

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

RURAL FORUM

Meeting held: 15th September 2016

Present:

Borough Councillors

Councillor Jim Hakewill (*Chair*)
Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Anne Lee (Kettering Town Forum Representative)

County Councillors

Councillor Christopher Groome

Parish Councillors

Councillor George Normand (Braybrooke)
Councillor Hilary Bull (Broughton)
Councillor Pat Scouse (Broughton)
Councillor Richard Barnwell (Great Cransley & Mawsley)
Councillor David Watson (Geddington, Newton & Lt. Oakley)
Councillor Stuart Ablett (Great Cransley)
Councillor Robyn Whalley (Great Cransley)
Councillor David Whalley (Great Cransley)
Councillor Paul Gooding (Harrington)
Councillor Peter Hooton (Rushton)
Councillor Bruce Squires (Stoke Albany)
Councillor Frances Pope (Thorpe Malsor)
Councillor James Woolsey (Warkton)
Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston)

Stephen Chester (Orton Parish Meeting)
Sue Chester (Orton Parish Meeting)
Bernard Rengger (Sutton Bassett Parish Meeting)
Thelma Lacy (Great Cransley Parish Clerk)

Also Present:

Lisa Hyde (Kettering Borough Council)
Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)
David Pope (Forum Administrator-KBC)

Penny Mould (Northamptonshire County Council)

16.RF.17 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

It was noted that although Cllr Mark Rowley had been elected as Deputy Chair at the previous meeting, both nominator and seconder were from the same parish council. Therefore, the election for the position of Deputy Chair was taken again.

Councillor Hilary Bull nominated and Councillor Frances Pope seconded Councillor Mark Rowley as Deputy Chair.

Councillor Richard Barnwell nominated and Councillor Nick Richards seconded Councillor David Watson as Deputy Chair.

A vote was taken, with Councillor Rowley securing 3 votes and Councillor Watson 8 votes and accordingly it was

RESOLVED that Councillor David Watson be duly elected as Deputy Chair of the Rural Forum for the municipal year 2016/17.

16.RF.18 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Allan Matthews, Borough Councillor David Howes and Parish Councillors Andrew Macredie, Paul Wharin, Robin Shrive and Ian Bushby

16.RF.19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

16.RF.20 **MINUTES**

A discussion was held regarding the previous set of minutes and a request was made for an amendment relating to minute 15.RF.52 in relation to KBC ensuring equality of service levels for villages compared to Kettering town.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 21st July be approved as a correct

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record and signed by the Chair.

16.RF.21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

16.RF.11 - Streetlighting

A request was made for the item Streetlighting to be added to the matters arising box on the agenda for future meetings.

It was reported that a letter sent on behalf of the Rural Forum to the Chief Executive and Leader had received a response from a Deputy Chief Executive to confirm that KBC currently had no plans to change its current budgetary provisions or level of support in relation to streetlighting for 2017/18. That position would be subject to the formal budget setting process in due course.

It was confirmed by the Head of Environmental Care Services that a stock check of lighting would be undertaken over the next 18 months. Once that had been completed and the potential impacts considered, the best way to proceed could be ascertained. The stock check would also allow for budgetary spending in the most appropriate areas.

16.RF.09 - Car Parking Passes

It was reported that a scheme was now in place for parish and town council visitors to park for up to two hours free of charge when visiting the Municipal Offices on council business. Scratch cards would be obtainable from Customer Services, who would complete vehicle registration and time details and log visits onto a spreadsheet. It was noted that wardens would issue tickets if passes had expired. Scheme details would be issued by email.

LH/DJP

16.RF.13 – Police Statistics

It was reported that the Chief Constable had received the letter sent on behalf of the forum regarding the new format of police statistics. The issue had been referred to both a local police sergeant and Insp Julie Mead.

16.RF.22 RURAL DIVERSIFICATION BUSINESS GROWTH

A report was submitted which provided details of possible rural business funding opportunities through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the LEADER programme.

The forum heard that KBC had an economic regeneration team that could provide advice and support for rural businesses as could the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP). The report was for noting, but forum members were encouraged to inform any rural businesses that could make use of the funding of its availability.

16.RF.23 TRUCK STOPS

Penny Mould, Transport Planning Officer at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) attended the meeting and provided a brief overview of the county's position on truck stops.

The forum noted that NCC had a Local Transport Plan, adopted in 2013, within which sat a freight strategy containing recommendations in regard to truck stops. Broadly, these recommendations were supportive of such facilities and NCC worked with local planning authorities to bring them forward as there was a shortage of stops for HGV drivers across the county. Through work undertaken by NCC, it was understood that a further three truck stops were required in the county to meet current demand. Any new stops had to be located near to the strategic road network which included the A43, A14 and A45.

The A5 Partnership, comprising 18 local authorities, public bodies and stakeholders in the A5 corridor from Staffordshire to Northamptonshire, was currently undertaking work that included truck stop provisions. The partnership had queried why large distribution centres were allowed to come forward without provision of sufficient onsite parking or facilities for HGV drivers.

