

Meeting of BLTC 03 April 2018

Cllrs' Written Reports to BLTC

Borough Council Matters of Interest Written Reports

Cllr R. Groome

On 5th March, I attended a Members' Information Evening which included updates on Welfare Reform and Universal Credit, Credit Unions, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Kettering Futures Partnership and working with other organisations on social inclusion, personal budgeting support and preventing and dealing with debt.

On 13th March, I attended the Borough Council Planning Meeting on behalf of Duke Street residents, who showed me the old application for Patrick Court in which there was a parking space for no 45 within the Court itself. The application for new gates makes no mention of how this will be resolved. There are also problems with staff parking in Duke Street at the change of their shifts rather than the Civic Centre car park, which have not been resolved.

On 14th March I attended the Borough Council Executive. The Burton Latimer Town Centre Improvements were agreed. I thanked Guy Holloway and his team for all their hard work, and engagement with Burton Latimer.

On 22nd March I attended East Kettering Liaison Forum. Paul Richmond from NCC Highways gave a presentation on proposed junctions d and e (Barton Road/Windmill Avenue near Wicksteed Park and Barton Road/London Road/Pytchley Road). The plan is to increase the capacity of both junctions by use of more land. All pedestrian crossings will be kept. It was based on traffic forecasts up to 2031. No timescales were given as the money to do this comes from Section 106 monies when houses are built. Concern was expressed that these junctions cannot take much more capacity now at busy times.

On 27th March I attended Planning Policy at which the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the Kettering Borough was discussed. It includes, Burton Latimer Football Ground, the Pocket Park and the Harvest Close Open Space. Benefits identified for the Pocket Park are improved site access, improved links between public open space, provision of walking loops for health and well being, improved amenity, improved habitats, improved water and flow management and flood risk reduction. Many of these issues are already being worked on, but it was noted that the reeds in the river need to be cut back.

The map of the Green Infrastructure Plan shows the Redden Planning application for 84 houses off Gardner Road is in a green regional corridor.

Cllr Currall

- March 12th I attended the Conservative Group Meeting. I raised a number of questions regarding the state of the roads, Gritting, Litter and the lack of police presence in the Town. I asked if it may be possible to have Cadets out and about in Burton and this was going to be fed back to Insp Meads.
- March 14th. I attended the Borough Council Executive Meeting. On the agenda was the Burton Latimer Town Centre Improvements Plan. This was unanimously Agreed. After the meeting I thanked Guy Holloway for all his hard work

Other Town Cllrs' Reports

Cllr C. Groome

During the last month, apart from attendance at the Pocket Park Committee, my efforts have been focussed on the County Council and the follies of the Department for Transport in regard to the train services from Kettering and Wellingborough.

NCC

Burton's Library is not safe yet as it is likely that Commissioners will be put in to run NCC with the money having been exhausted in this financial year. My understanding is that they will have no more money than the failed Administration so they will have to make further economies. This is complicated by a bid to get a judicial review of the cuts to the Library Service.

The Leader, Finance Member of the Cabinet and the First for Wellbeing Member have all gone so we need to build fresh relationships with the new occupants. The library management has come up with a crazy scheme for restructuring the Library Service. Their proposal is to downgrade the staff at medium libraries and manage them from a neighbouring large library. In our case this is Wellingborough, not Kettering, even though KBC has an office here!

Because very little has been done to reduce top management at HQ, the actual savings are very small. I would have expected the emphasis to be on strengthening leadership at the sharp end to make community adoption of local libraries more attractive and more feasible

I have spoken to the new Cabinet Member for Finance about the library restructuring seemingly being set up to fail. I have also acquainted him with the nonsensical dual responsibility for potholes which adds cost and time to repairing potholes because one group responds to Street Doctor and another group looks after areas. If a pothole is reported in Burton the first group attends it but does not notice a pot hole nearby but goes off to a reported pothole in say Daventry.

East Midlands Trains

I held my meeting with EMT to discuss potential solutions to the peak period loss of service to Bedford and replacement by buses from Wellingborough and also the loss of the half hourly service to London and its replacement by a 50 and 10 minute service. They are sympathetic and are looking at our proposals for a rail replacement shuttle for the first and stopping a passing train to fill the second gap. I have a follow-up meeting arranged this month.

Cllr Padget

During the month of April:

- I attended the full BLTC meeting
- I performed the weekly fire alarms tests and the monthly fire safety lighting test
- I met 2 contractors at the CC and discussed the new door access to the kitchen from the community room and rearrangement of the kitchen units. I am still awaiting quotes from these contractors.

Highways Report (Cllr F. Macdonald)

- 1) Bridle Rd should be resurfaced within the next 5 weeks

- 2) Every road in the town has been visited in conjunction with Kiers and a not taken of all the pot holes these should all be repaired within 4 weeks; some have been done already
- 3) The roof and skylights at the Civic Centre the work is now completed and has been inspected in conjunction with the property services department of KBC
- 4) The PIR light at the front door is now fitted
- 5) Photos of the rooms to let have been taken by Carter Williams and they are putting the information on various web sites
- 6) Alumasc have agreed to fund a waste bin adjacent to their car park in Polwell Lane
- 7) A meeting has been arranged to try to expedite the adoption of certain open spaces
- 8) The footpaths throughout the town have been litter picked over the last 3 weeks (The amount of rubbish deposited by people is disgusting)
- 9) Various items fly-tipped in different locations have been removed
- 10) Parking at football matches continues to be a problem and this will be on the May