

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 23rd June 2014

Present: **Kettering Borough Councillors**

Councillor Mike Brown (Chair)
Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor Maurice Bayes
Councillor Steve Bellamy
Councillor Dave Bishop (Rural Forum Representative)
Councillor Lloyd Bunday
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Terry Freer
Councillor Jenny Henson
Councillor Shirley Lynch
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Mike Tebbutt (A6 Towns Forum Representative)
Councillor Keli Watts
Councillor Jonathan West

Northamptonshire County Councillors

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw (Northall Division)
Councillor Bill Parker (Clover Hill Division)

Representatives of Member Organisations

Myra Bale (Kettering Private Hire and Taxi Association) –
(Deputy Chair)
Jane Calcott (Churches Together)

Also Present

Graham Soulsby (Deputy Chief Executive)
Alex Jelley (Economic Regeneration Manager)
David Pope (Forum Administrator)

14.KTF.01 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bunday and seconded by Councillor Maurice Bayes that Councillor Michael Brown be elected as Chair of the forum, and accordingly it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Michael Brown be appointed Chair of the Town Forum for the municipal year 2014/15

14.KTF.02 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bunday and seconded by Councillor Maurice Bayes that Myra Bale of Kettering Private Hire and Taxi Association be elected as Deputy Chair of the forum, and accordingly it was

RESOLVED that Mrs Myra Bale of Kettering Private Hire and Taxi Association, be appointed Deputy Chair of the Town Forum for the municipal year 2014/15

14.KTF.03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scott Edwards, Eileen Hales, Philip Hollobone, Mary Malin and Ellie Manns (Kettering Borough Council).

14.KTF.04 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 3rd February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14.KTF.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14.KTF.06 REPORTS OF THE FORUM'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE A6 TOWNS FORUM AND THE RURAL FORUM

Election of A6 Towns Forum representative

Councillor Maurice Bayes was nominated and elected to be the Kettering Town Forum Representative for the A6 Towns Forum

Election of Rural Forum representative

Councillor David Bishop was nominated and elected to be the Kettering Town Forum Representative for the Rural Forum.

Councillor Bishop reported on the Rural Forum held on 6th February 2014 as follows:-

- An update had been provided regarding Northamptonshire County Council's (NCC) asset management of highways, specifically with regard to declassifying road status in certain areas. A further report would be presented to NCC cabinet in July.
- Concerns had been raised regarding the need to de-clutter both obligatory and unofficial road signage in rural areas.
- Rural street-lighting was providing an ongoing issue. Work was continuing with NCC to ascertain ownership and responsibility for certain lights in rural areas.
- The annual budget proposals had provoked extensive debate as members provided comments on the proposals

Councillor Mike Tebbutt, representative of the A6 Towns Forum, requested a report be presented at a future meeting by the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) regarding the current policy for tackling drug use in Northamptonshire.

14.KTF.07 POLICING ISSUES AND STATISTICS

In the absence of a member of Northamptonshire Police, the forum noted the police statistics supplied.

The following question was raised by a member of the forum:-

Question	Answer
Could police confirm whether the number of caravan thefts in the area had increased dramatically or not?	<i>The question was forwarded to the police for a response</i>

14.KTF.08 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS - UPDATE

Alex Jelley attended the meeting and provided a presentation regarding town centre events taking place during the summer period and future planned developments in regard to Town Centre Regeneration.

