

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

RURAL FORUM

Meeting held: 4th April 2019

Present:

Borough Councillors

Councillor Jim Hakewill (*Chair*)
Councillor Mark Rowley

Parish Councillors

Councillor Richard Barnwell (Cransley and Mawsley)
Councillor Hilary Bull (Broughton)
Councillor Fay Foster (Pytchley)
Councillor Paul Gooding (Harrington)
Councillor Patricia Hobson (Pytchley)
Councillor Peter Hooton (Rushton)
Councillor John Lillie (Brampton Ash)
Councillor Frances Pope (Thorpe Malsor)
Councillor Bernard Rengger (Sutton Bassett)
Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston)
Councillor Sue Wenbourne (Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley)
Councillor James Woolsey (Warkton)

County Councillors

Councillor Allan Matthews

Also Present:

Brendan Coleman (Kettering Borough Council)
Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Jo Haines (Kettering Borough Council)
Sgt Robert Offord (Northamptonshire Police)
Anne Ireson (Forum Administrator - KBC)

Actions

18.RF.37 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors David Watson (Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley), Robin Shrive (Broughton), Alan Durn (Loddington), Brent Woodford (Ashley), Bruce Squires (Stoke Albany), Andy Macredie (Pytchley), Paul Waring (Warkton), Anne Lee (Kettering Town Forum Representative), Chris Smith-Haynes (NCC) and David Howes (KBC).

18.RF.38 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

18.RF.39 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Rural Forum held on 31st January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18.RF.40 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

18.RF.27 – Grit Bins

A response had been received from Northamptonshire County Council, together with a briefing note, which had been emailed to all parishes, together with contact details for any queries. Updates would be brought back to the forum as necessary.

18.RF.32 – Cransley Park

Traffic lights must be operational before any units are occupied.

18.RF.33 – Superfast Broadband

The Chair **Agreed** to have a separate conversation with Councillor Francis Pope (Thorpe Malsor).

**Cllr
Hakewill**

18.RF.41 **POLICE STATISTICS**

Sgt Robert Offord gave a summary of trends in relation to the police statistics, with the following being noted:

- Queen Eleanor and Buccleuch: crime was mainly theft offences, down by 14.6%
- Slade: crime rates had increased by 28%, mainly due to violence against the person and lorry theft offences.
- Welland: crime was up by 19%, but this was largely explained by an increase in criminal damage, assault against staff and custody officers and damage to WWJC cells.

Recent Police Activities

An update was given on recent police activities in the rural area. Many thefts from motor vehicles were due to doors not being locked. Reassurance was given that the proactive team did not see a need to come into the rural area in terms of county lines and drugs.

The police were planning a week of action for night crime and were working with groups and individuals who were encouraging people to hand in

knives, ensuring they were safeguarded and given support to get knives off the street.

The use of social media for neighbourhood alerts was increasing and would be used more in the future.

An update on motor cycle nuisance was given. The police would target problem areas, so it was important off-road motorcycling was reported.

The Desborough Police house would remain operative until it was replaced in the community.

The truck stop was open, and the police were working with management to ensure staff were trained.

The Chief Constable had announced the recruitment of an extra 200 officers over the next two years.

The following points were raised and noted during debate on the police statistics:-

- The recent stabbing in Kettering town centre – the case was now with CID, with stop and search tactics being used. Major work was being done to get knives off the streets. Incidents of possession of offensive weapons had increased, but was indicative of the extra work being done.
- Motor cycle nuisance in the quarry and Clay Dick at Geddington was reported. Residents were urged to report any occurrences.
- Proactive work in relation to Streetwatch in Broughton was welcomed. It was suggested that it was important for the community to have feedback, although it was appreciated that this might be limited during the investigation process
- Twitter and local Facebook groups were used by the police where possible. Due to Facebook constraints it was not possible for police officers to have two separate profiles. It was **Agreed** that the Chair would write a letter to the Chief Constable to ask if it would be possible to broaden the social media platform on which feedback to the community could be given.
- Issues surrounding the truck stop were reported, mainly due to issues around licensing, the sale of alcohol and food and the powers to ban overnight parking in lay-bys. It was noted that, in the absence of double yellow lines, there was no law the police could use to prevent parking in lay-bys. However, there may be other solutions involving the Highway Authority or Highways England if this remained a problem.

**Cllr
Hakewill**

Sgt Offord was thanked for his attendance.

