

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 30th September 2019

Present: **Kettering Borough Councillors**

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)
Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor Duncan Bain
Councillor James Burton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Ash Davies
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Scott Edwards
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Clark Mitchell
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Margaret Talbot
Councillor Keli Watts (Mayor)

Northamptonshire County Councillor

Councillor Bill Parker (NCC)

Representatives of Member Organisations

Simon Cox (Kettering Business Network)
Andy Sipple (Kettering Interfaith Forum)
Sgt Sean Marshall (Northants Police)

Also Present

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

19.KTF.12 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Jenny Henson, Phillip Hollobone, Shirley Stanton, Greg Titcombe, Lesley Thurland, Jonathan West and County Councillor Eileen Hales.

Apologies were also received from Jane Calcott (Churches Together)

19.KTF.13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 8th July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

19.KTF.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr James Burton declared an interest in 7 as a Kettering market trader within the town centre.

19.KTF.15 POLICE ISSUES AND STATISTICS

The statistics provided in advance of the meeting were taken as read and members were invited to ask questions of police representatives. It was noted that crime statistics for the possession of weapons had increased in a number of members wards and that changes were being implemented following a report published about Northamptonshire Police.

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

- Community Engagement
- Local Policing staffing levels
- Motorcycle crimes within the Brambleside Ward

19.KTF.16 BEAT THE STREET

A presentation was provided to the meeting by the Head of Public Services in relation to a new Walking and Cycling scheme that had recently been launched within the Kettering Borough.

Members heard that following a successful bid for funding from Northants County Council public health an external organisation called Intelligent Health introduced a Walking and Cycling game which aimed to normalise physical activity as part of a daily routine. It was noted that Schools, Community Groups, Workplaces and Individuals were all able to take part in the scheme

Statistics were provided to the forum which stated that Public Health data for Kettering showed 24.5% of children starting reception were classified as either overweight or obese with 30.4% by Year 6. The Public Health Outcome Framework showed levels of inactive adults in Kettering was at 22.3%

It was then heard that packs had been distributed to all primary schools within Kettering and that residents/individuals were able to pick up there packs from distribution points across the town. The aim of the scheme was to reach 8,700 people across the 6 themed weeks.

19.KTF.17 TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

An update was provided by the Head of Commercial and Economic Development in relation to the ongoing project and Meadow Road Park and with regards to the recently awarded High Street Heritage Action Zone Fund.

Members noted that the tender process had just been completed in relation to installation of seating and picnic areas within the Meadow Road Park. It was stated that installation of this phase would take place in November 2019. A tender process was also due to commence with regards to the design and installation of the fitness apparatus for the park.

It was stated that as part of the ongoing works, external fencing was to be installed to enclose selective park areas to protect the privacy and amenity of neighbouring properties and to provide peace of mind for users within the park. A gateway feature to the town centre was also to be designed in partnership with students from Tresham College and installed as part of the project.

New footpaths had also been completed with follow up mediation works to commence immediately in certain areas. It was noted by members that a new CCTV system had been erected within the park and that vegetation which caused/covered Anti-Social Behaviour had been removed. Members of the forum also heard that several trees were to be planted by local community groups in late Autumn as well as new signage for the park.

Members welcomed the park initiative and made enquiries regarding the procurement and installation of accessible play equipment for disabled users within the park. Questions were also asked with regards to the Town Centre Toilet Scheme and engagement with local businesses in relation to accessible parking.

Details were also provided to members to update members on the successful external funding bid of £1.985m from Historic England as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone Fund. Members noted that Kettering was one of 69 towns nationally that had been successful in its bid with the grant award requiring match funding bringing the total funding to the town centre up to £4m

Members of the forum heard that Stage 2 would include the creation of a programme design with a detailed business case and a demonstration of how match funding or in-kind resource commitment would be achieved. Details of the Stage 2 Programme Design would be supplied to a future meeting of the Committee with approval from Council required.

19.KTF.18 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

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

A verbal update was provided by the Head of Commercial Development explaining the Secretary of State's (SoS) had informed Councils in Northamptonshire that the Statutory Change Order legislation was to be seen through Parliament as soon as it was possible given the current workload.

It was noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had recently conducted a meeting with leaders of Authorities within Northamptonshire and stated that there would be an 8 week process for the Statutory Change Order to be approved.

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

Signed.....

Chair

DJP