

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

RURAL FORUM

Meeting held: 29th June 2017

Present:

Borough Councillors

Councillor Jim Hakewill (*Chair*)
Councillor David Howes
Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Anne Lee

County Councillors

Councillor Victoria Perry
Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes

Parish Councillors

Councillor Alison Ayton (Braybrooke)
Councillor Chris Groome (Burton Latimer TC)
Councillor Alan Garrett (Dingley)
Councillor David Watson (Geddington, Newton & Lt. Oakley)
Councillor David Whalley (Great Cransley)
Councillor Paul Gooding (Harrington)
Councillor Paul Wharin (Warkton)
Councillor Brian Peel (Weekly)

Also Present:

Sue Lyons (Kettering Borough Council)
Guy Holloway (Kettering Borough Council)
Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)
Julia Baish (Kettering Borough Council)
David Pope (Forum Administrator-KBC)

Actions

17.RF.01 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor David Watson nominated and Councillor Mark Rowley seconded Councillor Jim Hakewill as Chair.

RESOLVED that Councillor Jim Hakewill be duly re-elected as Chair of the Rural Forum for the municipal year 2017/18.

17.RF.02 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Councillor Jim Hakewill nominated and Councillor Bryan Peel seconded Councillor David Watson as Deputy Chair.

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RESOLVED that Councillor David Watson be duly re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Rural Forum for the municipal year 2017/18.

17.RF.03 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Lisa Hyde and Parish Councillors Frances Pope, Nick Richards, Hilary Bull, Andy Macredie, Robin Shrive, James Woolsey, Ian Bushby, Angela Beardsmore, Richard Barnwell and Robyn Whalley.

17.RF.04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

17.RF.05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 2nd February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17.RF.06 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

16.RF.50 - Town & Parish Notifications of Planning Related Applications

The forum heard that a consultation had been undertaken with town and parish council in early February 2017 in relation to the introduction of consultations on planning applications by electronic means. Although responses to the consultation had been requested by mid-March, to date only 13 responses had been received. The Planning Department was considering the content of representations which would inform the decision made by KBC on how to proceed. Once this decision had been determined, all town and parish councils would be informed of the outcome and should changes in process result, an adequate period of notice would be provided.

It was **AGREED** that an email would be sent to town and parish councils that had yet to send a consultation response, providing them with a final opportunity to provide a submission

JB/DJP

FLY-TIPPING - PROSECUTIONS

The Head of Environmental Care Services attended the meeting and provided a presentation which detailed the work of Environmental Care, Environmental Health and Housing departments in tackling the issue of fly-tipping in the Borough with an emphasis on the impact to rural areas.

Members were provided with a legal definition of fly-tipping and heard that nationally a decrease in incidents had been witnessed between 2007/08 and 2011/12, with approximately half a million fewer offences recorded by the end of that period. Since that time however, a steady rise in offences had been recorded. Local statistics showed a similar decline and increase in recorded offences across the same timeframe.

The meeting heard that KBC had in the past captured all fly-tipping offences in a single category, regardless of the type of waste tipped. Approximately 12 months previously a Fly Map database had been procured which now allowed for every incident to be mapped as to the location and type of waste dumped. This could be recorded in the field reducing the requirement for further data input in the office and allowed for the production of reports and graphs for analysis to identify links to local trends or social issues such as crime or littering.

Details of fly-tipping offences in individual wards across the borough were detailed, with the meeting noting urban wards as having the greatest levels of fly-tipping. The data could be further broken down into waste type, with dumped furniture, mattresses and other household waste providing the majority of fly-tipped items. Knowing the type of material dumped allow the council to tailor more effective education campaigns in these areas. Rural fly-tipping offences showed different types of dumping, with green waste, construction and demolition waste and white goods providing the major issues.

Education was key to tackling the problem, with the meeting noting that certain residents in high density urban areas being responsible for fly-tipping items in their own streets. It was necessary to ensure people were made aware of recycling schemes and the council's Bulk Item Collections which could ease the quantity of tipped items. Gating orders on alleyway hotspots could also be obtained to help tackle the issue. A new scheme to sticker dumped items as "under investigation" instead of instantly removing them had seen very encouraging results with a number of tipped items being removed without further

council involvement.

The meeting heard that when an incident of fly-tipping was identified, investigations took place and attempts were made to identify the perpetrator. Environmental wardens had investigated 105 incidents during the year, with ten fixed penalty notices issued and one prosecution resulting in a large fine for the individual concerned.

As a result of 12 months of Fly Map operation, a significant data bank had now been created identifying trends and timings of incidents. Targeted education campaigns, increased warden presence and signage combined with door-knocking in affected areas were all being utilised to combat fly-tipping. Applications could be made to the county council for use of its surveillance cameras, although KBC was considering purchasing its own equipment to allow for more flexibility in targeting the worst hotspots across the borough.

The forum asked questions in relation to the clarity of categorisation of abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping hotspots, payment of fines, the percentage of fines returned to the council and advertising of the council's bulk waste collection service.

Concerns were raised in relation to acceptance of certain types of waste at household recycling plants in the county. It was heard that KBC was working with county council colleagues in allowing a degree of flexibility to help prevent illegal dumping.

Questions regarding funding of surveillance equipment were asked, with it being noted that procurement of the right type of equipment could prove to be expensive and was only effective in dealing with specific, targeted issues.

