

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Alex Jelley Economic Regeneration Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	10 th June 2015	
Title	DELIVERING OUR TOWN CENTRES		

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- a) To provide a review of forthcoming events and developments including
 - i. The Women's Tour
 - ii. The Yards
 - iii. Improvements to the Newlands Bus Interchange
 - iv. Public Realm Phase 4 – Rising Bollards

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

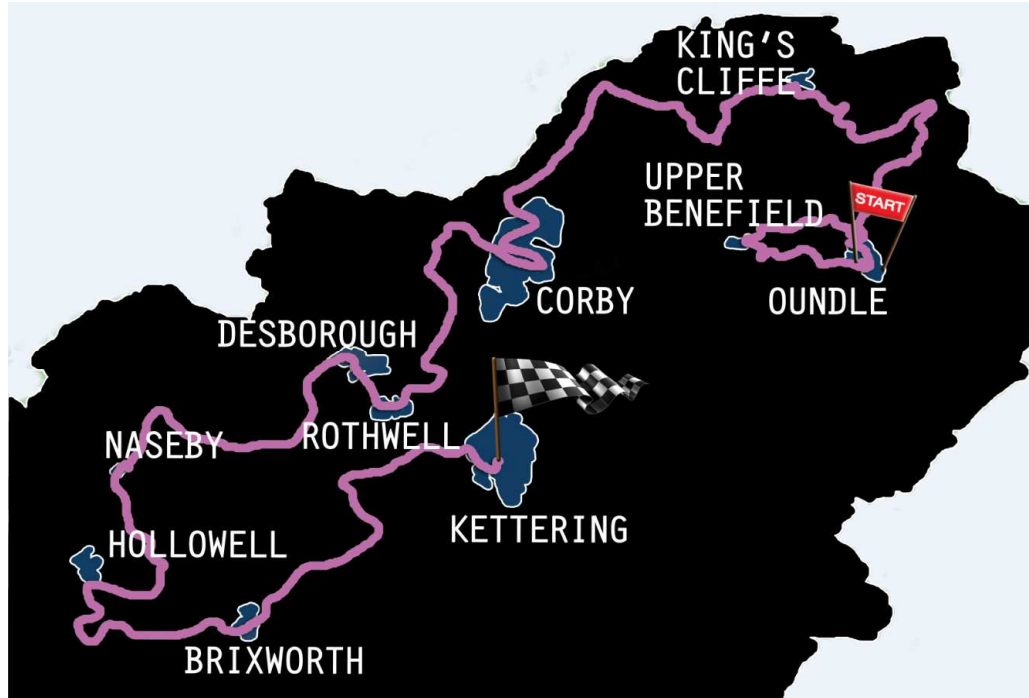
- 2.1 Kettering Borough lies within the South East Midlands, which is predominately a growth area, and is expected to facilitate growth of some 13,100 homes and 16,200 new jobs by 2021.
- 2.2 Members have made their priorities for infrastructure and jobs-led growth clear – these are the prerequisites of growth. Members have indicated they wish to use the growth agenda to leverage three key and interrelated ambitions for the borough; namely:-
 - ◆ A better offer for our town centres
 - ◆ A better education and training offer
 - ◆ A better employment offer – high grade, higher density jobs
- 2.3 The mutually supportive role of these three aspirations cannot be over-stated. The town centres and the skills base will be persuasive to inward investors. Similarly, high grade employment supports vibrant town centres.
- 2.4 The Council has a vision to create town centres that are **Characterful, Distinctive, and Fun**. This vision has been externally validated by an independent planning inspector, and now sits firmly within our planning policy for Kettering Town Centre.

3 WOMEN'S TOUR

- 3.1 We are entering the final sprint now before the Women's Tour comes to the Borough on 19th June – final preparations are being made to ensure that everything is in place.
- 3.2 The route of the Oundle to Kettering leg is as follows:

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- 3.3 Starting in Oundle, it will run past Corby then into the Borough near Wilbarston. Passing through Pipewell and Ruston before going through Rothwell and Desborough. The competitors will then travel into our neighbouring district to the west, Daventry, before coming back into Kettering near Mawsley. The final leg runs past Thorpe Underwood, across the A14 and along Gypsy Lane before turning onto Northampton Road. The final sprint will see riders finish at the Market Place in Kettering town centre – where a whole host of activities will greet them.



