

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 25th June 2018

Present: Kettering Borough Councillors

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)

Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor Duncan Bain
Councillor James Burton (Mayor)
Councillor Ash Davies
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Jenny Henson
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Shirley Stanton
Councillor Lesley Thurland
Councillor Greg Titcombe
Councillor Jonathan West
Councillor Michael Tebbutt

Northamptonshire County Councillors

Councillor Eileen Hales MBE
Councillor Bill Parker

Representatives of Member Organisations

Jane Calcott (Churches Together)
Darren Bishop (Northamptonshire Police)
Simon Cox (Kettering Business Network)
Andy Sipple (Kettering Interfaith Forum)
Paul Ansell (Kettering Civic Society)

Also Present

Shirley Plenderleith (Kettering Borough Council)
Rochelle Mathieson (Kettering Borough Council)
Simon Richardson (Kettering Borough Council)
Callum Galluzzo (Forum Administrator)

18.KTF.02 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Thurland proposed and Councillor Davies Seconded that Councillor Lloyd Bunday be the Chair of the Kettering Town Forum for this municipal year.

It was therefore

RESOLVED that Councillor Lloyd Bunday be appointed Chair of the Town Forum for the municipal year 2018/19

(Councillor Bunday took the Chair)

18.KTF.03 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Bunday proposed and Councillor Thurland seconded that Councillor Maggie Don be the Deputy Chair of the Kettering Town Forum for this municipal year. It was therefore

RESOLVED that Councillor Maggie Don be appointed to Deputy Chair of the Town Forum for the municipal year 2018/19

18.KTF.04 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Scott Edwards, Phillip Hollobone and Keli Watts.

18.KTF.05 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 29th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

18.KTF.06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Shirley Stanton declared a personal interest in item 7 due to a family member's employment within Northamptonshire Police

Councillor Linda Adams declared a personal interest in item 8 as an employee with Northamptonshire County Council.

18.KTF.07 POLICE STATISTICS

Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Darren Bishop was welcomed to the forum and gave an update on the latest crime statistics and incidents for Kettering.

Members were notified that in general there had been a reduction in crime compared to the statistics from the previous year, it was stated that there had been an increase in drug related crime through all Kettering Town wards but this was due to increased police activity and operations.

It was then heard that there had been a major spike in the number of bike thefts across the town, 20% of all bike thefts were bikes that were left unsecured by its owner. As well as this the police was working closely on its local identified priorities including ongoing parking and speeding issues with increased patrols thanks to cooperation with the Emergency Service Cadets.

Members enquired regarding the Police's stance on pavement parking and whether or not this could be enforced. It was then heard by members that as Kettering was still to decriminalise its parking legislation that the Police Traffic Warden would have the powers take action against vehicles that obstruct the footpath.

Members raised concerns once more regarding pavement, especially around Alfred Street and the William Knibb Centre which was now the base for a large number of Northants County Council staff. It was heard that the police would increase its visible patrols around this area and will make enquiries with the William Knibb Centre to allow information to be passed to the employees based there.

The point was then raised by members that this posed an opportunity for the Emergency Service Cadets to get involved by dropping educational materials on the points and issues raised previously by members, this included safely securing bikes, vehicles and homes as well as due to the increase in temperatures and the opportunity for theft to occur due to open windows. It was heard that an operation was due to take place over the summer months incorporating the issues raised by members.

Concerns were then raised by members with regards to the Travellers that had occupied Northampton Road Recreational Ground. It was confirmed to members that a Section 61 order had been issued for the travellers to vacate the site by 10:00an on Tuesday 26th June 2018.

Members questioned why the Section 61 order had been issued on this occurrence but had not been issued previously when Travellers occupied the Ise Lodge or Meadow Road green spaces.

Sgt. Bishop confirmed that there were a number of factors that had to be taken into consideration to issue a Section 61 order and these were met with regards to the instance on Northampton Road. Further information from the County Travellers Unit was to be sought and fed back to members.

18.KTF.08 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

Head of Public Services, Shirley Plenderleith attended the meeting and gave a brief overview on ongoing consultation on Public Sector reform within Northamptonshire.

It was reported that the “Future Northants” public sector reform consultation had commenced in relation to the government request for councils in Northamptonshire to make proposals to replace the existing two tier system of local government with all-purpose councils, also known as unitary councils.

Members of the forum heard that the consultation was currently ongoing and was to come to an end on the 22nd July 2018. The consultation was being undertaken through Future Northants and that it was being published through a number of different channels via social media and at the Council offices.

A number of specific dates were provided to the meeting relation to the consultation process ahead of the end of August submission date.

