

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 1st October 2018

Present: Kettering Borough Councillors

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)

Councillor Duncan Bain
Councillor James Burton (Mayor)
Councillor Ash Davies
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Scott Edwards
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Clark Mitchell
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Shirley Stanton
Councillor Lesley Thurland
Councillor Greg Titcombe
Councillor Jonathan West
Councillor Margaret Talbot

Representatives of Member Organisations

Jane Calcott (Churches Together)
Jon Hodgson (Northamptonshire Police)
Simon Cox (Kettering Business Network)
Andy Sipple (Kettering Interfaith Forum)

Also Present

Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Rochelle Mathieson (Kettering Borough Council)
Guy Holloway (Kettering Borough Council)
Jon Hall (Kettering Borough Council)
Callum Galluzzo (Forum Administrator)

18.KTF.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Jenny Henson, Phillip Hollobone and Keli Watts. Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillors Eileen Hales, Bill Parker and Victoria Perry.

18.KTF.15 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 25th June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

18.KTF.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

17.KTF.17 REPRESENTATIVE ON THE A6 TOWNS FORUM

Councillor Don volunteered to be the Kettering Town Forum representative on the A6 Towns Forum.

17.KTF.18 REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RURAL FORUM

Councillor Lee volunteered to be the Kettering Town Forum representative on the Rural Forum.

18.KTF.19 POLICE STATISTICS

Christine Manning addressed the forum as a resident of Kettering and raised concerns to the forum that there was a number of unacceptable anti-social issues that were ongoing within the town. It was stated that there a number of incidents had been reported on social media in relation to drug related crimes and that it was key for residents to work closely with both the Council and Northamptonshire Police to help deal with the unacceptable and alarming behaviour.

Grahame Fenwick also addressed the forum as both a resident of Kettering as a park warden within the grounds maintenance team at Kettering Borough Council. Mr Fenwick stated that on a number of occasions whilst inspecting the town's parks he has found individuals openly partaking in criminal activities and that there is a lengthy clean-up process to ensure that all paraphilia and harmful substances are removed to ensure public safety especially in parks where school children are in close proximity.

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

The forum heard that a recent Police operation called operation Viper was carried out to deal with serious organised crime along with serious gang and drug related activities. Following the operation a number of warrants were issued and a number of arrests were made. Enquires were still ongoing.

It was heard that following a public outcry for action, a residents group in Corby was set up to work closely with the police to tackle common goals and to ensure joint resources. It was recommended to the members that a similar group be established within Kettering or for residents to help establish more street watch programs within the town.

Members then raised concerns to representatives from Northamptonshire Police in relation to a number of reported crime hotspots within their respectful wards and enquired about the possibility of the Police & Crime Commissioner to meet with local residents and the council to discuss the ongoing issues and to discuss a way forward to tackle the spike in Anti-Social Behaviour.

18.KTF.20 WARDEN SERVICES

Environmental Services Manager Jon Hall attended the meeting and provided a presentation about the various services offered by the Councils Warden team.

The Forum heard that Kettering Borough Council employed 8 full time wardens, who operated 7 days a week between 8am to 8pm. The warden team also provided an 'out of hours' service for stray dogs which covers evenings and weekends.

It was stated that the main functions wardens performed included:

Parking

Where the wardens operate, patrol and manage 6 pay and display car parks, along with other controlled car parks such as Chesham House and Northampton Road. It was also stated that the wardens also patrolled 40 streets which are within residential parking zones in Kettering.

Environmental Crime

It was stated that wardens investigate environmental crimes such as fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, and abandoned vehicles. It was reported that during 2016/2017 there were 1787 Fly tipping incidents and in 2017/2018 there were 1441 incidents. Of these reported incidents wardens investigated 246 of these individual incidents where evidence was available.

It was then stated that in the last financial year, there had been 4 fly tipping prosecutions resulting in fines totalling over £4,000.

In addition to this the meeting heard that since April 2017, 52 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for littering offences together with 4 littering prosecutions. There are currently 8 are pending prosecutions for littering offences.

In the last financial year wardens assisted in removing 283 vehicles abandoned vehicles, collected 79 stray dogs and dealt with 126 separate dog fouling related incidents. The team also microchipped 43 dogs.

Pest Control

The Forum heard that wardens operated a pest control service which offered a service to both domestic and commercial customers. In the last year (17/18) wardens treated 455 pest issues. Compared to this year (to October 1st) wardens had already treated more than 470 incidents.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Members of the forum heard that with their statutory partners, wardens deal with a multitude of anti-social behaviours including street drinking, and begging.

Since 2016 it was reported that the wardens had successfully pursued 17 prosecutions and obtained the same number of Criminal Behaviour Orders. 13 of these prosecutions related to begging, drinking, and foul and abusive behaviour.

The wardens recorded 192 ASB complaints between 01/04/17-31/3/18.

It was then heard that in the last 12 months, the warden team had issued over 30 Community Protection Warning Notices, issued over 17 Community Protection Notices, and issued 11 Fixed Penalty Notices for breach of Public Space Protection Orders. Many of the individuals wardens dealt with have very complex backgrounds and as such officers would always work very closely with the support services, for example the homelessness team to try to resolve any identified issues.

The meeting then heard that the wardens and police operate from shared accommodation in order to work much more closely and share relevant intelligence. On average wardens and police undertake around 5 hours of joint patrols each week.

18.KTF.21 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

A brief overview was provided of the background, process and current position in regard to the reform of local government in the county.

The forum heard that the eight local authorities across the county had, at the request of the Secretary of State, worked on a submission for the future structure of local government in Northamptonshire which would see two unitary authorities replace the existing arrangements. The original deadline for submission of a proposal had been extended to the end of August, with each authority taking an identical report to its respective Full Council in the preceding week, requesting consideration of four recommendations as follows:-

Whether to respond to the invitation to submit made by the Secretary of state

Whether the 'Northamptonshire Local Government Reform Proposal' appended to the report should form the submission to the Secretary of state

Whether to approve resources up to a maximum of £500,000 to progress work on "next steps"

Whether to approve interim governance arrangements for the preparatory phase leading up to the creation of shadow authorities

It was reported that all eight authorities had approved the first two recommendations with the exception of Corby Borough Council, with all authorities approving recommendations three and four.

Details of the make-up of the proposed North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary authorities were outlined and the forum noted that the Secretary of State had received the final submission on 31st August.

It was heard that the Secretary of State would now need to consider whether to take no action as a result of the submission or to consult on the proposal. Should a formal statutory consultation be undertaken, it would last for a period of either 6 or 8 weeks. It was anticipated that this would extend the timeline of the process to December at which point a formal decision would be made on the proposal and a Parliamentary order drafted.

It was noted that further updates would be brought to all future meetings of the forum.

18.KTF.22 CHRISTMAS IN KETTERING

The Head of Corporate Development attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the planned events in and around Kettering town centre during the Christmas period.

Members heard that there had been a number of popular and successful events throughout the year including the Easter Egg Hunt Activities where 500 people took part.

It was also heard that the annual Kettering by the Sea celebrations were visited by over 7000 people during the 4 weeks. As well as this members were told of the RAF 100 celebrations in the Market place were over 850 attended.

It was reported that this year's Christmas light switch on would take place on Thursday 28th November.

Members of the forum also heard that a number of other activities and events would take place on the market place and throughout the town in the run up to Kettering including a pop up ice rink, Silver Band, Christmas Market, Late Night Shopping and a Big Screen Movie Night.

18.KTF.23 SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items suggested for future meetings of the forum were:-

None

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

Signed.....

Chair

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