

Meeting of BLTC 06 February 2018

Cllrs' Written Reports to BLTC

Borough Council Matters of Interest Written Reports

Cllr R. Groome

1. Wednesday 10th January I attended a briefing session on making Eskdail Street two way again. This should increase road capacity in the centre of Kettering.
2. Monday 29th January I attended a budget briefing with Mark Dickinson at Kettering Borough Council. We discussed the Fair Funding Review and the need for help with lobbying from our MPs in Northamptonshire. There have been considerable efficiency savings at the Borough Council and these will have to continue. Some of these are achieved through staff suggestions. Some fees and charges have increased and there are plans to hold weddings at the crematorium as a means of generating income. Homelessness is a major and unpredictable cost. There are plans to move individuals and families away from bed and breakfast accommodation into a hostel.
3. Wednesday 31st January I attended A6 Towns Forum. I have asked for Primary Care Commissioning to be put on an agenda soon, especially given uncertainties over the Urgent Care Centre at Corby. We discussed the fact that Burton Latimer Health Centre had sacked the Patient Group. We had an update from Insp Julie Mead and Sgt Robert Offord. Following complaints from residents in Station Road, I have asked the Police to check parking outside Weetabix which is supposed to be for one hour only. They are going to talk to Weetabix first of all, in case it is their staff. Future agenda items requested – Council garages, allotments, dog fouling, outdoor gyms and skate parks.
4. On Thursday 1st February I had an informal meeting with residents about the application to build 84 houses off Gardner Road.
- 5.

Cllr Currall

- I attended the farmers market and answered Questions from the Public.
- The final monies are in from the Christmas light switch on and shows a healthy profit of £513.00
- I Chaired the A6 Towns forum. There was a update and Presentation from Insp Julie Mead and Sgt Robert Offord. Before the meeting I spoke With Julie regarding Parking within the town. The Forum goes from Strength to Strength with Many agenda items being put forward from Dog Fouling, Allotments , Pot holes,Council garages And Recreational Ideas just to name a few.

Cllr Smith

I attended full council and passed the balanced budget with no increase in Council Tax for KBC following weeks of consultation on the various attributes of the budget.

I have also attended to various planning and planning policy matters and have spoken to a number of residents concerning planning applications.

Additionally I have consulted on matters concerning youth within our town and the provision for our older residents.

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

I apologise for the lateness of this report, but I have been following up on the decision by the s151 officer to invoke a s114, and what that means for us all.

As I understand it, the current financial year is at risk of not balancing, as it was depending on the sale of certain property, which will now not happen. No new contracts can be entered into, but all staff pay and all statutory duties will be honoured. I (along with all other councillors) was not pre-warned of this decision, and as I was out of county without access to e-mails or TV on Friday, I didn't know about it until Saturday evening. The planning and deliberation about next years budget continues.

The inspector instructed by Sajid Javid, Max Caller, will report on March 16, so we will all have a clearer view of the future of the County Council then. All the county MPs have expressed no confidence in the Cabinet. I'm sure there will be lots of questions for me on this matter.

In January, I attended several budget scrutiny meetings (18/19) and the Phase 2 Consultation drop-in at Drovers Hall.

I was involved in the meeting before Latimer Grange closed, and worked with officers and some family members to ensure everyone was found a suitable placement following the owners decision to close the home with only 4 days notice. The impact on the individuals affected by this will be seen as time passes.

I have been in e-mail conversation with officers, the Cabinet member and parents regarding problems affecting Hayfields Cross school. It seems the issue is that, as the developer has stopped building, they have failed to complete works at the school. The County Council has budgeted in excess of £300,000 to do works such as improve /repair the access road. This money should be reclaimed from the developer at some time in the future.

I spent a night with the police in Kettering and Corby on Operation Night Safe. I was disappointed at first that I had to stay in the van (because I didn't have a stab vest), but was quite relieved later when they intervened in a fight, which resulted in the use of pepper spray and one arrest. I fed back to the PCC some of the issues that officers disclosed to me, that suggest the new Service Delivery Model is impacting on morale.

I have been made a Partner Governor of NHFT, attending one meeting, induction, and receiving a mountain of documents to read.

I have been involved in the recruitment process for the new head at Meadowside. I am involved in the interviews tomorrow (if anyone wants to give me a wake up call at 6am, I would be very grateful!).

I attended the meeting with fire officers, Mark and Fergus, to discuss the action required to address points raised in the Fire Risk Assessment. I was reassured that, although the regulations identify certain standards, they are guidance not law. The interventions to meet the regs should be appropriate to the size and use of the building, and they have no concerns with our Civic Centre. The only suggestion was that we could install a couple of smoke detectors linked to wifi, but this is not necessary.