The forum heard that NCC's Local Transport Plan would be up for review in the next 18 months and any comments received could be fed into the review process, although the review would not be subject to public consultation.

The forum raised concerns regarding HGVs parking on the outskirts of rural communities. It was noted that permission had been granted for a truck stop near Desborough, however although the planning permission had been implemented, construction had not continued past the creation of a hard-core base at the site. It was heard that there may be an application for a truck stop on land at Junction 1 of the A14 at Welford and potentially another towards Daventry. It was hoped that if either site came forward it would reduce some of the overnight parking

issues affecting roads in the borough.

The forum heard that parking enforcement for HGVs was a difficult area for police, given the lack of available parking facilities and the legislation in regard to drivers working hours. Unless HGVs were parked in a dangerous manner, police tended not to enforce parking regulations.

Following discussion it was

AGREED that

- (i) That a letter be drafted on behalf of the Rural Forum to Philip Hollobone MP regarding the national situation on truck stops; **DJP/Chair**
- (ii) Cllr Rowley would raise the issue with KBC's Executive as a real concern of rural residents;
- (iii) That provisions made in planning applications to satisfy existing need be identified
- (iv) That a letter be drafted on behalf of the Rural Forum to Highways England making a point of the local situation in regard to truck stops. **DJP/Chair**

16.RF.24

RURAL TRANSPORT SERVICES FEEDBACK

Cllr Nick Richards provided feedback following his request for information from rural parishes on the subject of rural transport services.

Cllr Richards advised the forum that a recent review of rural bus services had led to reduction of, and in some cases complete loss of services to villages in the Welland Valley. Wilbarston Parish Council were taking this up with NCC but it was considered useful to know if other communities in the borough had similar experiences and whether there was an appetite for a co-ordinated approach.

It was heard that four responses had been received from parishes and rural representatives. A theme found across the responses was an interest in providing local transport initiatives to replace subsidised bus transport. Positive responses had also been received on the issue from the MPs for Corby and Harborough; however the MP for Kettering had advised directing enquiries on the matter to the relevant county councillors.

It was noted that the Bus Services Bill was currently working its

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way through parliament. This provided conflicting information as to whether the final outcome would have a positive or negative impact on rural public transport services. An explanation of the bill had been sought from Philip Hollobone MP as to which sections of the bill were relevant to rural areas and what outcomes he would be looking for as elected member for the borough.

A request was made for any further views on the subject to be forwarded to Cllr Richards. An email would also be forwarded to rural forum members detailing correspondence over the issue with Philip Hollobone MP.

DJP

16.RF.25 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

A brief report was provided to the forum as requested at the previous meeting, outlining KBC's position in regard to the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

It was noted that a review of CIL had been undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), although the Government had yet to report on the findings of the review. This report was awaited before any further decision would be made in relation to CIL by KBC.

16.RF.26 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER MEETING - REPRESENTATIVES**

The forum was advised that a meeting with representatives from each of the geographic forums would be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner on a future Friday, with an exact date to be confirmed. Four representatives from the forum were sought to attend the meeting.

It was noted that the meeting could provide an opportunity for parishes to feed into the forthcoming Crime and Policing Plan by raising key issues affecting rural areas.

The forum was requested to submit key issues to be raised in advance of the meeting via the Parish Liaison Officer.

DJP

Representatives were nominated as follows:-

James Woolsey (Warkton)

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Richard Barnwell (Gt Cransley & Mawsley)
David Watson (Geddington, Newton & Little Oakley)
Stephen Chester (Orton)
Peter Hooton (Rushton) would act as a substitute representative.

16.RF.27 **A6 TOWNS FORUM – APPOINTMENT OF RURAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Councillor David Watson volunteered to be the Rural Forum representative on the A6 Towns Forum.

16.RF.28 **POLICE STATISTICS**

It was noted by the forum that the crime resolution rates provided in the police statistic were wholly inaccurate.

At the previous meeting it had been agreed that a letter be drafted to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable seeking a response to concerns over the new format of police statistics being supplied. It was heard that an email acknowledging the letter had been received, although no response had been provided to date.

The forum raised concerns regarding the lack of police presence both on the ground and at parish council meetings. In addition, there were concerns regarding the logging of crimes by police and information provision to rural areas.

Cllr Pope reported that a rural officer based at Desborough was available to provide rural intelligence if contacted.

It was therefore

AGREED that the Chief Constable be invited to the next meeting of the forum to discuss concerns raised by the forum **Chair/DJP**

At this point it being 9.00pm, it was

RESOLVED that the meeting continue in order to conclude the remaining business on the agenda

16.RF.29 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were noted for future meetings of the Forum:-

- Kettering Town Centre Highways Improvements
- Planning Enforcement
- Streetlights
- Appointment of Representative to the A6 Towns Forum
- Business Rates update
- Police Statistics

16.RF.30 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

16.RF.31 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED VENUES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the forum would take place on 1st December 2016 and would be held at the Municipal Offices, Kettering Borough Council.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9:12pm)

Signed

Chair

DJP