

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

A6 TOWNS FORUM

Meeting held: 3rd October 2018

Present: Councillor John Currall (KBC/RTC)
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor Christopher Groome (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor Andrew Dutton (KBC)
Councillor James Hakewill (NCC)
Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes (NCC)
Councillor Jenny Davies (BLTC)
Councillor Mike Tebbutt (KBC)
Councillor Karl Sumpter (KBC/RTC)
Councillor Dianne Miles-Zanger (BSPC)
Councillor Allan Matthews (NCC)

Also Present: Brendan Coleman (KBC)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator – KBC)
Jane Calcott (Neighbourhood Watch)
Sgt Rob Offord (Northamptonshire Police)

18.A6TF.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Russell Roberts, Maggie Don, June Derbyshire and Mark Dearing (KBC) and Mark Cox (RTC),

18.A6TF.15 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns Forum held on 27th June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

Further to a question in relation to 18.A6TF.07, it was noted that town and parish council elections would take place on the first Thursday in May 2020 should the planned elections in 2019 be postponed by parliamentary order.

18.A6TF.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.A6TF.17 POLICE STATISTICS

Sgt Rob Offord presented the Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Statistics for the 12 month period to September 2018.

Barton Seagrave

A 6.6% overall increase in crime had been recorded with 19 recorded burglaries or attempted burglaries over the period 1st June to mid-September, 15 of which entry had been gained and property taken. Offenders had been systematically trying locks and door handles trying to gain entry. Even if access had not been gained, the crime was classed as an attempted burglary.

In response, properties had been leafleted advising people to keep their doors and windows locked and secure and police patrols increased in Barton Seagrave during the night hours wherever possible.

Burton Latimer

Crime overall had decreased by 9% with a decrease in theft offences. There had been a small increase in violence against the person offences.

Desborough and Rothwell

Crime had increased by 14% in Desborough and was down by 5% in Rothwell. The Grange in Desborough had been targeted by a crew of special constables patrolling the streets to target incidents of antisocial behaviour.

General

At a recent meeting, members of Kettering Town Forum had stressed that residents felt that the number of drug offences in Kettering was rising and was now out of control. However, because of increased police activity in relation to Operation Viper, more arrests had been made and more drug-related crimes recorded as people had been caught in possession of drugs.

Antisocial behaviour overall had reduced, which it was felt was due to the rise in social media.

Specific operational activities were noted, namely:-

- A rural day of action
- Increased action to address motorcycle nuisance in Barton Seagrave

- Paul McGovern (HMP Manchester) visits to schools

Questions and Issues Raised by Members of the Forum

- If drugs were ingested a person could not be arrested as being in possession of drugs and this would then become a medical emergency
- Halloween – elderly people could be frightened by door knockers
- Rumours of incidences of eggs being thrown at car windscreens were reported, although it was noted that no incidents of this nature had been recorded in the Borough
- Parked cars in Rothwell streets blocked access for emergency vehicles
- Children were reported as smoking drugs and riding motorcycles in the park near the Community Centre in Rothwell
- Operation Viper was ongoing and was considered to be successful, although it was acknowledged that it did impact negatively on crime statistics
- Parking enforcement in Rothwell was raised. It was noted there was no easy mechanism for the Borough to become a part of countywide enforcement scheme as this required an order from government
- Parking on grass verges – it was confirmed that all wheels of a vehicle were required to be in contact with the road, although the Council's view was that no obstruction occurred if wheels were not in contact with a part of the pavement. Work was continuing in this respect with housing providers
- Police presence at town and parish council meetings was requested
- Police presence at Christmas lights switch-on evenings in the A6 towns was requested, plus assistance in relation to clearing of Churchill Way car park in Burton Latimer from 6.30 am on 30th November

ACTIONS AGREED

- Sgt Offord would email a poster to Councillor R Groome in respect of Halloween, which could then be printed off and circulated to concerned elderly people to put up in their windows
- Sgt Offord would supply assistance in relation to providing details required to clear vehicles from Churchill Way car park from 6.30 am on 30th November in preparation for the Christmas lights switch-on
- Councillor Sumpter would speak to Jeff (based in Kettering) regarding traffic enforcement in Rothwell
- Councillor Hakewill would pursue the question of the future of parking enforcement in Kettering Borough

- Sgt Offord would attend a future meeting of Burton Latimer Town Council, but would be available to answer questions if contacted in the meantime

Sgt Offord was thanked for his attendance.