- 3rd July – Town and Parish Consultation event in Towcester
- 10th July – KBC elected member Focus Group at KBC
- 12th July - Town and Parish Consultation event in Wellingborough
- 18th July – Residents Focus Group at KBC
- 22nd July – Consultation closes
- 20th August – Member Information Session at KBC
- 29th August – Extraordinary Council Meeting

It was heard that physical copies of the consultation document were available in libraries across the Borough and online.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of central government funding that has led to the financial crisis associated with Northamptonshire County Council stating that the crisis had to be

solved as opposed to passing problems and debts to the new authorities.

It was then heard that the council would undertake a number of media campaigns to raise public awareness of the consultation and to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to voice their concerns or to ask questions regarding the public sector reform within Northamptonshire.

18.KTF.09 KETTERING BUSINESS NETWORK

Simon Cox, Kettering Business Network attended the forum and presented members with a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Kettering Business Network.

Members heard that the Kettering Business Network was set up as a not for profit non membership, all-inclusive business network for the Kettering Borough, members were told that the Network was set up as a community for local businesses to meet, engage, grow and develop their business support new start up business as well as existing and operational ones.

Monthly Meetings take place across the borough incorporating a variety of venues and organisations including guest speakers and working closely with schools to develop business skills and to help within the voluntary sector.

Members heard that the Kettering Business Network represented the borough at the recent SME Business Awards, receiving a finalists accreditation.

As well as the work with local businesses, charities and organisations, the network also organises regular social engagements between its members and has recently held a charity quiz night in aid of Kettering General Hospital Charity Fund raising £3750.

Members then raised question in relation to participation from businesses within the town centre and encouraged partnership work and engagement between Kettering Borough Council and the Kettering Business Network.

18.KTF.10 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rochelle Mathieson attended the forum and introduced herself to members as the new Head of Commercial Development at Kettering Borough Council.

Members received a brief outline to the work that would be undertaken within the Commercial Development department and were notified of a number of prospective projects that included working with local organisations and growth hubs.

Members were told that one of the main responsibilities as the Head of Commercial Development was to find new ways for the Council to generate income through the trading of services, acquisition/disposal of properties/assets and through efficiencies and savings.

It was then heard that a recent project was due to commence soon under the title of "Switch2Save" which was a collective energy switch scheme that allowed residents to access the best energy deal for them, it was heard that branding was currently being finalised before the project was rolled out.

18.KTF.11 BUS SHELTER OWNERSHIP

A Verbal update was provided by Shirley Plenderleith, Head of Public Services in relation to the ownership of bus shelters within the borough.

It was heard that Northamptonshire County Council currently own and therefore were responsible for the maintenance of bus shelters within Kettering Borough.

Kettering Borough Council undertook a deep clean of all bus shelters within the Newland Street and Market Place interchanges as a one off to bring the facilities to an acceptable condition.

It was heard that there is a contract with a third party called "clear channel" who operate on behalf of the local authority to maintain the bus shelters and to manage the advertising revenue.

Members of the forum then heard that the Bus Shelters located on Rothwell Road next to Kettering General Hospital had recently been removed and were due to be replaced by Kettering Borough Council through S106 funding.

18.KTF.12 SITE SPECIFIC PART 2 LOCAL PLAN

The forum was provided with details of the ongoing consultation in relation to the draft SSP2 local plan that would run until 3rd August 2018.

The SSP2, when adopted, would form part of the Development Plan for the Borough situated alongside the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. It would make allocations of land and provide

local planning policies. A number of consultations had been undertaken since the SSP2 process commenced in 2012, and a further stage of consultation would take place ahead of the plan's - submission.

The SSP2 document contained the following details:

- Allocations (housing, employment, open space)
- Settlement boundaries
- Local Green Space
- Green Infrastructure corridors
- Development criteria for allocations
- Protection and enhancement of town centres and local centres

A series of consultation events have been arranged and the public and all stakeholders were encouraged to attend. Presentation material would be available and KBC officers would be in attendance to discuss the plans and answer questions.

It was noted that the SSP2 does not provide policies affecting Kettering Town Centre, and that a review of the Kettering Town Centre Action Plan would be undertaken upon completion of the SSP2.

Members asked regarding the scope of the consultation, and heard that the Council is adopting an extensive range of consultations mechanisms to engage with as many residents, local community groups and organisations as possible to make the consultation a success.

The Forum thanked the officer for the 'heads up', encouraged active participation, and the officer agreed to provide additional support and information to the local business sector and faith communities.

18.KTF.13 SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items suggested for future meetings of the forum were:-

- Bus Services in Kettering
- Gypsies and Travellers

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.32 pm)

Signed.....
Chair

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