

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 28th November 2017

Present: **Kettering Borough Councillors**

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)

Councillor Duncan Bain
Councillor James Burton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor Jenny Henson
Councillor Phillip Hollobone
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Shirley Lynch
Councillor Clark Mitchell
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Lesley Thurland
Councillor Greg Titcombe
Councillor Keli Watts
Councillor Jonathan West
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Greg Titcombe
Councillor Michael Tebbutt
Councillor June Derbyshire
Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Mark Rowley

Northamptonshire County Councillors

Councillor Eileen Hales MBE
Councillor Bill Parker
Councillor Robin Brown
Councillor Victoria Perry

Representatives of Member Organisations

Jane Calcott (Neighbourhood Watch)
Darren Bishop (Northamptonshire Police)

Also Present

Sarah Barnwell (Northamptonshire County Council)
Ian Smith (Northamptonshire County Council)
Shirley Plenderleith (Kettering Borough Council)
Guy Holloway (Kettering Borough Council)
Callum Galluzzo (Forum Administrator)

17.KTF.20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Paul Ansell, Monica Ozdemir and Councillor Ash Davies.

17.KTF.21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 11th September 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

17.KTF.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor James Burton declared an interest in item 7 as a market trader within the town centre. Councillor Linda Adams declared an interest in item 6 as an employee of a partner organisation to the County Council.

17.KTF.23 POLICE STATISTICS

Neighbourhood Sergeant Darren Bishop was welcomed to the forum and gave an update on the latest crime statistics for Kettering. The Forum heard that there had been a decrease in reported criminal damage and drug offences.

It was heard that there had been an increase in the number of weapon offences reported but this was due to the proactive work of officers in dealing with weapon related offences. This had been down to a 60% resolve rate.

The forum heard that reports of anti-social behaviour had reduced by 10% following proactive work following 'Operation Pumpkin' over the Halloween period.

Sergeant Bishop reported to the forum that the Local Identified Priorities included Anti-Social Parking, Littering and speeding. The Neighbourhood team had so far committed 88 hours to performing car parking patrols around hotspots especially around schools. 110 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued following these patrols and these patrols included joint work with the Fire Service.

It was heard that a number of initiatives including the creation of a community based team for Kettering town including Specials and

volunteers was being introduced to increase visibility in the town centre.

Members of the forum enquired around a number of parking and speeding issues within the town including Weekly Glebe Road/Almond Road, Pipers Hill/London Road and around the Ise Lodge areas.

Members enquired around the possibility of officers and members of the police to communicate issues and possible resolutions following the conclusion of the Decriminalised Parking project with Northamptonshire County Council.

17.KTF.24 NCC BUDGET CHANGES

Northamptonshire County Councillor Robin Brown attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of the difficulties and issues currently facing the finances at Northamptonshire County Council. Councillor Brown stated that there was a consultation that was live so people could decide on a number of different budget changes as well as stating that there were a number of county wide meetings for people to consider the options to determine the priority for spending.

Members of the forum heard that the County Council was responsible for a number of statutory obligations such as Children's/Adult Services as well as maintaining highways/ Education and trading standards.

The County Council is currently consulting on £9.6 Million worth of savings, another £27 Million worth of savings will also need to be acquired in the future. Statutory Obligations such as Adult/Children Services will be maintained.

Item / Question	Summary of Response Given
There are major issues and flaws within the libraries relating to Health and Safety. These include the lack of knowledge and responsibility of staff in the libraries.	We have not been made aware of any breaches in the Health and Safety regulations. I shall pass your concerns however to the Head of Library Services.
Has the County Council received any advice or guidance in regards to the options offered surrounding the closure of the libraries.	The County Council received guidance from government bodies as to which options would be liable as to maintain our statutory obligation to provide library services.

In the wake of community concerns at the possible closure of libraries in Rothwell, Desborough and Burton Latimer. Would it be possible to talk about arranging a 'Northamptonshire Libraries Trust' that could run and maintain the libraries on the County Councils behalf?	At the moment the consultation is live to ensure that people can voice their concerns regarding any closure of libraries. The idea of a libraries trust has already been brought before us at previous meetings and I would urge communities to raise their concerns via the consultation.
In terms of a community run library, are we able to access the facts and figures in terms of the running costs of each library?	The briefing and information packs that have been provided along with the consultation give a breakdown of the costs associated with the purchase/running costs of each library.
Withheld bonuses and unpaid leave are current situations at the County Council. Do staff members still have any incentive to continue working at the authority?	The current measure have been put in place to ensure that no members of staff have to face redundancy and the feeling is that members of staff would prefer to have a secured job then face redundancy.

17.KTF.25 TOWN CENTRE PAVING

Northamptonshire Highways Community Liaison Manager Sarah Barnwell and Ian Smith attended the forum and provided members with an update regarding recent works to paving within the Town Centre.

Members heard that Monthly safety walkthrough inspections take place in the town centre to ensure the safety and quality of the pavement. It was also heard that there are certain requirements to enable to the County Council to take action where problems arise.

Members asked whether or not the County Council had to fund the recent remedial works to the Market Place following work carried out by utility companies.

Members of the forum heard that the utility companies that carried out the work paid for all work to correct the pavement with guidance from the County Council relating to materials.

Members raised concerns with the uneven paving located directly outside the Newland Shopping Centre stating that the footpath was unsafe in places.

It was heard that a number of improvements had been carried out in that area following images submitted to officers. Unfortunately

materials that were used originally for the pavement are no longer made by the original manufacturer.

Members then questioned what the County Councils policy was with regards to the Borough Council installing bollards on grass verges to deter Anti-Social Parking and questioned whether or not the verge is part of the highway.

Members of the forum heard that only in exceptional circumstances would the County Council give consent for other authorities to install bollards and this would be met on a case by case basis.

17.KTF.26 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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

Members of the forum heard that the Christmas events kick off on Thursday 30th December with the Christmas Light Switch on, turned on by a local comedian.

A special Christmas Foodie Friday will take place this year on the 8th December along with a Christmas market in the Market Place on the 14th December and Christmas Movie night on the big screen.

Free town centre parking and late night took place this year again including the Santa's Grotto provided within the Yards.

Members of the forum heard that through social media a total of 177,349 people had been reached.

17.KTF.27 SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items suggested for future meetings of the forum were:-

None

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.15 pm)

Signed.....

Chair

CG