

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

A6 TOWNS FORUM

25th June 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 Ruth Groome (BLTC/KBC)
Councillor Roger Knight (BLTC)
Councillor Alan Mills (KBC/RTC)
Councillor David Soans (KBC/DTC)
Councillor Jim Hakewill (NCC)
Councillor Karl Sumpter (RTC)
Councillor Margaret Draper (RTC)
Councillor Margaret Talbot (KBC/RTC)

Also Present: Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Sgt Eddie McDonald (Northants Police)
Janice Maxey (Committee Administrator - KBC)
One Member of the Public (Angela Nitsch – resident)

14.A6TF.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Zanger and seconded by Councillor Tebbutt, and accordingly was

RESOLVED that Councillor Jan Smith was duly elected as Chair of the A6 Towns Forum for the municipal year 2014/15

14.A6TF.02 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Tebbutt and seconded by Councillor Soans, and accordingly was

RESOLVED that Councillor Alan Matthews be appointed Deputy Chair of the A6 Towns Forum for the municipal year 2014/15.

14.A6TF.03 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON RURAL AND

KETTERING TOWN FORUMS

RESOLVED that Councillor Alan Matthews be appointed Representative on the Rural Forum and Councillor Mike Tebbutt be appointed Representative on the Kettering Town Forum for the municipal year 2014/15.

14.A6TF.04 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Russell Roberts, Ian Jelley, Mark Dearing, Maurice Bayes, June Derbyshire, Christopher Groome and David Watson

14.A6TF.05 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 5th February 2014 be approved as a correct record.

14.A6TF.06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

14.A6TF.07 MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT WHO REQUEST RIGHT TO SPEAK

None.

14.A6TF.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Sergeant Eddie McDonald from Northants Police attended the meeting to present the police statistics. He also reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Adam Simmonds, was currently looking at relocating the Police Headquarters possibly to the Kettering area.

In summary, it was reported that the figures showed that the police was reducing crime overall with burglaries to dwellings and thefts of and from motor vehicles remaining the most frequent crimes. There had also been a few instances of burglaries to dwellings where thieves had noted caravans had gone from the front of properties and they had correctly assumed the owners had gone on holiday with the caravan and had thus left the house empty for a period of time.

Members of the forum raised the following issues:-

- The question was asked as to whether the police had much contact with the secondary schools regarding juvenile behaviour. Eddie McDonald responded that most secondary schools were signed up with the police to an information sharing agreement. However, a few secondary schools had chosen not to participate in that initiative which meant that discussions with those schools could be challenging. Unfortunately, the Montsaye Academy was one such school.
- Desborough councillors considered that in terms of ASB, Desborough seemed to have taken a turn for the worse and were concerned that at JAG meetings, policing efforts seemed to be more concentrated on Rothwell. Eddie McDonald explained that groups of youths offending in Rothwell and Desborough were of different age groups and had to be dealt with differently. In Desborough they were older (16 – 18) and it had to be hoped once they got jobs or college placements or settled down etc. anti social behaviour incidents would decrease. Approaches to parents of the offenders in Desborough had resulted in a range of responses from concerned to total indifference which was disappointing.
- Rothwell town councillors expressed their thanks for the superb policing of the Rothwell Fair.
- Praise was also given to the police for their action in returning stolen chickens to a farm in Broughton which were found in Norfolk following liaison with the Norfolk

Police.

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

14.A6TF.10 RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEMES

Martin Hammond introduced the report, the purpose of which was to update members of the forum on the current activity regarding residents controlled parking. He explained that Residents Parking was not planned for the near future in the A6 Towns and as yet no formal request had been made. Should one be proposed it would be necessary to consider, with the County Council, whether it would address whatever problem existed and whether they would extend their delegation to KBC. He added that 60% of residents of a road had to be in favour of the scheme before it could be introduced.

Desborough Town Councillors expressed their disappointment that the no controlled parking zones had been put in place in Desborough and highlighted some areas in Desborough where parking was a problem. A narrow section of Harrington Road near to the school had been identified by residents as having serious parking issues and meetings with the relevant officers from the NCC and the school had taken place. Residents had indicated that they would be willing for a scheme to be set up.

The request was noted and it was suggested that this area could be looked at during the next Desborough Ward Walkabout. This was agreed and Martin agreed to invite Shirley Plenderleith along if she was available.

14.A6TF.11 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW UPDATE

Martin Hammond introduced the report, the purpose of which was to update the forum in relation to the Community Governance Review of selected parishes in the Borough.

It was noted that KBC had started a Community Governance Review of several parish councils in the Borough, looking at:-

- a) the possibility of changing parish boundaries between:-

- Mawsley and Cransley parishes
 - Rushton and Wilbarston parishes
 - Cranford and neighbouring areas
- b) reviewing the number of councillors for the parish councils of :-
- Broughton
 - Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley
- c) Reviewing the parish wards within Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer.

The purpose of the Review was for the Council to consider what changes, if any, were required for the existing electoral arrangements in the affected parish council areas. The Council was now inviting residents, parish councils and any interested organisations to submit their views on the existing arrangements, together with any proposals for change. The deadline for submissions is 15th August 2014. Online consultation facilities were available on the Council's website.