18.RF.42 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

There was no further information to report since the last update, with the final decision of the Secretary of State being awaited. After the Secretary of State had announced his decision, there would still be a parliamentary process to be followed. Limited work was being undertaken and a programme team was in the process of being built, although appointments of statutory officers could not be undertaken until a Shadow Authority was in place.

During debate it was noted that a Shadow Authority was the only body that could set a budget for any new Council. Parishing of Kettering would be subject to consultation through a Community Governance Review, which could be postponed if a national electoral event happened to derail the timetable. No further information on the timing of parish elections was available.

Work was being undertaken on collating information, which was relatively straightforward for districts but more difficult for the county. Aggregation work should be finished by May. Disaggregation has not yet happened, but was about to begin. It was not possible for more formal work to be undertaken until there was a decision from the Secretary of State to progress unitary councils.

Debate was held on advice given by NCALC in relation to parish contingency funds and it was noted that the approach taken by parishes differed, with some parishes precepting for additional funds. Some concern was expressed about the potential for devolution of services, but it was noted that this would be the responsibility of the new authority, and North Northamptonshire was a long way from decisions on decentralisation in this respect. It was noted that parish councils would differ in that some would embrace the opportunity to deliver devolved services with others not wanting this responsibility.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee would take place on Wednesday, 10th April. It was Agreed that the time, date and venue would be emailed to members of the Forum.

AI

18.RF.43 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRESENTATION

A presentation was given by Russ Howell (Health Services Manager and Hazel Webb (Community Services Manager) outlining public health priorities; Kettering Borough facts and figures; the Health and Wellbeing Festival to be held on 22nd and 23rd June at Boughton House and the Council's partners. It was noted that 40 groups had signed up to date, but members of the Forum were asked to let Russ Howell know of any other organisations that may be interested in becoming involved in the festival.

During debate the following points were raised:-

- The figures given in the presentation related to the Borough but figures for individual wards could be supplied to members of the Forum
- Issues in one ward may not be the same as in others, eg isolation in villages and facilities for young people
- The Council would look at data and work with groups and organisations to maximise the use of green spaces and engage with residents
- Villages may have their own structures which do not necessarily involve input from the Borough Council
- It would be useful to have a one page summary of the presentation to circulate to all parish councils, which would increase local knowledge and provide a good opportunity to build on existing networks
- Contact with village halls and schools would be through Community Services with 150-200 organisations being sent information
- Hashtag links in the communications plan should be sent through to Parish Councils
- Transport to Boughton House should be considered
- Village newsletters and Village Connect should be used to get information out to residents

Hazel Webb

Hazel Webb

Russ Howell and Hazel Webb were thanked for their presentation and attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED that a one-page summary of the information given in the presentation be circulated to parish councils

**Hazel Webb/
Anne Ireson**

18.RF.44 COMMUNITY-LET RURAL BUS SERVICES

An update on progress made to date on community-led rural bus services was given.

It was planned to look at a 12 month trial project with various routes servicing a particular area to complement existing routes. Quotes were being sought from bus companies and discussions held with parishes regarding a joint scheme. However, parishes should be aware that there needed to be a “bottom-up” approach in order to make this type of service work.

Following a summary of the Wilbarston service, including costings and funding available from the county council, discussion was held on the operation of the scheme. It was noted the Wilbarston service was not quite self-sustaining but was well supported by the local community. It was noted that Sutton Bassett precept to support the service was only £2 per household. Members of the forum also noted that a community service

operated in Rushton, funded through concessionary fares and operated by volunteers, which worked well and was appreciated. This service was not subsidised by the Parish Council, although the Clerk did provide administrative services.

Brendan Coleman agreed to circulate details of the next meeting of the Working Group, to which members of the Forum were welcome to attend.

Brendan Coleman

Officers were thanked for their work in connection with the project, and it was **Agreed** that information on costs and details of routes be brought to a future meeting.

18.RF.45 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Local Government Reform Update
- Community-led Bus Services Update
- Parish Council Planning Training
- Community Pay-back

18.RF.46 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brendan Coleman was thanked for his work in connection with the removal of an abandoned caravan in Broughton.

18.RF.47 DATES/VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

18th July and 3rd October 2019
30th January 2020

It was **Agreed** that the next meeting on 18th July be held at Warkton Village Hall.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.11 pm)

Signed
Chair

AI