

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

A6 TOWNS FORUM

Meeting held: 30th November 2016

Present: Councillor David Soans (KBC/DTC) (*Chair*)
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/RTC)
Councillor June Derbyshire (KBC/DTC)
Councillor Karl Sumpter (KBC/RTC)
Councillor Michael Tebbutt (KBC/DTC)
Councillor Christopher Groome (BLTC/NCC)
Councillor James Hakewill (NCC)
Councillor Mark Cox (RTC)
Councillor Ray Davis (RTC)
Councillor Dianne Miles-Zanger (BSPC)
Councillor Carolyn Carter (BSPC)
Councillor Derek Zanger (BLTC and BSPC)

Also Present: Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Jane Calcott (Neighbourhood Watch)
Sgt Scott Little (Northamptonshire Police)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator – KBC)
Callum Galluzo (Committee Administrator – KBC)

16.A6TF.33 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Brooks (DTC), Allan Matthews (DTC/NCC), Russell Roberts (NCC/KBC/BSPC) Ian Jelley (KBC/RTC), Margaret Talbot (KBC/RTC), Robin Cutsforth (DTC and Cedwien Brown (KBC/RTC).

16.A6TF.34 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns Forum held on 12^h October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16.A6TF.35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.A6TF.36 DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

A verbal update was given on the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order as follows:-

- Existing powers that make it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces would be retained
- It would continue to be an offence to allow a dog into any of the Council's cemeteries without it being on a lead
- The requirement for owners to put their dog(s) on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer would continue
- A new offence prohibiting dogs in fenced-in or enclosed play areas be introduced
- A new offence requiring dogs to be kept on leads in additional areas in some town centre parks be introduced
- A new offence prohibiting any one person walking more than six dogs at any one time be introduced

The new PSPO would come into effect in 2017.

16.A6TF.37 FORMAT OF THE A6 TOWNS FORUM

Following consideration of a report at the last meeting of the Forum, it was

RESOLVED that the June and September 2017 meetings of the Forum be held in Rothwell and Burton Latimer respectively.

16.A6TF.38 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

16.A6TF.21

The Forum was informed that Desborough Town Council had now signed a lease with the County Council to take over the empty Surestart premises as the new Desborough Town Council offices, with additional space for a children's play area.

Some initial success had been achieved regarding the Community Toilet Scheme following discussions with the owner of 47 Station Road, Desborough.

Informal discussion had taken place regarding the Community Toilet Scheme in Burton Latimer.

The A14 Cycle Route had now been cleaned and cleared of foliage. The County Council were working with Highways England regarding the parking of lorries over footpaths and double yellow lines at the service area on the A14.

16.A6TF.39 POLICE STATISTICS

Sergeant Scott Little attended the meeting to present the crime statistics for the A6 Towns for the last twelve months.

The police were aware of the A14 issues with lorry parking and had spoken to Highways England regarding closing the lay-by and erecting bollards.

A large increase across the area in incidents of crime was noted, and the proactive measures reported at the last meeting were reiterated and noted. Operation Pumpkin had been a success, with schools holding special assemblies. No increase in crime or other incidents had been reported over the Halloween/Firework Night period, and joint patrols with the Fire Services had been successful.

Police Cadets had been assisting with speed controls in Polwell Lane, Barton Seagrave, and all four Remembrance Sunday events had been attended by officers.

An Emergency Services Workshop had been held at Wicksteed Park with 130-140 attendees each day. The event would be repeated next year and all schools invited to attend.

Farmwatch and Operation Marrow involved joint training with landowners, farmers and the Fire Service. Latewatch provided a quick response.

It was reported that a major offender involved in burglaries in Barton Seagrave had been given a 26 month prison sentence. A recent robbery at the post office in Burton Latimer was being investigated and lines of enquiry followed up. In Rothwell, an incident involving a male approaching schoolgirls was being dealt with by the Safer Communities Team and police presence around schools increased. Patrols had also been increased around the skatepark in Rothwell following reports of antisocial behaviour.

Lapland retail patrols with wardens would be held on 9th December as follows:-

9.00 – 10.30: Burton Latimer
11.00 – 12.30: Rothwell
4.00 – 5.00: Barton Seagrave
6.00 – 8.00 Desborough

A survey of locally identified priorities would also be placed on the website and in the media.

Town and parish councillors had been invited to join the Police and Fire Service on 9th December. Further town centre patrols would be held quarterly and invites sent out in due course.

Discussion was held on the format of police statistics. It was noted that the Community Safety Officer was due to attend a meeting to identify what information was needed on an area basis. Town Councils needed to have a breakdown of crimes in order to report to their members, and re-instatement of such data would be welcomed. It was felt that it would be useful for Desborough Town Centre Partnership to have such information, and also to involve the Fire Service and Trading Standards, too.

AGREED that Sgt Little feed back the comments of the Forum in relation to police statistics

A problem with parking outside Meadowside School in Burton Latimer and speeding in Queensway around school times was noted by the police.

The police were thanked for their time in relation to Remembrance Day services and Christmas Lights Switch-ons.