In response to a question from the forum, it was confirmed that any agreed changes would be implemented before the next elections in May 2015

14.A6TF.12 COMMUNITY REPORT

Martin Hammond introduced the report and Members noted that:-

- As part of the budget process earlier in the year, the Council had approved the creation of a new annual capital budget of £40,000 (effective from 2014/15);
- The new budget was called the 'Community Fund' and a copy of the Executive report and appendix from its meeting of 11 June 2014 was attached to the report;
- The Executive, at its meeting of 11 June 2014, approved the High Level Terms of Reference. A detailed application form would now be worked up and the community fund promoted during the summer, this would include writing to all Town and Parish Councils together with a time line, outlining the submission process for grant applications.

Members of the forum raised the following

comments/questions:-

- If the community had a project which was going to last over a considerable amount of time, would they be able to claim the grant every year of the project?
- If there was a surplus at the end of year, would that surplus be carried over and if after a 5 year period would that surplus be carried on until used up?
- What would happen if a group had too much in reserve? Would this affect other small grants and was it separate from the community grant?
- Could organisations mix and match several different funding applications?
- The parish of Ashley was unlikely to use BT and use a private provider. Would this qualify for community funding?
- Did the Executive when it discussed the issue define 'any community group'?
- Did the Executive define 'stated aims'?
- Further clarity was requested on the 'three months running costs' (Point 4 of Appendix 1 to Exec report)
- Clarification over 'normally' in bullet point 1 – 'Grants will normally not exceed £2,500'.
- Could a community group be a church group?

In response to the questions, it was confirmed that:-

- The grant was £40,000 per year to be spent in the year though it was not inconceivable that a large project would span over 2 years. Longer terms would have to be clarified.
- It would be capital money so could not be automatically carried over to the next year. It would be reviewed after the first year as to how it was being spent.
- The only criteria was that if an organisation had a level of reserve equivalent to three months running costs the council would expect some match funding but there would be no cap.

- In respect of mix and matching, the principle was that if an organisation already received some other kind of Borough Council funding, the application would not be accepted.
- The fund would not seek to reimburse an individual's expenditure; it would have to be directed through the Parish council.
- The Executive had not detailed the meaning of 'community groups' and there was some flexibility about which constituted groups could be supported, which, again, would depend a little on the first year's experience. Groups which might qualify would include residents, tenants, church, "friends" groups and the like.
- The Executive's defined stated aims were the Borough Council's stated aims.
- The reserve of 3 months running costs did not rule things out but if there were balances, the Council would expect some matched contributions from those organisations that had cash to play with.
- Under the criteria that 'grants would normally not exceed £2,500', the aim was to try and give people a clue as to how to pitch their requirements and would also give the Council more flexibility in assessing applications and awarding grants..
- A community group could be a church group.

14.A6TF.13 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Martin Hammond introduced the report, the purpose of which was to advise the forum of the Royal Anglian Regiment's Homecoming Parade through the streets of Kettering on the 21st July 2014.

The report was noted.

14.A6TF.14 NEWSROUND

Desborough

- Desborough Carnival – Saturday 28th June 2014 at 1.00 p.m.
- 1940's day – 20th September 2014

Rothwell

- Rothwell Carnival – Saturday 12th July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.
- 100th Anniversary of declaration of World War One - 4th August 2014 at Rothwell War memorial. 300 replicas of the New Testament at that time had been given to school children.

Burton Latimer

- Duck race – Sunday 29th July 2014 at Pocket Park
- Civic Service – 21st September 3.00 p.m. at St Mary's Church
- 'Lights Out' – 4th August 2014 10.00 – 11.00 p.m. War Memorial.

14.A6TF.15 TOWN/RURAL FORUM FEEDBACK

Kettering Town Forum

- Cllr Mike Tebbutt reported that It was hoped that the large screen used in the Market Place, Kettering could be made available for the A6 Towns for events such as carnival days etc. There was a need to investigate the best place it could be located and installed close to power etc.
- Good progress was being made towards Kettering achieving Purple Flag status. Kettering was the only town in the area to qualify.
- Good progress was also being made with the pedestrianisation of the town centre.

14.A6TF.16 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The following items were suggested and agreed:-

- Briefing note on the progress of the Core Spatial Strategy post Rushden Lakes decision
- Presentation on the green infrastructure plan
- Street Lighting
- Dog control arrangements in the A6 Towns
- Heritage Centres and twinning activities

14.A6TF.17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Roger Knight of Burton Latimer Town Council reported that despite many requests he was still waiting for a meeting to be arranged between the Borough Council and Burton Latimer Town Council to discuss communication issues. Martin Hammond apologised for the delay but confirmed that a meeting had now been scheduled for the 4th July 2014 to be held at Burton Latimer at which the attendees would be himself and Sue Lyons (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) from KBC and Councillors Roger Knight, Derek Zanger and Ruth Groome from Burton Latimer Town Council.

14.A6TF.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17th September, 2014 at the Council offices.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.15 pm)

Signed
Chair

jcm