Other Town Cllrs' Reports

Cllr C. Groome

Here is my report for the past month, brought up-to-date for the budget recommendations of NCC:

- 1 I met the acting principal librarian and the northern area manager at a consultation meeting and pushed them on the paper we submitted following last month's town council meeting. They were generally supportive and agreed to supply the two staff representatives for the task group after the decision of NCC's full Council meeting on the budget later this month. The recommendation in the budget papers is for Option 1 in which Burton's library is retained within the library service and the majority of medium and all small libraries are offered for community management. NCC has recognised that the timetable for this has to be extended over the next year and receive more central support.
- 2 The Friends of Burton Latimer Library met and endorsed the Town Council's paper. However they suggested that as Chairman I should be on the task group ex officio and it be composed in addition to the staff members and myself of 3 town councillors and 3 friends. My recommendation for the town councillors is for Cllr Macdonald as CCMB Chair, Cllr Ruth Groome as a professional librarian and Cllr Davies who has put herself forward and can give a disabled viewpoint.
- 3 Cllr Macdonald has obtained the requisite 3 quotations for the Churchill Way bus shelter. The lowest price of £1963 is from a firm we have used before and whose workmanship is very satisfactory. Cllr Smith has raised a number of questions in relation to the bus shelter and its location. It is the openness to the elements which has driven users to request it. The current plans for redevelopment in the area of the Millennium Gardens only envisage redevelopment on the car park side of the boundary wall. If this was to change the shelter is fully demountable and could be moved. The pavement at that point is 10 feet wide and the width of the shelter frame and the perch seat is only 12 inches, so blocking of passage is unlikely. Highways have been asked to give written approval for the siting of the bus shelter. The NCC financial crisis may have caused the £1,000 from Cllr Smith-Haynes @ Empowerment Fund to be withdrawn, in which case we need to look elsewhere for funding. Cllr Ruth Groome has offered up to £1,000 and the rest might come out of the town centre grant.
- 4 I attended the A6 Towns Forum when the KBC budget was discussed. The presentation gave a much clearer view of what was proposed and why than in previous years so there was a proper discussion as Cllr Ruth Groome has described. I also attended the Rural Forum as a member of the public to hear Philip Hollobone's take on the NCC financial crisis and its potential impact on the structure of local government in the County. His view is that Government will only bail out the County Council as part of a deal to move to one or two unitary authorities and that is what the 7 MPs are promoting. He suggested that town and parish councils might have a much bigger role in such an arrangement.
- 5 I have mentioned various problems affecting the railway, notably the poor connectivity north of Kettering, the crazy plan for travelling by bus between Wellingborough and Bedford in the morning peak and back in the evening, and the poor spacing of the trains south, currently half hourly but planned to be 50 minutes and 10 minutes. Several Burton residents are affected by these poor arrangements. Philip Hollobone has arranged for me and a technical colleague to meet the Rail Minister, Jo Johnson, on Wednesday to put our case for a better deal for Kettering rail users and how it might be achieved. Anyone who is interested can request to see our full proposal.

- 6 I attended the meeting of the CPRE committee and raised the issues of the planning application for further housing development in the Ise Valley and the business park adjacent to Junction 9 of the A14.

Highways Report (Cllr F. Macdonald)

- 1) Extensive patches were laid in Cranford Rd and Finedon Rd
- 2) St Crispin's close was resurfaced
- 3) Potholes were repaired in Bridle Rd and a full survey will be carried out to find the most economical steps in the futur
- 4) An exercise has been carried out by Wilson Homes to ascertain the best solution for the boggy state of Harvest Close open space proposals should be available within 3 weeks
- 5) Litter picking has been carried out in the following areas
 - a) Wold Rd
 - b) Cranford Rd
 - c) Footpaths in Polwell Lane and behind Sainsbury's
 - d) Behind the Churchill way shops
- 6) Fallen trees have been cleared or partly cleared on UA6 and the old cemetery
- 7) The question of weeds on the new cycle way in Kettering Rd is being investigated by Keirs

Other Reports

Reports from Rprentatives on Outside Bodies

Twinning (Cllr Jerram)

- Very little to report as little progress on things
- Chair and Secretary have been attending County and Kettering Twinning meetings to see what they are doing. County Twinning is more or less obsolete with very little happening, This is sad because they may have been able to give other groups s direction of travel
- Kettering Twinning are vibrant and it was interesting to note that KBC make an Annual Grant to Kettering Twinning Group ogf around 6k. It is worth noting that the B/L group felt this was very strange, especially because most other grants to worthwhile charities have been stopped. It would be interesting to find out the background to this
- It was decided to have a promotion and fundraising stall in April at the Farmers Market. It was also agreed that we should put in for a Community Grant from KBC to print and deliver promotional leaflets to all houses in B/L
- There has been no response to our e-mails to both Italy and Germany re visiting B/L. I, personally, feel that we need to accept that the 'old' style of twinning whereby people stayed in others houses when visiting is over and to attract new members the group needs to broaden

it's ideas on the concept of twinning. However these are only my personal ideas and don't appeared to be shared by the group so perhaps I am wrong!

