

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

### **A6 TOWNS FORUM**

**Meeting held: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Present:** Councillor John Currall (KBC/RTC) - Chair  
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC)  
Councillor Andrew Dutton (KBC)  
Councillor Mark Dearing (KBC)  
Councillor Christopher Groome (BLTC)  
Councillor James Hakewill (NCC)  
Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes (NCC)  
Councillor Maureen Jerram (BLTC)  
Councillor Jenny Davies (BLTC)

**Also Present:** Jon Hall (Kettering Borough Council)  
Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)  
Julie Trahern (Kettering Borough Council)  
Insp Julie Mead (Northamptonshire Police)  
Sgt Scott Little (Northamptonshire Police)  
Callum Galluzzo (Committee Administrator – KBC)

#### **17.A6TF.12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allan Matthews  
Councillor Ian Jelley (KBC/RTC), Councillor Mike Tebbutt (KBC), and  
Cllr Margaret Talbot (KBC).

#### **17.A6TF.13 MINUTES**

*17.A6TF.06 – That the description of the Latimer Arts College be  
corrected to “hotspot”*

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns  
Forum held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 be approved as a  
correct record and signed by the Chair

#### **17.A6TF.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **17.A6TF.15 DECRIMINALISED PARKING**

An update was provided by Jon Hall, Health Manager on the decriminalised parking project being undertaken with Northamptonshire County Council.

It was heard that parking enforcement (yellow lines, obstruction, timed bays etc) was under criminal law legislation which is enforced by the police. However, through delegated authority from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Kettering Borough Council (KBC) enforces 'off street' car parking (KBC car parks) and residents parking (40 streets)

Members of the forum also heard that KBC pays for the salary for one traffic warden and 4 PCSOs who can enforce parking along with police officers. KBC wishes to decriminalise its parking regime – which means KBC wardens could do the parking enforcement that the police currently do.

The Forum also heard that the County Council would also like to decriminalise and extend the policing through private contractors. Through negotiations, the Department for Transport had agreed that the Borough Council can propose a business plan which would be put to the County Council

It was then heard that these negotiations were still ongoing and that the next meeting with NCC was to be held on the 20th September 2017..

Members were then told that KBC are proposing a very different model to NCCs private contractor model. KBC wardens are multi - disciplinary meaning that as well as enforcing parking, they are also responsible for other areas such as environmental crimes and abandoned cars etc.

Under the business plan the Borough Council would have 8 additional wardens where a good proportion would be devoted specifically to the A6 towns and villages where parking restrictions exist. This will be 7 days a week.

### **17.A6TF.16 NEW POLICING MODELS**

Northamptonshire Police Inspector Julie Mead attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Police's new working arrangements and models.

Members heard that policing had changed massively over the past 25 years partly thanks to the rise of technology and cyber-crime. The objective of the review was to improve the efficiency and delivery of service by the police.

It was heard that despite there being a physical reduction in headcount for neighbourhood policing, these officers would not be used for local response teams as had happened in the past, instead they would be used for community engagement projects and initiatives allowing for a stronger focus on community engagement.

Members also heard that thanks to new technology, community based officers would be given special tablets that meant that they could perform any task at any location as if they were in a station, Touch down points such as community centres and community facilities would be used by officers to perform day to day admin tasks thus creating a physical presence for members of the public.

It was also heard that there would be 4 new policing hubs within Northamptonshire; The Weekly Woods Justice Centre was to include a Northern Accommodation Building, Prisoner Investigation centre and Learning and Development centre. Members were invited by Inspector Mead to tour the facility if they had not already had the opportunity to do so.

#### **17.A6TF.17 POLICE STATISTICS**

Sergeant Scott Little attended the meeting to present the crime statistics for the A6 Towns over the last 24 months.

In Barton Seagrave 13 fewer crimes had been recorded over the last 12 months. A number of robberies had been recorded, some of these committed by children of school age. One offender had been apprehended.

In Burton Latimer, criminal damage had decreased, thanks to work from the forces Proactive teams.

Vehicle related crimes had risen in almost all A6 towns, work is currently ongoing with proactive teams to target serial offenders.

In Rothwell, drug-related and burglaries had increased.

The police had set up surgeries for local A6 Towns as well as a rural road show to go into areas to talk to residents.

Dog Fouling and parking were local priority issues that had been reported. The Police was working with local partner organisations and agencies to tackle these problems.

It was noted that Sgt Little would be moving to a regional role and so a new police sergeant will be taking over from himself.

Insp Julie Mead and Sgt Little was thanked for his attendance.

#### **17.A6TF.18 GRASS CUTTING OF VERGES AND OPEN SPACES**

Brendan Coleman, Head of Environmental Care, attended the meeting and provided members with a report detailing the summary of Grass Verge Maintenance and Grass Cutting in relation to Kettering Borough Council.

Members head that Highway verge maintenance is the responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council as the Highways authority. It was heard that following a budget review in 2012, Northamptonshire County Council reduced their budget for verge maintenance and, subsequently, only fund 2 cuts a year. Kettering Borough Council continues to maintain the level of the subsidy it provides, in order to maintain higher standards than can be achieved from the County Council's budget alone. There has, however, been a significant reduction in service due to Northamptonshire County Council's budget cuts in this area. There will be fewer mowers allocated to verge maintenance, meaning that the number of cuts has been reduced; consequently grass verges have appeared longer than in the years prior to the NCC budget reduction. In addition, the functions of strimming around obstacles and blowing the grass back onto the verge, is no longer be carried out.

Members of the forum also heard that there was a joint project with Corby Borough Council currently being looked at in relation to shared services to help improve services offered and improve efficiencies across the department.

Members thanked the Grounds Maintenance staff for their hard work in maintaining open spaces, grass verges and other items across the Borough.

Members questioned the council's stance on helping wildlife and habitats. It was heard that the Council has a number of schemes and projects with relation to the planting of wildflowers and other wildlife plantings.

#### **17.A6TF.19 OFF SITE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT WORKS; EAST KETTERING**

Members of the forum received a report to set out the current position with off-site highway improvements associated with East Kettering development.

Members heard that a full detailed report is currently being drafted and would be presented at a future forum.

#### **17.A6TF.20 INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **Newsround**

###### **Burton Latimer**

A petition was currently being circulated petitioning the closure of the Barclays Bank within Burton Latimer. A public meeting was due to take place between members of the Town Council and representatives from Northamptonshire Police to discuss ongoing crime issues. Party in the park took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and was attended by many people, receiving positive feedback throughout. Late night shopping was due to commence on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

##### **Feedback from other Forums**

###### **Rural Forum**

The last meeting had been held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, with the next meeting due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

#### **17.A6TF.21 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None

#### **17.A6TF.22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A letter from the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner was circulated at the meeting which gave details of a public consultation regarding proposals for the governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to transfer from the Fire Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner, who would therefore become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

It was noted that the consultation closed on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

**17.A6TF.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.36 pm)

Signed.....

Chair

CJG