

Meeting of BLTC 02 January 2018

Cllrs' Written Reports to BLTC

Borough Council Matters of Interest Written Reports

Cllr R. Groome

7th December – East Kettering Liaison – we were promised an update on the Barton Road/Windmill Avenue and Barton Road/ London Road, Pytchley Road junctions at the next meeting, in March.

School – the sewer connection is awaiting approval from Anglian Water but is expected to be completed in early 2018. There is still no telephone line.

There is due to be an update on health provision and leisure and community facilities at the next forum.

There was anger expressed at the meeting that no representatives from the developers were sent, and there was no report from them.

13th December – Full Council – A motion was agreed urging members of the public to take part in the County Council's consultation on decreased service provision. Particular concern was expressed that Town and Parish councils would be expected to pick up the bill for providing more services. The report on Local Council Tax Support was controversial, some members concerned that Kettering Borough provides less support to those least able to pay.

Cllr J. Smith

I attended full Council and listened to a number of speakers concerning the charges for Council tax and residents ability to pay . The Council had looked at all the comments and the Executive member for finance had given an undertaking to review how we can assist further with financial concerns and ensure the surveys sent are more conducive to users . That said KBC does have a number.of officers who assist in helping residents to manage their income and will always provide guidance to ensure help is offered appropriately and in a timeous manner .

There was no alternative funding method provided and a revised motion was carried .

As regards the attendance at the East of Kettering meetings by developers we have been assured that every effort is made seeking attendance by developers and KBC continues to liaise and work closely with the various partners to assist in providing homes and amenities that are fit for purpose.

Cllr Currall

I attended the Full KBC Council meeting and the conservative Group Meeting. At the Group meeting I asked what if anything would be done regarding The Burton Latimer Library if NCC Decided to close it. I was advised to wait until the consultation period was up and then to discuss further if needed. I Will bring this up again at the next group meeting.

County Council Matters of Interest Written Report (Cllr Smith-Haynes)

In December 2017 I attended various meetings and events in my capacity as a governor of Meadowside School, including working on the advert for a new head.

I am working with several other County Councillors on a working group entitled 'Exclusions, Truancy and Achievements', to see how we as a council are supporting our young people to have the best life chances. Just one meeting so far, so lots more work to be done.

The Police and Crime Panel met in Daventry. The chair has arranged for meetings to take place around the county, to allow for greater inclusion of the public.

The big issue of the month has been the budget setting for 18/19. There was a delay in notification of award from central government, so even though Cabinet was delayed by one week, the decisions to put to full Council could only be interim. Since then, the minister announced £13 million for Northamptonshire. However, in real terms this is 1% extra we are allowed to raise on Council Tax.

The Cabinet member for Transport etc. has arranged a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the inappropriate use of 'B' roads by HGVs. This includes our High Street. I will keep you updated

Other Town Cllrs' Reports

Cllr C. Groome

DRAFT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON LIBRARIES

1 As part of its budget setting activity for 2018-9 Northamptonshire County Council is looking to make considerable savings in the budget for libraries. It has issued a consultation document with three options:

- In the first option it is proposed to retain Burton Latimer Library under NCC management, one of a small number of medium sized libraries to be so designated. Most other medium and small libraries would be offered to the local community which would have to cover the staffing and property costs whilst NCC would meet the infrastructure costs (book stock, library systems, Wi-Fi, computers, lending system, self-service machines, professional support and training).
- In the second option the opportunity for community management would not be offered. Large libraries and the selected medium-sized libraries as option 1 would be retained under NCC management. The remaining medium sized libraries and all the small libraries would be closed.
- In the third option the large libraries only would be retained and managed by NCC. The rest would be closed, including Burton Latimer's. For Burton Latimer people that would mean travelling to Kettering or Wellingborough.

2 It seems that the retention of Burton Latimer's library under options 1 and 2 was based on usage data, with our library scoring well on the range of services and activities offered, the help given to disadvantaged people, the good state of the building, the strength of volunteering, the amount of income generated and the availability of Section 106 money to enhance the library.

3 In considering the Town Council's response to the consultation, a number of inputs should be considered:

- The options set out in the consultation document.

- Information about the library obtained from NCC since the consultation began.
- The views of townspeople, in particular those expressed at a well attended public meeting (160 plus) organized by the Friends of Burton Latimer Library on 21 November.
- The views of members of the public and town councillors during the budget discussion at the Council's meeting on 5 December.

4 Considering the options at face value it would seem that either option 1 or option 2 would be preferred since Burton Latimer's library would be retained and managed by the County Council in both. However we need to look more closely at what would be retained and how it would be managed.

5 The data sheet on the library is attached to this paper. The latest figures are for the last financial year (2016-7), but there is every reason to suppose that the current year's figures are at least as good. The almost unanimous view coming out of the public meeting was that the issue is that of the viability of a library service rather than the future of individual libraries. The resolution coming out of the meeting, which was passed nem con with one abstention, was to retain a professionally managed county-wide library service. The nearest NCC option to this is the first.

