

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

### **A6 TOWNS FORUM**

**Meeting held: 3rd February 2016**

**Present:** Councillor Jan Smith (KBC/BLTC) Chair  
Councillor Allan Matthews (DTC/NCC)  
Councillor Christopher Groome (BLTC/NCC)  
Councillor Michael Tebbutt (KBC/DTC)  
Councillor Karl Sumpter (KBC/RTC)  
Councillor Ray Davis (RTC)

**Also Present:** Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)  
Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)  
Julie Trahern (Kettering Borough Council)  
Dean Mitchell (Kettering Borough Council)  
Carole Stephenson (Kettering Borough Council)  
Sgt Scott Little (Northamptonshire Police)  
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator – KBC)

#### **15.A6TF.29 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Soans (KBC/DTC), Margaret Talbot (KBC/RTC), David Watson (Rural Forum), Ian Jelley (RTC), Alan Mills (KBC/RTC), Reg Barby (BSPC) Mark Cox (RTC) and Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC).

#### **15.A6TF.30 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns Forum held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **15.A6TF.31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **15.A6TF.32 POLICE STATISTICS**

Sergeant Scott Little of Northamptonshire Police attended the meeting to present the police statistics for the period January to December 2015.

### Burton Latimer

Year on year crime levels had remained the same. However Burglary Other, Theft/Handling and Theft of Motor Vehicles had shown an increase. The Chief Constable had attended a meeting of Burton Latimer Town Council in December. More policing effort had been focused on Burton Latimer in recent months and crime figures were now improving as a result.

### Barton Seagrave

Barton Seagrave had seen a 14% increase in crime, mainly attributable to Burglary Dwelling, Criminal Damage Drug Offences and Violence which had increased by 44%. The increase in Violence offences was mainly because of the way crime was recorded in that malicious communications is now recorded as a violent offence.

### Rothwell

Overall, crime was down by 13%. However, there was a 32% increase in violence offences due to the way crimes were recorded.

### Desborough

Crime over the year to date had decreased by 31%. The Police had carried out a significant amount of work in Desbrough over the last 12 months.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour continued to fall across the A6 Towns and Barton Seagrave. It was planned that a PCSO would have an increased presence around schools and regular drop-in sessions at both Montsaye and Latimer schools were now taking place.

Feedback was given on changes to staffing. Shop Watch was a new initiative that was to be rolled out shortly which would alert shops when a robbery had taken place.

Sgt Scott Little was thanked for his attendance.

**15.A6TF.33 KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME**

A report was submitted which updated the Forum on the Kettering Borough Council's Grants Scheme in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The Council had continued to provide vital funding to local organisations across the Borough despite financial pressures. A Grant Guidelines Booklet was available on the Council's website, which gave clear guidelines on who could apply and how to apply for a grant.

It was noted that the deadline had been extended last year. A new date for this year's bids was yet to be announced.

It was felt that the A6 Towns had done less well in respect of community grants. Any reflections from members of the Forum on how easy it was to access the funding would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and the community grants made in 2014/15 and 2015/16 be noted.

**15.A6TF.34 ALLOTMENT PROVISION IN THE BOROUGH**

A report was submitted which provided an update to the Forum on Kettering Borough Council's Allotment provision.

It was noted that all allotment sites had their own management committees and made their own rules and regulations. All allotments in the Borough had waiting lists, with an average of 12 people on each list. Five additional plots had been delivered in Desborough in the last twelve months.

Discussion was held on the Meadow Road, Rothwell Allotment site. Temporary use of an additional piece of land had been granted, but the allotment association was having difficulty clearing the site. It was suggested that the association could apply for a small grant, which could pay for specialist equipment. It was noted that Desborough Allotment Association had a substantial rotovator, and may be able to help. The Forum was advised that it was not necessary for people to have an allotment plot to join an association as anyone who grew produce in their gardens could join to gain the benefits of membership.

The Head of Environmental Care agreed to look into the situation to see if there was anything the Borough Council could do to help clear the land at Meadow Road, Rothwell. Additionally, it was suggested that the Probation Service may be able to use some of their clients to help in this respect if an approach was made.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted, and further information be provided to members of the Forum detailing the number of plots; the size of each plot and the number of people on the waiting list for each allotment in the Borough.

#### **16.A6TF.35 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17 AND PREPARING FOR THE MEDIUM TERM**

A report was submitted which considered the Council's draft budget proposals and medium term financial forecast and sought comments for reporting back to the Council's Executive for consideration at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The slides used in the presentation to the Budget Consultation meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January were supplied for information.