Alex updated the forum as follows:-

- Summer Celebrations events were detailed to the meeting, along with a full programme of events taking place in the Borough. Kettering-by-the-Sea would run from 24th July to 16th August. Other events scheduled included beach volleyball, a fashion show, an event featuring the London Science Museum and the big screen located in the Market Place.
- A new restaurant, Kino Lounge, would shortly be opening at 1-3 Market Place, providing an extensive menu with opening hours throughout the day and evening.
- The Big Screen would be showing numerous sporting events over the summer period; including England v Costa Rica at the FIFA World Cup, tennis from the Wimbledon Championships and the British Grand Prix. The screen would also be utilised for the Freedom of the Borough March in July, Kettering-by-the-Sea and discussions were being undertaken with Wicksteed Park regarding renting of the screen. It was noted that KBC were happy to discuss rental of the screen with external organisations and events.
- The inaugural Teenage Market had taken place on 17th May, part of a national movement designed to foster entrepreneurial spirit in youngsters. Fourteen young traders had attended, providing a range of items for sale. Feedback had been positive and further events were planned for September and December to tie in with Small Business Saturday. Plans for a Christmas Market in Kettering were being worked on, with further information to be presented in due course.
- The Royal Anglian Regiment would be invoking their right to march through Kettering on 21st July and a programme of supportive speeches and attractions would take place on the day in the Market Place.

- Purple Flag Scheme – A map was presented to the meeting that showcased what was on offer within the Purple Flag zone. The forum noted that the map would be updated as new businesses came in. A presentation had been given to Minister of State, Norman Baker MP on the project, and an overnight self-assessment of Kettering's night-time economy had taken place on 31st May. Feedback from this assessment was being collated to form a plan of action. KBC would seek to solve the issues it had control over and involve other organisations to solve those it did not control.

Members raised the following points and issues:-

- Would the frontage of Bar Sun be altered to return it to its original state?
- It was important to retain a balanced mix of establishments within the night-time economy of the town centre
- Although improvements had been made to the town centre there was still work to be done with regard to the issues of retail mix and shop unit occupancy
- The shop-front posters on empty units in Newlands Street were an improvement, but there were concerns over the general look of the area
- General cleanliness and enforcement of littering and non-smoking byelaws remained a concern
- Car-parking fees were still a concern for residents who believed that they were high in comparison to other towns in the vicinity

Alex responded to the comments as follows:-

- The owner of Bar Sun was in discussions with the planning department at KBC about the frontage of the building
- A balanced mix of night-time economy establishments was crucial to the success of the town, and the Purple Flag map indicated a decent existing mix
- Shop-fronts on Newlands Street were private property; KBC remained in discussion with the landlords to try and find a way to improve the look of the units
- A report on cleanliness and enforcement could be provided at the next forum detailing actions taken and schemes in operation for landlords to renovate their units.
- A long-term solution was being sought to the issue of the inoperative rising-bollard in Market Street and further information would be supplied to a future meeting of the forum

(Councillors Bill Parker and Maurice Bayes left the meeting at 19:45)

14.KTF.09 COMMUNITY FUND

A brief report was presented by Graham Soulsby regarding the Community Fund, a new annual capital budget of £40k created as part of the budget setting process earlier in the year. The meeting noted that the Terms of Reference for the fund had been approved at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 11th June 2014 and work was ongoing to promote the Community Fund to town and parish councils, outlining the submission process for grant applications.

Members made the following comments:-

- The Community Fund was a welcome initiative, but there was a need to ensure that the fund was spent in the correct way for the people of the borough. Support may be required for organisations during the application process to ensure that everyone had a fair opportunity to apply for funding
- Was the fund inclusive of community groups within Kettering town itself?

Graham made the following comment in response:-

- The fund would be available to those community groups applying from Kettering, as well as the rest of the borough.

14.KTF.10 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH MARCH – 21ST JULY 2014

A brief report was outlined by Graham Soulsby as an information item detailing the planned Freedom of the Borough March by the Royal Anglian Regiment on 21st July 2014.

Some 200 members of the regiment would march through Kettering as part of their home-coming events. KBC was anticipating a good turnout for this important civic event and a lot of effort was being expended in its organisation. Members were encouraged to make the event known in their wards in addition

to official KBC publicity for the event.

Members made the following comment:-

- Would local schools be invited along to the event?

Graham Soulsby made the following comment in response:-

- Schools in the area had been made aware of the event.

14.KTF.11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was suggested that the following items be included on future agendas of the Forum:-

- Police Issues and Statistics
- Town Centre
- Town centre cleanliness and shop-fronts
- Drug Reduction services in the Borough

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 7.52pm)

Signed:
(Chair)

djp