6 The additional information obtained on what NCC has in mind for Burton Latimer revealed a change in staffing structure. At present there is a management post which is filled as a job share. In future it is envisaged that Burton Latimer is managed from Kettering, but interestingly the staff budget would be increased by about 50% to allow for greater usage with the closure of several other libraries. The view of the Friends is that the loss of the management post and the flexibility which the job share affords is likely to lead to a loss of drive just at the time when more is needed. The greater use of volunteers which is indicated by the direction of travel needs more local management rather than less and could probably be done without increasing the budget by anything like as much.

7 A major concern of users is that the NCC's financial position is so dire that next year and/or the following year further cutbacks will be required of the library service. For those libraries likely faced with closure this year there is little time to put in place an alternative funding and management model. The most likely source of funding is the local town or parish council and preparation of the budget for the next financial year is well advanced. The view of the Town Council is that it would be inappropriate and unnecessary to consider raising the precept for library services given the present options on offer which are closer to its own aspirations. However there are good arguments in favour of closer co-operation between NCC and the town council in the management and promotion of the library and the Civic Centre as a community hub. The Section 106 money for the development of the library is £34,500. A first rough estimate of the cost of linking the two buildings with an additional meeting space is £60,000 and, with the provision of a proper kitchen which would make the spaces much more lettable, £80,000. It should not be too difficult to raise the balance through the Northamptonshire Community Foundation. There has been discussion about the need for paid site management of the Civic Centre as the job becomes more demanding. Here is an opportunity to create a service level agreement with the library service to do just that, gaining efficiencies on both sides. It would also enable the Town Council to get a better understanding of what was involved if it faced the challenge of service reductions or closure in a future year.

8 Colleagues are invited:

- To consider the above as the basis for replying to NCC's budget consultation

- To set up a small task group to engage with NCC on development of the ideas for continued NCC management with enhanced local input.

To have a standing item on the agenda for this topic

In addition to my work on the library issue I have been very busy with railway issues in my role as Chairman of LANRAC. In addition to cancellation of electrification north of Kettering on the main line, a new problem has arisen with implementation of the May 2018 travelling to Thameslink timetable south of Bedford. Local rail users travelling to stations between Bedford and Luton in the morning peak and back in the evening will have to detrain at Wellingborough and travel by bus to Bedford because of lack of platform capacity at Bedford. We have already secured from the Department for Transport acceptance that this is not acceptable and work to overcome it needs bringing forward.

LANRAC fully supports the priority given by the Secretary of State to upgrading track and signalling of the Midland Main Line and electrifying to Corby when the money ran out for the whole project. It also supports the flexibility afforded by the selection of bi-modes as the preferred rolling stock choice in the medium term. However we have been looking at a strategy for incremental delivery of electrification of the MML to Sheffield and Nottingham over a longer time period and with less risk of exceeding the budget. Our strategy has 5 elements:

- 1 Extension of electrification to Braybrooke and then thence to Harborough or Wigston. The feed from the National Grid for the Corby electrification is near Market Harborough and the obvious way to get the power to Glendon is via overhead wires. Taking the wires to Wigston would extend running under the wires to over 90 miles.
- 2 Project Leicester. After the successful remodelling of Nottingham and the current remodelling of Derby, the Secretary of State's commitment still to do the upgrading would mean the design and project management teams moving on to the other major challenge in the East Midlands of Leicester. Keeping a team together is a major factor in getting a good job done within budget. Design and costing would be all that is committed at this stage.
- 3 Project Bedford. This is an urgent requirement following the revelation that when the new Thameslink timetable is implemented there will be no capacity at Bedford station for East Midlands Trains to stop at Bedford during the 3 hour peak travel periods into and out of London so that passengers from the north travelling to and from Bedford and Luton at those times will have to change onto a bus at Wellingborough. Again design and costing will be the starting point for capacity enhancement.
- 4 Early procurement of bi-modes. Another consequence of the Thameslink timetable is that the East Midlands franchise will need more rolling stock for the Midland Main Line as soon as possible. With the delays in the refranchising, the procurement needs ideally to be done through the present franchisee.
- 5 Easy stretches for upgrading and electrification further north to take advantage of teams already used to working together with low risk of cost escalation and getting the best use out of bi-modes. The diesel capability would be used in difficult and therefore expensive areas like Leicester and Nottingham Stations along with some of the challenging stretches north of Derby like Belper.

I have already sought the backing of Network Rail to these plans and have the support of East Midlands Trains at MD level. This month I am meeting East Midlands Councils to bring our campaigns together and am seeking an appointment with Nicky Morgan, MP for Loughborough, and Lilian Greenwood MP, Chair of the Transport Select Committee, to get them on side. Philip Hollobone has been very helpful and I am copying him into this email to see how he can help further.