The Principal Accountant attended the meeting and summarised the key elements of the report.

It was noted that comments were also being sought from the other geographic forums, the Tenants' Forum and the Council's scrutiny committees. The formal consultation period would run until the 1<sup>st</sup> March when the budget would be formally considered by full Council.

Members of the Forum submitted comments as follows:-

Q Is there a reflection in Kettering Borough Council's Budget of Northamptonshire County Council's proposals regarding waste credits and the Countywide Travellers' Unit?

A The proposals made by the County Council last year were found to be illegal. We are now working with the County Council to save costs, particularly in the disposal of black bin waste. More sustainable ways of making savings and income generation had been discussed at a recent meeting with the County Council.

Q Northamptonshire County Council's consultation period commenced in November, which has not given enough time to consult with Districts and Boroughs on delivery of services in partnership or the possibility of combined authorities.

A Kettering Borough Council was not aware of the consultation on combined authorities until it was announced in the local newspaper. Dialogue around more constructive working will occur in the coming period. .

Q Northamptonshire County Council Scrutiny Committee invited Chief Executives and Leaders of the four district Councils in North Northamptonshire to a meeting in January to discuss combined authorities, the lead-in time for which would be 2-3 years. Local government is under lots of pressure from the government to move towards unitary authorities. Local authorities in Northamptonshire should stand together and make services as resilient as possible.

A The District Councils have a wider range of income streams than Northamptonshire County Council. Kettering Borough Council recognises that we have to be self-sustaining. Lots of work is currently being undertaken on investment. It is more difficult for County Councils to do that, but we can work with Northamptonshire County Council on joint investment opportunities.

Kettering Borough Council looks at its budget on a regular basis, with a report being taken to the Executive monthly. Budget setting is therefore not a year-on-year project.

#### **15.A6TF.36 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A report was submitted which advised the Forum of the appointment of parish members to Kettering Borough Council's Standards Advisory Committee.

It was noted that the following parish councillors had been appointed at a meeting of full Council in December 2015:-

Cllr Douglas Hodgkinson (Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley Parish Council)

Cllr Sally McKeown (Ashley Parish Council)

#### **15.A6TF.37 NOMINEES TO THE A6 TOWNS FORUM**

A report was submitted which informed the Forum of the appointed nominees.

Despite all Town Councillors and Barton Seagrave Parish Councillors now receiving a copy of the agenda, attendance at the Forum had not improved.

It was agreed to check if email addresses for all town and parish councillors were included on the Council's database.

#### **15.A6TF.38 NEWSROUND**

##### Desborough

Disappointment was expressed that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been unable to attend the Joint Forum meeting in November 2015. However, he had visited Desborough and his attention had been drawn to a number of items.

Plans were in the pipeline to increase the number of mobile average-speed cameras in the county.

##### Rothwell

Since the last meeting, designs for the Skatepark had been completed. It was hoped work would start in 2016.

It was reported that only 2 out of 14 lights on the path from the Community Centre to Columbus Crescent were working and people felt unsafe using the route in the dark. The Head of Environmental Care offered to find out who was responsible for the lighting and make contact with them.

### Burton Latimer

A bye-election for a town councillor had been held at the end of 2015. Clarification was sought over responsibility for payment for costs associated with the bye-election, which were in the region of £5,000.

Officers were asked if it was the intention of the Borough Council to charge the Town Council for the costs of the election, since no provision had been made in Burton Latimer Town Council's budget for this. It was confirmed that there would be no recharge for the costs of the bye-election, but that the Borough Council's policy on parish election costs was being re-considered.

The Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police had attended a meeting of the Town Council in December.

## **15.A6TF.39 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS**

### Kettering Town Forum

Northamptonshire County Council's road improvements at the junction of Headlands/Bowling Green Road/Northampton Road/Sheep Street had been reported to the Forum. Work was due to commence shortly and the Forum had recommended that residents and businesses should be kept informed through a leaflet drop. Works were due to be completed just two weeks before the Women's Cycle Tour.

### Rural Forum

The Forum was due to meet on 4<sup>th</sup> February. It was felt that the Rural Forum was keen to maintain its own identity and independence from the Borough Council.

## **15.A6TF.40 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Update on Gypsy and Traveller Issues
- Allotments in the Borough – further update on plots per site and waiting lists
- Police and Crime Commissioner visit
- Street Lighting
- Safe cycle routes in new and future developments
  
- Public Toilets in the A6 Towns
- LANRAC report

**15.A6TF.28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.10 pm)

Signed.....

Chair

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