

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**RURAL FORUM**

**Meeting held: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

**Present:**

Borough Councillors

Councillor Jim Hakewill (*Chair*)  
Councillor David Howes  
Councillor Mark Rowley  
Councillor Cliff Moreton  
Councillor Anne Lee (Kettering Town Forum Representative)

County Councillors

Councillor Christopher Groome  
Councillor Allan Matthews

Parish Councillors

Councillor Sally McKeown (Ashley)  
Councillor Brent Woodford (Ashley)  
Councillor Angela Beardsmore (Braybrooke)  
Councillor Alan Garrett (Dingley)  
Councillor David Watson (Geddington, Newton & Lt. Oakley)  
Councillor Paul Gooding (Harrington)  
Councillor Peter Hooton (Rushton)  
Councillor Frances Pope (Thorpe Malsor)  
Councillor James Woolsey (Warkton)  
Councillor Brian Peel (Weekly)  
Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston)

Stephen Chester (Orton Parish Meeting)

**Also Present:**

Sue Lyons (Kettering Borough Council)  
Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)  
David Pope (Forum Administrator-KBC)

Insp Julie Mead (Northamptonshire Police)  
Sgt Scott Little (Northamptonshire Police)  
Sgt Nathan Murray (Northamptonshire Police)

**16.RF.32**      **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Lisa Hyde and Parish Councillors Hillary Bull, Ian Bushby, Andrew Macredie, Robin Shrive and Paul Wharin. Apologies were also received from Great Cransley and Weston by Welland Parish Councils.

**16.RF.33**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**16.RF.34**      **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**      that the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**16.RF.35**      **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**16.RF.23 – Truck Stops**

The Chair reported that upon the request of the forum at the previous meeting, a letter had been drafted and sent to Philip Hollobone MP and Highways England in relation to lorry parking provision forming part of the development of new distribution centres. A response had been received from the MP, who had forwarded the forum's letter onto Gavin Barwell MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning.

Cllr Rowley stated that the issue had been raised with KBC's Executive Committee following the last meeting, with a Member Information Session regarding transport noting that this issue now formed part of the Joint Core Strategy where distribution centres would be required to have adequate overnight parking for lorries.

**16.RF.36**      **RURAL CRIME AND POLICE STATISTICS**

Insp Julie Mead attended the meeting and provided a presentation in regard to her work in the area as Sector Commander for Kettering and Corby. She also presented

apologies on behalf of Chief Inspector Mick Stamper who was unable to attend due to operational matters.

Insp Mead provided a background to her 25 years of service in the police force and outlined the four main service priorities for the force in the next 12 months as set out below:-

- Sexual Offences
- Repeat Victimisation
- Counter Terrorism
- Violent Crime

The meeting heard that violence was an issue across the borough and formed three main categories; domestic abuse, violence as part of the Night Time Economy and youth violence.

Domestic abuse was the fastest rising violent crime in the county and police worked hard to ensure victims were supported and children protected. In relation to the Night Time Economy (NTE), Kettering's was the second largest in the county and intensive work had been undertaken with licensees and in association with Operation Scorpion to reduce violence by 14%. Youth violence was an increasing issue, with 13% of all violence offences with a named suspect committed by under 18's. Work was being undertaken with schools and early intervention programmes to reduce youth violence.

The forum was asked to consider what police visibility meant to rural areas. It was noted that officers dealing with crimes such as domestic abuse and counter terrorism would rarely be seen by the public. In addition Proactive Teams wore plain clothes and were therefore not visible to the public. Police remained aware and committed to tackling low-level crime that impacted rural areas including speeding, ASB and dog fouling even in the face of limited numbers of officers. It was heard that working alongside colleagues in the Fire Service, rural intervention vehicles were one method of ensuring coverage in rural communities.

The meeting heard that there were plans to undertake joint working with KBC wardens who would be provided with PCSO powers. In addition, police cadets were undertaking useful crime prevention work which was also high-visibility and a positive tool in deterring offenders. Other schemes in operation to tackle crime across the district were outlined, with the meeting noting that Operation Marrow provided a "farm watch" scheme for 95 members and was a useful source of information.

Insp Mead referred to Community Speedwatch schemes in rural  
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areas and pledged that for every week of the scheme undertaken in a rural location, a warranted enforcement officer would be provided for a day. The meeting also heard that high-visibility horseback patrols not only provided a police presence in rural areas, but had a very positive traffic-calming effect.

The meeting was provided with details of success stories including:

- No increase in ASB over the Halloween period
- The cross border team had achieved significant success in work with the travelling community
- A workshop in regard to road and internet safety among other topics had been attended by 300+ children
- Increased contact had been achieved with the largest and most successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the county
- Police Cadets had donated £500 to Street Pastors to look after vulnerable individuals in the NTE
- The Proactive Team had recently been active in Kettering and had achieved a significant number of arrests as well as vehicle, weapon and drug seizures

The meeting was asked to consider what crime issues meant most to them, with Insp Mead anticipating having four events each year to ascertain locally identified policing priorities.