The meeting heard that discussions could be held between Environmental Care and Environmental Health as to the possibility of members of the public uploading photographs of dumped waste to an area of the KBC website to possibly assist with intelligence gather.

BC

17.RF.08

FUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

A report was provided to the meeting outlining funding opportunities for groups preparing Neighbourhood Plans (NP). It was heard that this national funding scheme was administered by

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an organisation named Locality, with the current funding programme running through to March 2018.

Grants were offered of up to £9,000 to support the preparation of NPs, with funding available for a wide range of related aspects such as consultation events, employing planning experts, website creation and training needs for Parish and Town councils. Additional funding and support was available to help assist with more complex issues and priority groups, such as allocating sites for housing development, or for particularly diverse areas. In those areas an extra £6,000 of funding or technical support could be applied for. Alternatively, packages of support examining housing need, strategy preparation or environmental assessments could be applied for.

The meeting heard that in addition to financial support, Locality also provided a significant amount of guidance through its website, with step-by-step guides available to those wishing to pursue an NP.

Details were provided of a separate organisation, Planning Aids that provided web-based services to assist groups in the preparation of NPs with templates for project plans made available for download.

In addition, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) also had a wide range of useful information available on its website to guide participants through the NP process. It was noted that a link to the Good Councillors Guide to Neighbourhood Planning 2017 could be emailed to those requiring it.

DJP

In response to member questions it was noted that NPs were a positive planning tool for shaping and guiding development and could not be used as a tool to prevent growth in an area. NPs formed part of hierarchy of other plans; the North Northants Joint Core Strategy setting out policy for the area as a whole, with the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan below that covering the borough and dealing with issues in rural areas. Completed Neighbourhood Plans would sit below these in the hierarchy.

It was heard that two elements of the Site Specific Plan (SSP) would be taken to KBC's Planning Policy Committee the following week. The first element concerned the rural section of the Part 2 Local Plan members' comments would be sought in preparation for a public consultation on the draft plan later in the year. It was anticipated the consultation would be held during November and December and would run for a period of six weeks seeking comments from all parishes. The second item going to committee

related to Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) allocations and a recommendation to remove these from the SSP and encompass them within a separate planning document to enable the SSP to continue on schedule, whilst extra work was undertaken on the done on the G&T element of the plan.

17.RF.09 **FEEDBACK FROM CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF POLICE**

Following a request made by the forum at its previous meeting, it was heard that a letter penned by the Chair had been sent to the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and copied to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Philip Hollobone MP seeking a meeting with all three to express concerns in relation to:-

- that the rural community wished to know whether its views were genuinely being listened to by police and the PCC
- to raise concerns regarding attendance of police at crimes such as burglary
- whether police visibility was being affected due to the weight of resources aimed at tackling cyber-crime

It was heard that the Chief Constable was unavailable to attend a Rural Forum meeting until February 2018, which he considered to be too long a wait. Members were therefore provided with three options:-

1. To wait until the Rural Forum scheduled for February 2018 to hold a meeting
2. To alter the date of the next Rural Forum to enable the Chief Constable, PCC and MP to attend
3. To hold a separate meeting outside of the Rural Forum schedule

Following discussion it was

AGREED that a separate meeting be held outside of the Rural Forum schedule, with the Chief Constable, PCC and Philip Hollobone MP invited to attend.

LH/DJP

17.RF.10 **SUMMER EVENTS IN THE BOROUGH**

The Head of Corporate Development attended the meeting and
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provided a presentation on events and activities scheduled across the Borough during the summer period.

Women's Tour

The meeting heard that on 7th June the Women's Tour cycle race had passed through the Borough, the route including a number of local villages. Organisers considered that Kettering and its surroundings had embraced the event with large crowds witnessed along the route. A detailed report on the economic benefits to the area was awaited which could be shared with forum members.

Kettering by the Sea

The annual Kettering by the Sea beach creation would be held between 21st July and 19th August at the Market Place in Kettering. Alongside the beach area would be an array of activities, with a programme of events published on the new "This is Kettering" website and the "What's On" books, which were delivered to rural areas.

Summer Play Schemes

Play schemes would be taking place across the Borough, with places available to children in Geddington, Broughton, Wilbarston and Mawsley. There would be no charge levied for these schemes to bring them into line with Kettering by the Sea. Feedback on how these schemes were received would be appreciated as there was a willingness to extend the event offer currently available to rural areas in the Borough.

Publicising Event

KBC was aware that numerous events took place in rural areas during the summer period and parishes and event organisers were encouraged to contact the council to obtain free event publicity via KBCs wide-reaching social media platforms and print media.

17.RF.11

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO KETTERING TOWN AND A6 TOWNS FORUMS

Rural Forum members were sought to represent the forum on the Kettering Town and A6 Towns Forums.

The Chair volunteered to be the forum's representative at the A6 Towns Forum. No forum member could be found to represent the forum at the Kettering Town Forum.

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17.RF.12 POLICE STATISTICS

The police statistics were taken as read, with the new format of presentation noted.

17.RF.13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Government White Paper on Housing
- East Kettering Update
- Kettering Town Centre Highways Improvements
- Report from the A6 Towns Representative

17.RF.14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED VENUES

It was noted that the date for the next meeting of the forum would be 21st September 2017.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9:07pm)

Signed

Chair

DJP