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Burton Latimer Ancient Parish Charity (Cllr R. Groome)

On Thursday 25th January we had our annual meeting of Burton Latimer Ancient Parish Charity, where we distribute grants. All but one were fuel grants. We have updated the form to make it easier for us to distribute according to need. We had over 20 applications, which suggests we are getting our message out, but we will need to make sure we keep doing this.

Minutes of the Civic Centre Management Board Meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018

Present: Cllrs John Currall, Jenny Davies, Maureen Jerram (note taker), Fergus Macdonald (Chair) and Nigel Padget

Apologies: Cllrs Mick Roche and Ruth Groome.

Minutes of the last meeting Monday 11th December 2017: Were agreed as a true record pp NP 2nd RG

Action Points Update:

No	Action:	Action Owner	Latest Comments	Due Date
1.	Plan of Civic Centre	FM	Plan of the building to include fire points, first aid box, extinguishers, blanket and exits to be compiled ASAP and given to the Town Clerk to produce electronically..	ASAP
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.	Get quotes for new	MJ	Possibly laminate or	Feb 18

	kitchen flooring		tiles.	
5.	Do inventory of assets	NP	For insurance and reviewing.	Feb 18
6.	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) Will be completed this week by JC	Jan 18
7.	Hole in outside cladding	To be done by Community Pay Back ASAP	FM	Next meeting
8.	Covers for radiators	Requested by Inspire	MJ will get costs	Next meeting
9.	Entertainment and Alcohol license	MJ	Money already approved by T/C. Form to be completed and sent off.	Feb 18

Matters Arising (not on the Agenda):

- **FM** will ask the cleaners to vacuum and wash the chairs as they are looking very dirty

Fire and Safety Policy and Procedures: These have now been listed under mandatory and Best Practice and also under who is responsible. It was agreed to get a second opinion from the Fire Brigade Safety Officer before commencing the next stage. (**MJ to arrange with MB**)

Ramp: It was agreed to go with the cheapest quote of £590.00 to include a handrail and with a guarantee that it met with Fire and Disability regulations. The builder who installed the ramp feels it needs bollards putting up to ensure the safety of people using it. It was agreed to include this in the Fire Brigade Safety Officer's report.

Niece Electrical Report: The report from Drage Electricals says the electric wiring/switch board is unsafe. If so this will coast a great deal of money to rectify. **MJ** already has one 2nd opinion but will get another.

Roof: This will cost £14,950.00. There is approx 15K in 106 monies for this work. The CCMB saw pictures which showed how poor the roof was. KBC are now dealing with this.

Skylights: To include temporary repairs: **FM** feels that temporary repairs are no longer necessary as the skylights don't seem to be dripping with condensation so much at present. It will cost £5839.00 to have these done at the same time as the roof. Apparently KBC will put in for a grant for this work and deal with it all.

Maintenance Update: None reported.

Civic Centre Risk Assessment: To be completed as soon as the Fire Risk Assessment Actions have been completed.

Room Bookings Update:

- **Review of rentals: report from JD re costs at other venues** To be discussed at next meeting.
- **Talking Books:** Still awaiting a response re meeting up from Mr Radcliffe (date now in place)
- **Doggies Day Out:** Will vacate the room at the end of January.
- **NCHA:** Are using the rooms frequently at present for interviews and training.
- **Flower Arranging:** Have had a enquiry from a different source re setting up classes. No conflict with Susan Ayre who runs the existing classes as they know each other.
- **Publicity: MJ** to do an advertising plan.

Cleaning update:

- **Contract:** Some changes were made to the hours supplied by Clean Simplicity. The new contract will be sent to her to ratify (**by the Town Clerk**)
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Any other business:

- MJ re-elected as the T/C Health and Safety Officer
- Casual Hirer's Form approved subject to a couple of suggested alterations. **FM** to complete the plan of the Building and give to GS to scan electronically ASAP
- Emergency contacts form to be redone for building issues (**MJ**) Emergency contacts are: FM, NP and MJ. This is to prevent being confused with the emergency fire procedure.
- **Outside light to be changed to a sensor one and emergency lighting (fire regulations) to be installed. £99.00 for materials and £75.00 for labour.**

Date of next meeting: Monday 19th Feb 2018, 7.30pm in the Civic Centre