I have had a request for a bus shelter opposite One Stop in Churchill Way. All the bus services in Burton stop there, but it is really exposed to the elements. Fergus has obtained a price which is just under £2,000 to include fitting and excluding VAT. As Highways rep Fergus has also spoken to his relevant contact in Northamptonshire Highways who thinks that there shouldn't be any problem about siting one there. Perhaps our County Councillor and Borough Councillors could fund it from their empowerment/ward initiative allocations? Or we could fund it partly from the Town Centre Grant? What do you think?

Highways Report (Cllr F. Macdonald)

- 1) The gas works were finished on time due to extensive pressure
- 2) David Wilson are carrying out work on their land to see if that cure the problem in Harvest Close dates approx.. 17/18 of this month
- 3) Approval obtained for seat on UA15
- 4) Work will shortly be carried out in Cranford Rd
- 5) Possibility of making St Crispin's Close resident parking but little progress can be made till the question of who monitors parking is resolved

Other Reports

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC CENTRE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th DECEMBER 2017

Present: John Currall, Maureen Jerram (Note Taker), Fergus Macdonald (Chair), Nigel Padget, Mick Roche

Apologies: Jenny Davies and Ruth Groome.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th November 2017: Were agreed as a true record pp NP 2nd FM

Action Points Update:

No	Action:	Action Owner	Latest Comments	Due Date
1.	New updated Fire and Safety Policy and Procedures.	MJ	Laminated copy put on lobby wall. MJ to ask Town Clerk for an electronic copy for hirers. MJ has met with Syd several times. Will produce an Action Plan to complete recommendations.	Next meeting Dec 17.

2.	Produce a BLTC Safeguarding Policy	MJ	Ongoing	March 18
3.	Dispose of the red chairs and replace with new	MJ	MJ to get quotes for 20 collapsible chairs and 2/4 white tables	Next meeting.
4.	It was thought we needed glasses and wine glasses for the kitchen.	MJ	MJ to check. It was thought the cheapest place is Morrison' or Argos	Next meeting
5.	Get quotes for new kitchen flooring	MJ	Possibly laminate or tiles.	Febh 18
6.	Do inventory of assets	MJ/NP	For insurance and reviewing.	Dec 17
7.	Get quotes for cleaning of floor in Committee Room and carpet in Conference Room.	JC	JC has offered to do these for cost of cleaning fluid (approx £20)	Next meeting
8.	Skylights in Community Room and Chris Groome's Office	Problem re condensation dripping on floor.	MR to insert covers ASAP.	Next week
9.	Key to gas main	FM	Currently being held by Olympus. Box to be urgently bought to go alongside the main so all have access in an emergency	Next week
10.	Hole in outside cladding	To be done by Community Pay Back ASAP	FM	Next meeting
11.	Covers for radiators	Requested by Inspire	MJ will get costs	Next meeting
12.	Sensor light outside front door	FM	Awaiting two more quotes	Next meeting

Matters arising (not on the Agenda):

- **Items missing from Store Cupboard (Chairs):** There are now 7 chairs in the Store Cupboard (only 3 a couple of weeks ago!) We bought around 20 a few years ago! Will do an Asset Register ASAP (NP to help with this) so we can keep regular checks on items
- **MJ** to apply for a permanent Entertainment/Alcohol licence (cost approved at the December T/C meeting)
-

Fire Safety Policy and Procedures:

- PAT, Electric And Gas have now all been checked. The certificates are with the Town Clerk
- MJ has met with Syd W and will produce an Action Plan with things which must be done and things which would be Best Practice to do and circulate ASAP for discussion
- When done **MJ** will arrange to meet with the County Fire Officer to discuss

Maintenance update: All actions transferred to Action Plan

Civic Centre Risk Assessment: To be completed after Action Plan for Fire Regulations has been approved by the T/C.

Room Bookings Update:

- **Review of rental of rooms:** **MJ** to e-mail JD who was going to phone other venues for comparative quotes.
- **Talking Books:** Letter sent re setting up a proper Tenancy Agreement. Awaiting to hear back re meeting with MJ and FM
- **Messy Play:** We have been waiting for over 6 months for a commitment from them MJ has e-mailed one last time!
- **Publicity:** **MJ** to draw up a plan for promoting the Centre
- **Youth Group:** **MJ** to ask SW for a list of equipment he feels will need to be stored
- **Doggies Day Out:** We have been told that the tenancy agreement will not be renewed when the year is up. We need to check that date and start advertising for a new tenant

Cleaning update:

- Two complaints recently received re toilet cleanliness etc
- Complaint re ladies toilets. **FM** to purchase disinfectant sticks to go in toilets similar to those in the gents
- **Contract:** **MJ** to do a new contract for agreement. At the same time the Town Clerk to request sight of her Public Liability Insurance
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Any other business:

- MJ to find out the process of laminators.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th January 2017, 7.30pm