

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**KETTERING TOWN FORUM**

**Meeting held: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Present:**            **Kettering Borough Councillors**

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)  
Councillor James Burton  
Councillor Ash Davies  
Councillor Maggie Don  
Councillor Scott Edwards  
Councillor Jenny Henson  
Councillor Anne Lee  
Councillor Clark Mitchell  
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw  
Councillor Shirley Stanton  
Councillor Margaret Talbot  
Councillor Greg Titcombe  
Councillor Lesley Thurland

**Northamptonshire County Councillor**

Councillor Eileen Hales (NCC)  
Councillor Victoria Perry (NCC)

**Representatives of Member Organisations**

Simon Cox (Kettering Business Network)  
Andy Sipple (Kettering Interfaith Forum)  
Jane Calcott (Churches Together)  
Insp Scott Little (Police)  
Paul Ansell (Kettering Civic Society)

**Also Present**

Rochelle Plenderleith (Kettering Borough Council)  
Rochelle Mathieson (Kettering Borough Council)  
Collette Lilley (Kettering Borough Council)  
Heather Jackson (Kettering Borough Council)  
Callum Galluzzo (Forum Administrator)

**19.KTF.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Stanton proposed and Councillor Edwards 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 2019/20

*(Councillor Bunday took the Chair)*

**19.KTF.02 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Councillor Bunday proposed and Councillor Scrimshaw 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 2019/20

**19.KTF.03 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Linda Adams, Phillip Hollobone, Ian Jelley, Paul Marks, Jonathan West and County Councillor Bill Parker.

**19.KTF.04 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

**19.KTF.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr James Burton declared an interest in Item 8 and 10 as a Kettering market trader in the town centre.

**19.KTF.06 POLICE ISSUES AND STATISTICS**

The statistics provided were taken as read and members were invited to ask questions of police representatives. It was noted that crime statistics for the William Knibb ward were included within the report following

feedback from members. It was also noted that the Anti-Social Behaviour statistics were missing from the reports.

It was reported that although statistics showed an increase in crime, there had been a 4% drop in the number of reported crimes compared to statistics from the last 12 months. Members heard that the number of reported incidents including possession of weapons had increased following more officers undertaking stop & search procedures.

Public disorder incidents had also increased but it was reported that this included cases where individuals had breached criminal behavioural orders that had been issued in cooperation with the Council's warden teams.

Following an increase in the robbery of taxi and takeaway drivers, officers had contacted takeaway establishments in order to discuss future crime prevention techniques, taxi drivers/providers were also to be contacted regarding this.

An update was then provided by the police representatives regarding Operation Serpent, it was heard that 19 charges had been made against individuals related to drugs, modern day slavery and various weapon offences. It was also heard that a number of Streetwatch schemes had been set within the town.

A number of high profile drug raids had taken place within Kettering leading to multi-million pounds criminal enterprises being confiscated by the police.

Questions were asked by members of the forum in relation to the following topics:-

- Police funding
- Anti-Social behaviour at Kettering Skate Park
- Crime resolution figures
- Retail Crime Initiatives

#### **19.KTF.07 KETTERING TOWN CENTRE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

A presentation was provided to the meeting by a member of the Kettering Town Centre Youth Partnership to promote the work and ideas being undertaken by the youth organisation.

It was heard that the Kettering Town Youth Partnership were passionate and dedicated to bringing a positive impact to Kettering town Centre, the organisation shared thoughts on the existing town centre stating that there was a lack of live events including live music events, an abundance of second hand charity shops and that more street events were needed to entice people to the town centre.

Outdoor and indoor communal areas including cinema, music venues, greenery and sports activities were among several ideas proposed by

the organisation to refresh the town centre. It was also heard that an empathises on youth enterprise opportunities through pop up shops where young people can express there talents through vocational skills.

#### **19.KTF.08 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL UPDATE**

A brief update was provided in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Festival held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June across two locations at Northampton Road and Boughton House.

The event at Northampton Road had seen 45 exhibitors in attendance with around 120-150 people per hour visiting the event to see demonstrations of variety of activities. Very positive feedback had been received from attendees including exhibitors who appreciated the opportunity for networking.

The Boughton House event had seen 25 exhibitors in attendance with speakers and activity demonstrations including yoga, meditation and Nordic walking. Approximately 250-300 people had attended the event.

A number of partner events had taken place at the Newlands Centre, Desborough Leisure Centre, Green Patch and Kettering Rugby Club.

Details were provided of the level of promotional activities undertaken ahead of the event, with good support from local radio including interviews in the lead-up to the event and a roving report present on the day.

The meeting heard that there was an intention to take learning from the two day event and carry this forward to 2020, with a condensed single day event possible.

#### **19.KTF.09 PURPLE FLAG**

The forum received a presentation by the Principal Economic Development Officer which outlined partnership working in delivering a better town centre; the Purple Flag accreditation; the composition of the night-time economy; highlights in 2018; increasing branding and awareness and the launch of the Stay Safe campaign.

It was heard that partners, agencies and stakeholders had worked together to deliver a Town Centre that was a safe place for people to live, work and visit. Whilst also delivering a vibrant and diverse night life. 70 businesses and venues were included within the night time economy

where 36% were alcohol based venues such as pubs, bars and late-opening shops/markets.

Highlights from 2018 had seen an increase in cultural and arts activities including the return of the popular Kettfest arts, culture and music community festival. Venues such as the Kettering Arts centre continued to attract top class acts and comedians as well as the Bonkers Playhouse and Alfred East Art Gallery which had offering a number of different entertainment activities.

Throughout the year there had been an increase in branding and awareness thanks to partner agencies and organisations, two new safety campaigns “Stay Safe” & “Ask Angela” had been launched and had received positive feedback from the public.

It was also reported to members that the Kettering Street Pastors in 2018 had provided over 2000 lollipops, 258 bottles of water, 44 blankets/rain ponchos and 142 pairs of flip flops to members of the public within the town centre. The Street pastors continued to work closely with the Council, Police and Door Staff as well as licensees, shopkeepers and other partner agencies.

## **19.KTF.10 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM**

The forum received an update in relation to the current position of local government reform in the county.

A presentation was provided by the Head of Commercial Development explaining the Secretary of State’s (SoS) decision in relation to Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire that had been published on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The presentation outlined the next steps in the reform process, with the meeting noting that the only modification to the reform proposals was to alter the implementation date of the proposed unitary authorities so that the new councils would be fully operational from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

It was noted that this decision was subject to the parliamentary legislative process and the establishment of a Children’s Trust spanning the two unitary authorities. It was anticipated that the final version of the Structural Change Order would be ready around November 2019 with a six month gap required to elections in May 2020. The meeting heard that an added complication was that the new bank holiday for VE Day would be the day after the election date.

With new unitary authorities due to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April, budgets and Council Tax levels would need setting in February 2021.

Details were provided of programme governance, phases and workstreams that would be undertaken as part of the local government reform. Members also noted that an informative prospectus was being created for publication.

**19.KTF.11 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW**

The Senior Electoral Services Officer attended the meeting and advised members regarding the ongoing statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review.

It was noted that the last review for Kettering Borough took place in 2014, and the findings were implemented at the Borough Council elections held in May 2015. Details were provided of changes made to polling stations since those elections, with specific reference to the recent European elections.

The review consultation process was outlined to the forum who noted that comments would be sought from all the geographic forums.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and queried the possible use of temporary buildings as polling stations and s polling station location directions on poll cards.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended 8:55pm)

Signed.....

Chair

DJP