The forum was encouraged to follow Insp Mead and the police force on social media platforms, where relevant information and updates were regularly provided which could be beneficial to rural residents and businesses.

The forum asked questions regarding rural speeding, drug use and rural burglaries, with the latter a cause for concern in relation to a lack of feedback from police regarding crime investigation and progress. Insp Mead acknowledged that communication in that regard could be improved, although a new system had just started whereby parish clerks would receive emails detailing crimes in their parish, with details of specific offences and the detection outcome.

Insp Mead provided assurances that the Safer Roads Team would undertake a survey of Weekley to see what traffic calming measures could be achieved. Brendan Coleman, the Head of Environmental Care, advised the meeting that the Street Cleansing team would also monitor the affected area.

Insp Mead was asked her view on the effectiveness of static and electronic speeding signage and cameras and stated that the

Safer Roads Team could attend individual parish meetings if requested to discuss road safety issues.

The meeting again raised the issue of the current format of police statistics. It was heard that this issue was currently being examined and Sgt Scott Little was producing rural crime statistics for circulation in the interim period.

The forum considered whether to invite Chief Insp Mick Stamper to the next meeting of the forum in light of the information provided by Insp Mead, with it being decided that a delay of six months to a year would be more appropriate.

Insp Mead was thanked for her presentation and attendance.

#### **16.RF.37      PUBLIC PAYPHONE REMOVALS**

A report was presented to the forum in relation to proposed public payphone removals in the district. It was noted that BT were consulting on the proposals, with KBC's Planning Department coordinating responses.

Members considered the consultation to be just the latest tranche of proposed payphone removals, with various communities across the district having adopted phone boxes to house defibrillators. Electricity to community-adopted boxes could be retained or disconnected as required and power would be provided without charge for a period of five years.

The forum was requested to make any representations directly to the Planning Department.

#### **16.RF.38      POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER MEETING**

The forum noted the meeting between geographic forum representatives and the Police and Crime Commissioner, scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Forum members were asked to forward any questions directly to the Parish Liaison Officer for circulation to the representatives attending the meeting. **DJP**

**16.RF.39**      **RURAL FORUM UPDATE**

The forum was presented with a draft example of an email designed to update the Rural Forum on issues and information that may be relevant to the rural agenda in the periods between forum meetings.

The Rural Forum Communications Group had requested the introduction of such an email and the forum were supportive of the layout and proposed content.

It was requested that any members with items to add to future updates contact the Parish Liaison Officer so they could be included. **DJP**

**16.RF.40**      **ELECTIONS COSTS FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS & PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGES**

A brief report was provided to the forum providing an update on election costs for town and parish councils and recent amendments to parliamentary boundaries affecting the Borough.

In relation to elections costs, a report had been taken to the council's Research and Development Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October which sought the committee's views on whether or not to make changes to the current arrangements for funding town and parish council elections. Following discussions the committee had concluded that the issue should not be pursued.

The meeting noted that the Boundary Commission for England had commenced a review of Parliamentary Constituencies with a proposal for the Finedon Ward, currently part of the Wellingborough constituency to be included in the Kettering Parliamentary Constituency. Both the Executive and Research and Development Committees had considered the proposal and accepted the Boundary Commission proposals. The meeting heard that consultation process remained open should any member wish to respond.

**16.RF.41**      **RURAL FORUM UPDATE**

Cllr Nick Richards provided the meeting with an update on Wilbarston Parish Council's efforts in relation to maintenance of rural transport services.

The meeting heard that a number of interested parties had been invited to the last Wilbarston Parish Council meeting. John Ellerby from the Transport Department of Northamptonshire County Council had attended the meeting with a resulting piece of work being undertaken that could provide a positive compromise for all parties.

Regular contact was being maintained with Borough and County representatives and Philip Hollobone MP, who had forwarded correspondence relating to the matter to Lord Ahmad, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Transport.

It was noted that those involved in rural transport with a wider remit might not necessarily keep rural communities advised and therefore information sharing among parishes and residents was important to enable interested parties to act. Radio Northampton had picked up on the issue and had provided significant support.

Councillor Allan Matthews noted that NCC had undertaken a scrutiny of rural bus services that provided an overview of the total requirements of community and rural bus services in the county. This report would be circulated to members of the forum.

**Cllr A  
Matthews  
DJP**

#### **16.RF.42 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were noted for future meetings of the Forum:-

- Rural Postal Deliveries
- Rural Broadband
- East Kettering Overview - Update

#### **16.RF.43 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **16.RF.44 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED VENUES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the forum would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 and would be held at the Municipal Offices, Kettering Borough Council.

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01.12.16

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9:00pm)

Signed .....

Chair

*DJP*

Rural Forum No. 8

01.12.16