New relationships
 - New services
 - Four Seasons Lease
 - NCC Prevention contract

The presentation was discussed. In response to questions raised from the forum it was confirmed that:-

- The lease of the Four Seasons would soon be up for renewal but the County Council would now require £51,000 instead of the previously charged peppercorn rent. However they had been reassured that the day centre would continue.
- There was a distinction between Age UK nationally and Age UK Northants. They were separate entities and completely independent from each other. All monies received for Age UK Northants stayed in Northamptonshire.

The Chair thanked Sue and Mick for their attendance and for their very useful presentation. Members congratulated both organisations for working closely together and for meeting the

SLA set by the Council.

13.A6TF.43 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2014/15

Dean Mitchell, Principal Accountant, attended the meeting and gave details on the 2014/15 budget proposals and the medium term as follows:-

Background

- The draft budgets for 2014/15 were presented to the Executive Committee on 15th January 2014 and this had commenced the formal budget consultation process.
- The draft budgets were then presented at the Budget Consultation meeting on the 23rd January 2014 which was the main forum for feeding back comments on the budget proposals.
- Following the budget consultation the budgets were presented to the Council's scrutiny committees.
- Comments from these meetings, along with comments from the geographical forums, would be reported back to the Executive on the 12th February 2014.
- Full Council would then formally consider the budget on 26th February and set the Council Tax for 2014/15.

2013/14

- The Council had adopted a unique budget delivery framework to identify the £949,000 of savings required to set a balanced budget for 2013/14 which the Council was on track to deliver.
- In addition to the £949,000 there was a projected under spend for 2013/14 of £500,000 made up of some one off items which amounted to £350,000 and an early delivery of framework savings which amount to £150,000.
- The Executive Committee had approved that any under spend would be put into reserves to protect against any pressures post April 2014 where there was still much uncertainty.

2014/15

- The changes to the national landscape would continue to bring greater uncertainty and volatility to future projections.
- Prior to the consideration of any council tax increase, it was estimated that £1,329,000 of savings would be required.
- Using the budget delivery framework had helped to identify savings, whereas other authorities were using 'savings yet to be identified' to balance the budget.

2015/16 and Beyond

- Assumptions had been made for future levels of Government grant (and other funding changes) and a decrease of 15.8% has been applied for 2015/16 following the provisional settlement and further annual decreases in overall funding of 10% for 2016/17 and beyond.
- Based upon the assumptions applied and prior to considering any changes to Council Tax future years' budgets would require ongoing year on year savings of:

2015/16	£1,464,000
2016/17	£1,293,000
2017/18	£1,054,000
2018/19	£1,018,000

- The Government had announced that there would be a consultation on reforms to business rate appeals with a commitment to clear 95% of the September 2013 backlog of appeals before July 2015. This was an area that will need to be closely monitored.
- The Council's strong and controlled budgetary position was a direct result of the adherence to the guiding principles that had been diligently followed over recent years. The challenges faced in the medium term would mean that it was even more important that the guiding principles were followed if the council was to remain in a relatively good financial position.

Following a discussion on the Community Fund proposals, Cllr Jim Hakewill proposed and Cllr David Soans seconded that the Community Fund be fixed and remain at £83,000 and not be reduced to £40,000 (Page 35 of the Executive Report referred).

Cllr Derek Zanger asked for a recorded vote and the vote was recorded as follows:-

For the proposals (4): Councillors Jim Hakewill, David Soans, June Derbyshire and Allan Matthews

Abstained (4): Councillors Derek Zanger, Mike Tebbutt, Christopher Lamb and Jan Smith.

It was therefore carried that the proposal be submitted to the Executive for consideration.

The Chair thanked Dean for his presentation.

13.A6TF.44 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS

Cllr Mike Tebbutt reported back from the Kettering Town Forum meeting held on 3 February 2014 a very useful discussion on drug addiction.

It was noted that a Members Information Night was planned on the subject, for all members.

13.A6TF.45 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Residents Parking Scheme (suggested by Cllr Derek Zanger)

13.A6TF.46 NEWSROUND

Desborough

- Desborough had signed up to speed-watch programme. Starts in May with Weston-by-Welland.
- Desborough Town Centre was improving with a 'Revive' Coffee shop just opened plus two other new shops.

Rothwell

- No news reported.

Burton Latimer

- No news reported.

13.A6TF.47 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

14.A6TF.48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on 25 June, 2014.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.40 pm)

Signed
Chair

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