

Meeting of BLTC 03 January 2017

Reports to Council

Borough Council Matters of Interest Reports

Cllr R. Groome

December has been a relatively quiet month:

1. Full Council 14th December - I voted in favour of investigating the possibility of a new swimming pool for Kettering having listened to the arguments. Some residents, especially serious swimmers from the Kettering Borough are going to Corby, Wellingborough and Market Harborough because the Kettering pool is now outdated. Also the communal changing areas are regarded as a problem because of safeguarding issues.
2. I asked a question about wardens being used to parking enforcement, and was told by Cllr Mark Dearing, Portfolio Holder that the Borough Council was waiting to hear from other agencies. I consider this reply to be inadequate and shall continue to ask him for an update.
3. Residents of Rye Close have reported a bad smell in the air similar to the odour after the Blackbridge Farm fire. I have reported the matter to Head of Environmental Health Shirley Plenderleith and Martin Hammond.

Cllr J. Smith

This month has been busy with a number of queries re planning and working with our young people to ensure they are better occupied in their spare time

There has been a discussion at full Council concerning the ground and where Kettering might play in the future thus further options are being explored as suggested by the supporters. The communication between the club and Kbc has been ongoing for some months with officers .

A further discussion was heard around Kettering Swimming pool thus the matter has been passed to a task and finish group to look at the costs and needs of the Borough in relation to Kettering pool and other pools in the Borough, with a view to looking at future requirements without using a consultancy firm, as this would cost in excess of 250k .

The question of wardens is not fully resolved as KBC is in communication with NCC who wish to review parking across the Borough, which of course means NCC will then have sole control and we would not be able to place wardens where they are needed or account for any income.

Cllr D. Zanger

It has been a relatively quiet month apart from my duties as Deputy Mayor.

Saturday 1 st	St Andrews Community Christmas Fair
Friday 2 nd	Seagrave singers concert at St Marys Church
Sunday 4 th	Cransley Hospice Tree of Lights

I also attended full council at KBC, where some interesting questions were asked.

Would KBC agree to look into the possibility of providing a new swimming pool for the Kettering and surrounding area. it was agreed that it would go to a task and finish group in the new year and see if it was feasible, this has also raised questions from BLTC as to where the BLSPT money has gone.

There was also a long debate on KTFC who at present play at Latimer Park, Councillor Mark Dearing informed those present that discussion with KTFC are ongoing.

County Council Matters of Interest Report (Cllr C. Groome)

After the very busy month of November (11 report items), December was a quiet month apart from the important item of the budget which will dominate January. NCC has to find another £66 million of savings, partly because it has been unable to deliver all this year's savings, with overspending on the big ticket items of Adult Services and Children's Services. I have been advocating Zero Based Budgeting and the new Finance Cabinet Member, Robin Brown, says that he has insisted on it. We shall see. Starting tomorrow, non-executive councillors have the opportunity through January to challenge senior officers on their budgets and their ability to deliver services during the next financial year. It is a very open process which can be seen and heard on the NCC webcasting system. The government's concession of an extra 3% on the Council Tax will only deliver £7.5 million which is a tiny part of what is needed for these services.

Highways Report (Cllr Macdonald)

- 1) Bovis have agreed terms with Old Road Securities and are now awaiting a final response from Anglian Water before sending the documents to the other parties
- 2) A number of road repairs have been agreed with Kier WSP
- 3) Information has been sent to Roxhill re a possible formal opening of the new A6 / junction 10 roads
- 4) The work on the pavements in High St and outside the Hall should be done in the next one/two months
- 5) The majority of the pocket park equipment has been taken for service and the tractor should be taken in the next 10 days (It will not start thus either jump leads or winching on to the trailer)