18.A6TF.18 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

Members of the Forum received a presentation in relation to the current position in relation to public sector reform in Northamptonshire.

It was noted that a submission had been made to the government on 31st August, following the decisions made at meetings of Northamptonshire local authorities during the last week in August.

During discussion, members of the forum made reference to other counties that had already undergone the process, notably Bedfordshire and Dorset. It was felt that it would be important for officers and members across Northamptonshire to work together in the run-up to 1st April 2020.

Some residents in the A6 towns had indicated they would expect more services to be delivered locally by town and parish councils following local government reform in Northamptonshire. In response, it was noted that it was hoped that more details on the roles of town and parish councils would be reported to a future meeting once further information was available. The point was made that if town and parish councils were expected to deliver devolved services, then funding must be available to enable this to happen. Additionally, consideration must be given to creating additional parished areas in North Northamptonshire to include Kettering town.

Brendan Coleman was thanked for his presentation.

A request was made for the presentation to be sent by email to all members of the A6Towns Forum.

18.A6TF.19 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Jane Calcott gave an update on Neighbourhood Watch activities as follows:-

- The traffic warden in the A6 towns (Jeff) was starting to cover rural areas
- There were currently 37 schemes in Barton Seagrave, 27 in Burton Latimer, 26 in Desborough and 15 in Rothwell, with one additional scheme commencing in Connolly Drive in Rothwell

- Crime reports were published twice a week, and if people were signed up to the community messaging scheme they would receive reports by email
- Crime prevention advice could be given to town and parish councils upon request
- Hanwood Park had recently set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and more would be created as building progressed
- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the Borough totalled 331 with 215 Dog Watch members
- If any members of the Forum were holding surgeries and crimes were reported, these could be passed onto Neighbourhood Watch and Jane would make contact

Discussion was then held on smart-water pencil sticks for marking personal property. For residents who were part of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, there was a negotiated deal for a cost of £25 with no additional ongoing costs.

Councillor Sumpter reported that property had been stolen from Rothwell Allotments. It was noted that Allotment Watch could help, with details available through Neighbourhood Watch.

Councillor Currall requested posters for Burton Latimer.

Jane Calcott was thanked for the update on Neighbourhood Watch.

18.A6TF.20 INFORMATION ITEMS

Newsround

Rothwell

The Christmas Gala would be held on 6th December.

Parking, drug issues and youths on motorbikes were still causing problems

Burton Latimer

Concerns had been expressed at the recent meeting of Burton Latimer Town Council regarding the Northamptonshire County Council budget and the possibility that Section 106 money destined for Burton Latimer had been improperly used. Councillor Hakewill agreed to look into this and speak to colleagues at the County Council.

Late night shopping in Burton Latimer would take place on 30th November from 6.00 pm.

Desborough

£150k funding for Desborough library had been offered, with an additional £100k from Desborough Town Council, which meant that irrespective of the NCC decision regarding libraries, £250k was now available for Desborough Library. The roadside seat would not now be installed and the proposed one-way system would not now be implemented.

Feedback from other Forums

No feedback from the other forums was available.

18.A6TF.21 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The list of future agenda items was updated as follows:-

- Update on Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire
- Kettering Borough Council Budget
- Information on town councils across the county and their precepting levels
- Possible devolution of services to town councils
- Community toilets
- Wildlife Corridors

18.A6TF.22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

18.A6TF.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on 30th January 2019

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.35 pm)

Signed.....

Chair

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