

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Alex Jelley Economic Regeneration Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A15/029	
Wards Affected	All	9 December 2015	
Title	DELIVERING OUR TOWN CENTRES		

Portfolio Holders: Cllr Derek Zanger and Cllr Mark Dearing

1 Purpose of the Report
<p>a) To provide an update on forthcoming town centre junction improvements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Northampton Road/Sheep Street/Station Road/Bowling Green RoadII. London Road/St Marys RoadIII. Eskdail Street <p>b) A summary of this year's Christmas Celebrations – Past, Present and Future</p>

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 Northampton Road – Sheep Street – Station Road – Bowling Green Road

- 3.1 Following on from the recent improvements made to the Northampton Road/Northfield Avenue and Rothwell Road junctions, Northamptonshire

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Highways have provided detail of the next junction improvement to take place: Northampton Road/Sheep Street/Bowling Green Road/Station Road.

3.2 The design is detailed in the image below.



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- 3.3 The improvements will involve the removal of traffic lights at Sheep Street so that the traffic flows freely through from Bowling Green Road onto Northampton Road. Modelling suggests that this will help the increasingly common issue of traffic jams on Bowling Green Road and London Road. A pedestrian crossing point will be installed opposite the Alms Houses, with the existing crossing at the bottom of Bowling Green Road removed.
- 3.4 A Stage 1 Safety Audit has been undertaken on the scheme; which has not thrown up any issues. As such the design is currently out for costs to be assessed – so as to ensure that it is deliverable within the budget for the works – which stands at circa £800,000.
- 3.5 Northamptonshire Highways and Council officers will be engaging local community groups, businesses and other stakeholders to ensure that everyone is aware of the works. The aim is to start this during the winter months.
- 3.6 The proposed construction phase will run from March 2016 for a period of 8-10 weeks. Northamptonshire Highways are aware of the Women’s Tour event, which has been pencilled in for the 19th June – as this junction will clearly impact on that event.

4 London Road – St Mary’s Road

- 3.1 Given the proximity of the improvements described above (Section 3), a decision has been made to hold off on further design work with regards to the London Road/St Mary’s junction. This will allow that scheme to be delivered, and the impact of it to be measured. Following this, a new design (if required) will be looked at.

5 Eskdail Street

- 5.1 Northamptonshire Highways have been assessing ways of improving circulation around the North of the town centre. Initial designs show how Eskdail Street could be made two-way between Montagu Street and Rockingham Road. This would enable road users to take a more direct route than is currently possible.
- 5.2 There is no funding currently available – the project has an estimated cost of circa £1.5m - but Northamptonshire County Council have advised that this scheme forms part of a package of works they are putting together to secure external funding from the Department of Transport.

6 Christmas Celebrations

- 6.1 This year’s Christmas Celebrations have already delivered a fantastic array of events – and brought hundreds of people into the town centre. Kicking off with the ‘Big Switch On’ on the 26th of November – which was a wonderful example of how to host a town centre event – the programme has also brought us late

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night shopping (every Thursday), The Snowman (one of a number of movies to be shown on the Big Screen over the festive period) and Santa's Grotto (which is open every day until Christmas Eve in Kettering's newest retail destination – The Yards.



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6.2 Tomorrow night will see the Snowman and the Snow Dog make an appearance on the Big Screen, while we have still got a Festive Foodie Friday market to look forward to on the 11th and a number of other exciting events too!

Programme of Christmas Events

Event	When	Where
The BIG Switch On	26 November, 5pm – 7.30pm	Market Place
Late Night Shopping	Thursdays from 26 November	Town Centre
Elf: Big Screen Movie Night	3 December, 5pm	Market Place
Santa's Grotto	28 November – 24 December	The Yards, Market Street
Small Business Saturday & Teenage Market	5 December, 9am – 4pm	Town Centre
Christmas Crafts Table	5 December, 10am – 4pm	Manor House Museum
The Snowman and the Snowdog: Big Screen Movie Night	10 December, 5pm	Market Place
Foodie Friday Market	11 December, 9am – 5pm	Town Centre
Jack and the Beanstalk: Kettering's Pantomime Spectacular <i>Book at lighthouse theatre.co.uk</i>	11 December – 3 January	Lighthouse Theatre
Christmas Crafts Table	12 December, 10am – 4pm	Manor House Museum
Frozen Saturday	19 December, 12noon – 6pm	Market Place



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6.3 Finally, on 5th December we played our part in Small Business Saturday, complete with a Teenage Market – a great example of how everyone within the wider community can get involved and help support their local town centre and independent traders. Shop Small – Shop Local!

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
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6 Recommendation

That the Executive Committee:

- a) Takes note of the planned junction improvements in Kettering town centre
- b) Congratulates all those involved in delivering this year's Christmas Celebrations