

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

A6 TOWNS FORUM

Meeting held: 10th July 2019

Present Councillor John Currall (Chair) (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor Mark Cox (RTC)
Councillor Jenny Davies (BLTC)
Councillor Mark Dearing (KBC/RTC)
Councillor June Derbyshire (KBC)
Councillor Maggie Don (KBC)
Councillor Andrew Dutton (KBC)
Councillor Christopher Groome (BLTC)
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC)
Councillor James Hakewill (NCC/KBC/RTC)
Councillor Allan Matthews (NCC)
Councillor Dianne Miles-Zanger (BSPC)
Councillor Jan Smith (KBC/BLTC/BSPC)
Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes (NCC)
Councillor Karl Sumpter (KBC/RTC)
Councillor Margaret Talbot (KBC/RTC)
Councillor Mike Tebbutt (KBC)

Also Present Lisa Hyde (Executive Director)
Heather Jackson (Senior Electoral Services Officer)
Hazel Webb (Community Services Manager)
Sgt. Robert Offord – Northamptonshire Police
David Pope (Committee Administrator)

19.A6TF.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Margaret Talbot and seconded by Councillor Jim Hakewill that Councillor John Currall be elected as Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED that Councillor Currall be elected Chair of the A6 Towns Forum for the ensuing Municipal year.

19.A6TF.02 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Cox and seconded by Councillor Jim Hakewill that Councillor Margaret Talbot be elected as Deputy Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Talbot be appointed Deputy Chair of the A6 Towns Forum for the ensuing Municipal year.

19.A6TF.03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Russell Roberts, Cedwien Brown (Kettering) and Ray Davis (Rothwell).

19.A6TF.04 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns Forum held on 3rd April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19.A6TF.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

19.A6TF.06 POLICE STATISTICS

Sgt Rob Offord presented the Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Statistics for July to the forum.

It was reported that a group of travellers currently on land next to the A6 at Burton Latimer were in communication with the County Traveller Unit. They had not met the criteria to be removed under a Section 61 notice and were actively engaging with police and KBC regarding refuse removal.

It was heard that significant work had been undertaken in recent months to tackle the issue of cannabis factories in the Borough. Although the majority of discoveries were located in Kettering, the A6 Towns were still affected with a factory having been discovered in Desborough the previous evening.

Barton Seagrave had recently seen a resurgence of motorcycle nuisance. One offender had been identified and served with a Section 59 warning.

It had been decided not to provide police resources on the Monday evening of Rowell Fair with a couple of incidents reported. Police resourcing for the 2020 event would be reviewed in light of this.

Operation Serpent was ongoing with 19 individuals arrested and remanded on drug-related offences across the Borough. Of the properties raided, two were located in Barton Seagrave with a significant level of intelligence provided to the police by the community.

The forum noted that police recruitment was ongoing with an aim of attracting 200 new officers over the next 18 months. With natural attrition, this would result in a total officer uplift of approximately 100. Members were reminded of police social media sites and were encouraged to link recruitment details to their own platforms.

Members asked questions in relation to Street Watch, visible police presence in the A6 towns, drug use, travellers and police recruitment.

19.A6TF.07 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.

19.A6TF.08 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL - UPDATE

A brief update was provided in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Festival held on 22nd and 23rd 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.A6TF.09 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM UPDATE

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

A presentation was provided by the Executive Director explaining the Secretary of State's (SoS) decision in relation to Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire that had been published on 14th 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 1st 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 1st 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.A6TF.10 NEWSROUND

Rothwell

It was reported that a new branch of Desborough and District Royal British Legion had been formed, with an event held in the market place for VE Day. Financial support for the event had come from Rothwell Town Centre Partnership and local businesses.

Rothwell carnival had seen its largest parade in ten years, with a 10km run being held in the town on the same day attended by hundreds of runners including GB athlete, Gemma Steel.

Rowell Fair had seen 4,000 attendees with only one arrest. There were plans to expand the Viking encampment that had been a part of the fair this year.

Future events would include TreshamFest to be held 9th-11th August at the Conservative Club, a litter pick on 27th July and live entertainment most Saturdays on the Market Square to support local businesses.

Burton Latimer

Burton Latimer reported a generous individual donation of £20,000 for the Pocket Park. The town council remained committed to taking over the town's library service and was also trying to revamp the farmers market. The town's annual Garage Sale would also be taking place on 12th August.

Desborough

An update would be brought to the next meeting of the forum

Barton Seagrave

It was reported that the use of the new village hall as a polling station for the recent European election had provided good advertising for the facility. A litter pick was planned for later in the year.

19.A6TF.11 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS

Councillor Talbot provided an update from the Kettering Town Forum held on 8th July. It was noted that crime figures had risen in Kettering town and the Purple Flag award had been re-accredited. A discussion had been held regarding the possibility of the creation of a town council

for Kettering and a presentation provided in relation to the Town Centre Partnership.

It was noted that the Rural Forum would be held on 18th July at Warkton.

19.A6TF.12 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Update on Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire (to every meeting)
- Recycling Update (to next meeting)
- Health provision and primary care update (to next meeting)
- Progress update on the Parishing of Kettering

19.A6TF.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

19.A6TF.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the forum would be held on 2nd October 2019.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8:35pm)

Signed
Chair

DJP