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Town / Village/ Street	Lead Car	Riders
Pipewell	11:46	12:01
Rushton	11:53	12:08
Rothwell High Street	11:56	12:11
Desborough	12:01	12:16
Desborough Gold Street	12:02	12:17
Harrington	12:11	12:26
Mawsley	13:20	13:35
Loddington	13:29	13:44
Kettering Gypsy Lane	13:36	13:51
Kettering Northampton Road	13:38	13:53
Sheep Street Finish	13:39	13:54

3.4 As you can imagine, there are a number of road closures planned for the day. These are as follows:

Road / Street	Time closed	Time Open
Sheep Street / Market Place	4.45am	8.00pm
Northampton Road (Double Roundabout to Sheep Street)	12 noon	3.00pm
Gypsy Lane	12 noon	3.00pm

3.5 We have a great range of activities planned for the 19th June running from 11am-2pm, which should appeal to all ages. There will be a host of bike related activities which include: crazy bikes (this involves a sectioned off area with a range of unusual bikes to ride on), bike scalextric, smoothie bikes, and music bikes.

3.6 We will be offering free rickshaw rides from the Newlands Centre to the Village area and the Newlands Centre have offered us use of space to set up a waiting/promotional area for visitors.

3.7 So far we have 10 market stalls booked for the day; however we are still expecting this number to increase. These include a retro chopper display, a bike coding service, bike doctor and beat the clock cycle competition. There will also be a variety of street entertainment in the form of Hoola Hoop performer, circus performer and Penny Farthing rider.

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4 THE YARDS

- 4.1 Work is nearing completion at the Soan's Yard regeneration site in Kettering – with 70% of the units already spoken for. A planning application is currently being considered which covers the specific uses, etc intended for the site.
- 4.2 The developer is keen to ensure that the site is fully complete before opening, and expects this to take place during the summer months. More information about this will be brought back to a future meeting of the Executive.

5 NEWLANDS BUS INTERCHANGE

- 5.1 Works to remove the existing bus shelters on Newlands Street and replace them with more modern, and less enclosed, bus stops will begin in July. At present the project is running on programme and on budget. It is expected to be completed in the first week of September.

6 PUBLIC REALM PHASE 4 – RISING BOLLARDS

- 6.1 The delivery phase of this project has now been completed – with the new Traffic Regulation Order and rising bollards installed and operational. Some 270 key fobs have been delivered to businesses and staff to ensure that those with access rights at particular times of day can gain access.



- 6.2 Teething issues with the key fob software and safety precautions on the bollards hardware have now been resolved satisfactorily. Our system has tested both to their limits – being somewhat more finessed than other rising bollards installed around the County.

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- 6.3 Previously the Executive Committee had discussed and agreed that a compromise approach that sought to both enable access whilst simultaneously restricting had not succeeded in creating a safe, friendly shopping environment. The Executive determined that a clear pedestrianized zone was the only way to ensure that shoppers felt comfortable and relaxed walking through the town centre.
- 6.4 Inevitably, this project has received a number of negative comments – it restricts vehicular access to a part of the town that people previously enjoyed unfettered access to. However, it is worth noting that the clear and unequivocal response from shoppers in the town has been overwhelmingly positive.
- 6.5 The next phase of this project is a period of review. Over the next few months we will assess if any unintended consequences have occurred, and whether everything is running as intended. This review will include discussions with businesses and community groups to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to comment. We will return to a future meeting of the Executive with a report on this subject.

7 IMPACT ON POLICY

- 7.1 Members have made their priorities for infrastructure and jobs-led growth clear – these are the prerequisites of growth. Members have indicated they wish to use the growth agenda to leverage three key and interrelated ambitions for the borough; namely:-
- ◆ A better offer for our town centres
 - ◆ A better education and training offer
 - ◆ A better employment offer – high grade, higher density jobs

8 RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee:

- a) Welcomes the update on forthcoming events and developments
- b) Endorses the successful implementation of the new Traffic Regulation Order and rising bollards in Kettering town centre, together with the proposed review process.