16.A6TF.24 JOINT ACTION GROUPS

An update on progress to re-establish Joint Action Groups was given by Sgt Scott Little. Members of the Forum were urged to Contact Insp Julie Mead if they were interested in becoming involved or taking on a role. It was noted that Joint Action Groups would discuss locally identified priorities and address local issues.

It was felt that Joint Action Groups needed to be more strategic in future and not focus on individual incidents or crimes. The Young Detective and Young Firefighter schemes were commended as examples of strategic focus.

Sgt Little was thanked for his attendance.

16.A6TF.25 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Jane Calcott was welcomed to the meeting.

It was noted that there were currently 115 schemes in the A6 Towns areas, namely:-

Desborough	28
Rothwell	18
Burton Latimer	28
Barton Seagrave	41

Kettering Borough as a whole had 368 Neighbourhood Watch schemes registered.

There were also five allotment watches (signs available upon request) in Desborough, Burton Latimer, Barton Seagrave and Kettering. Allotment Watches could be expanded if required and further information was available from Neighbourhood Watch.

Dogwatch was dealt with locally by Rushden Neighbourhood Watch and involved people walking dogs reporting issues such as needles/syringes, fly-tipping, environmental health issues, etc.

The Forum noted that Neighbourhood Watch members had been successful in helping solve incidents of crime, most recently in relation to a break-in at Bosworths Nursery in Burton Latimer where members had passed on information to the Police.

Several areas where new schemes could be set up had been identified and a joint meeting was due to be held. Members of the Forum were invited to help in this respect. Further information was available from Neighbourhood Watch by emailing Jane Calcott on the email address below:-

Jane.Calcott@northants.pnn.police.uk>

Leaflets on Neighbourhood Watch were circulated at the meeting. It was

AGREED that copies of the leaflets and Neighbourhood Watch newsletter be sent to members and clerks to town and parish councils.

Jane Calcott was thanked for the update and her excellent work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

16.A6TF.26 PUBLIC PAYPHONE REMOVALS

A report was submitted which sought to enable the Forum to consider and formulate a response to British Telecommunications' (BT) public consultation on the subject of payphone removals in the Borough.

It was noted that BT had contacted the Planning Department on 6th October to advise the Council of the public consultation being undertaken as part of its current programme of intended payphone removals. The letter identified 18 payphones across the Borough that had been identified for removal and consultation notices had been posted on each payphone to alert local residents and payphone users of the intended removal. Local communities had the opportunity to adopt traditional red telephone boxes for the sum of £1.

The Council's Planning Department was now co-ordinating the Council's own consultation process, through the three geographic forums, to obtain the views of the community. Feedback would be collated and forwarded to BT.

The consultation period would end on 6th January 2017.

During debate, several points were made as follows:-

- Any red boxes on the list of intended removals should be identified and communities contacted to see if they wished to adopt them
- The payphone in Cranford Road, Burton Latimer, should be retained due to the demographics of the area and the amount of calls made
- Mobile phone coverage in some of the areas covered by payphones listed was poor
- All town and parish councils should be notified of the consultation and supplied with a list of payphones scheduled for removal

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the response from the A6 Towns Forum be forwarded to Kettering Borough Council Planning Department as follows:-
 - (a) it is suggested that the payphone on Cranford Road, Burton Latimer be retained as more calls have been made from it and it is in an area where people live who are more likely to need a public phone as they may not be able to afford a land line as well as a mobile phone;

- (b) total reliance on mobile phones and broadband could be unwise, given the sensitivity of networks; and
 - (c) any red old-style payphones on the list attached to the report should be kept and adopted.
- (ii) all town and parish councils should be reminded of the closing date for consultation responses.

16.A6TF.27 INFORMATION ITEMS

Newsround

Desborough

The town council was shortly moving into new premises.

Rothwell

The Gala would be held on Friday, 2nd December at the Market Square, together with a Christmas Festival in the Church.

Burton Latimer

The Christmas Lights Switch-on had been a tremendous success and an enjoyable evening.

Barton Seagrave/Burton Latimer

The A6 new road around the business park would be closed from Friday to Monday, 6th-9th January 2017.

Feedback from other Forums

Kettering Town Forum

The Public Spaces Protection Order had been discussed.

Rural Forum

The Chief Constable, John Stamper, had been invited to talk about crime in the rural areas.

A letter had been sent by the MP to the Minister about insufficient truck stops

Responsibility for street lighting in rural areas was still an issue

The Countywide Travellers' Unit could not become involved in enforcement of unauthorised occupation of private land. The owners were currently working on a process to remove travellers from land at Cransley Park, The concerns of residents in the surrounding area had been noted by the owners.

16.A6TF.28 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Budget Consultation
- Update on Electrification and Line Speed Improvements – Midland Mainline
- Farmers' Markets in Town Centres

16.A6TF.29 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that microphones would be required for future meetings of the A6 Towns Forum. It was reported that the loop system was still not working in the Council Chamber.

16.A6TF.30 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on 1st February 2017

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.07 pm)

Signed.....

Chair

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