



## **Burton Latimer Town Council Annual Report 2016/2017**

### **Civic Centre:**

The Civic Centre continues to be the Council's principal asset and it is used for a wide range of activities including a theatre group for young people, baby play and tots, adult learning, training sessions, yoga and much more. In addition the Centre is let to several other local organisations. The Centre is now nearly self sufficient. We applied for a grant from KBC and were awarded £1,000.00 which we have used to soundproof some of the adjoining walls. We continue to carry out improvements and are currently seeking quotes for new chairs and to refurbish the kitchen. We continue to promote room hire to ensure the Centre is a vibrant hub of the community.

### **Website ([www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org)), Facebook and Twitter Accounts:**

Anecdotal feedback consistently shows that the website – which was launched in 2008 – is seen as a useful resource for local residents, and for people planning to visit or move to Burton Latimer. The number of visitors to the website has grown steadily over the years, and currently stands at around 500-550 unique (i.e. different) visitors every day.

The website holds a large amount of valuable information about Burton Latimer Town Council and the local community – for which it won a countywide award in 2013. Recent additions include a 2017 edition of the *Burton Latimer Directory* (which is a regularly updated catalogue of businesses, sporting activities and social clubs in the town) and the facility to listen to audio recordings of the monthly town council meetings.

In 2014, Burton Latimer's online presence was boosted by the addition of Twitter and Facebook accounts, linked to the website. The two social media sites help to engage a broader cross-section of the local community, draw additional visitors to the website, and promote local causes, activities and events. They also act as additional points of contact for local residents to raise questions or concerns with the Town Council and receive a timely response. To date, the Facebook page has received almost 600 'likes', and the Twitter feed has just under 200 regular 'followers'.

Following a comprehensive review in 2016, a working group is currently considering how best to upgrade the website to take account of recent developments in technology and website design.

### **Business Links:**

The Council has been actively working with businesses within Burton Latimer and will hold another cheese and wine evening shortly where Burton Latimer businesses can meet and share their thoughts and vision for the future.

The local businesses fully supported and were involved in the Christmas Light Switch On this year and a local firm sponsored the stage.

The Business and Social Directory commissioned by the Town Council in 2012 is regularly updated and continues to be a very useful source of information for local residents.

### **Parish Plan:**

The Burton Latimer Parish Plan – which was first published in 2012 – has been updated this year, and is available on the website. The original plan sets out the vision, aims and targets for Burton Latimer for the next few years, as identified by local residents in the household survey carried out in 2011. The updated version records the progress that has been made with implementing the Plan so far, and highlights areas where further action is still needed.

### **Planning:**

Your local councillors continue to put forward local views regarding local planning applications, and oppose those which we believe to be inappropriate for the development of the town.

### **Wind Farm Monies:**

Your Town Council has been successful in getting the monies due to Burton Latimer paid directly to Northamptonshire Community Foundation who have ring-fenced it solely for projects within the town, Currently we are trying to ensure that the communities monies from the new southern extension are dealt with in the same way. Long term we hope to get the original wind farm monies transferred from KBC to the Foundation thus giving more flexibility on their usage. A number of local organisations have already benefitted from this arrangement. Should you wish to apply for a grant please contact the Community Foundation.

### **Section 106 Money:**

A small working group of town councillors has been established to ensure that any community benefits potentially available from Section 106 monies from new developments are optimised. Significant progress has been made this year in the

Town Council having an influence in Section 106 matters and the Town Council has built up a good working relationship with Northamptonshire County Council over highway matters. This has led to the removal of the chicane and the installation of a crossing adjacent to Piggott's Lane in the High Street and also to the provision of traffic calming signs in Church Street. It is pleasing that steady improvements have been made in the last year to build a similar relationship with Kettering Borough Council.

### **Highways:**

It is pleasing to report that the hard work put in over an extended period has borne fruit as, in addition to getting pot holes attended to on a regular basis, the Town Council has been successful in having Hillcrest Avenue, Whitney Road, Miller Road, Finedon Street, Poplar Road, Elm Road and the Crescent resurfaced. More double yellow lines have been installed on a number of dangerous corners and we hope that a final tranche will be agreed later this year. Extensive repairs have also been carried out in Churchill Way car park.

The new lights in the High Street have now been replaced with the correct wattage units and all the respective lights have the correct RCDs (Residual Current Detectors) and timers fitted for the Christmas Lights. A design feasibility has been undertaken to improve Calcotts Corner but any implementation is on hold pending the commencement of the Isham bypass and the necessary funding for the work, however both NCC and BLTC consider that it is a priority.

Agreement has been reached on repairing the footpath adjacent to India Spice in the High Street and that section immediately on the Burton side of the cycle way in Kettering Road. A comprehensive survey of dropped kerbs throughout the town has established 47 sets are missing presently. The shortfall is being prioritised and various funding options examined.

BLTC has also provided four new benches and two new Notice Boards in the Town and have been successful in getting new signage to the Pocket Park and Football Club.

### **Footpaths:**

The Town Council are strongly supporting the proposed link from Diana Way to the footpath going through the valley (passes by Hoggs Hollow). We are also trying to create a footpath at the rear of the Cranford Road development and are hopeful that both of these will come to fruition this year. In addition we are liaising closely with both the Country Council and Kettering Borough Council to create more cycle ways. If anyone has any ideas on how these can be enhanced/extended please let us know.

## **Finance:**

The Town Council's 2016/2017 'Summary of Receipts and Payments' (Subject to Audit) is at Appendix 'A'. The precept for 2017/2018 is £31,750, a marginal reduction on the 2016/2017 precept (£32,200).

The principal reason for the higher levels in Precept over the past two years is that Kettering Borough Council withdrew the annual grants to Town and Parish Councils in 2014/2015. This reduced the Town Council's annual income by £8,850.

## **Environment:**

The Town Council continues to endeavour to make sure that dog and litter bins are strategically sited to meet resident's requirements. Additional bins have been installed on Wold Road, Duke Street and the footpath near Bosworths. We work closely with the relevant department of Kettering Borough Council regarding litter picking and thanks are due to them for their prompt removal of 'fly tipped rubbish'.

Goal posts in King George Vth Recreation Ground have been repainted and the skateboard ramp has been resurfaced.

The public toilets have been closed by Kettering Borough Council for a number of reasons. We are continuing to discuss the need for public toilet facilities in Burton Latimer with KBC along with other future developments.

## **Farmer's Market:**

The Farmer's Market is continuing to operate on the first Saturday of each month, and has now been running for 11 years. We continue to strive for an increase in stands/stalls and we would urge all residents to support this venture and to take advantage of being able to meet with your town councillors on a monthly basis. There is also the opportunity for local groups and charities from within Burton Latimer to promote their organisations on a regular basis free of charge. Recently a group of local crafts people, called Artisian Crafts, have been displaying (and selling!) their goods at the Civic Centre on the same Saturday as the Farmers Market. This is a great asset to Burton Latimer and they have some wonderful talent.

A group has recently been set up to look at ways of improving the Farmers Market and attracting more people to it. If anyone would like to join the group or let us have ideas we would be pleased to hear from you.

### **Pocket Park:**

The Pocket Park continues to be a source of much enjoyment to many of the residents of Burton Latimer and is popular with many dog walkers. The Annual Duck Race and Fete will take place on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> June this year and it is hoped that, as in previous years, it will be an outstanding success. If anyone wishes to volunteer to help with the Duck Race or the maintenance of this fantastic natural facility, would they please ensure that they contact one of the councillors. The Pocket Park Management Board is working hard to seek ways of further improving this very popular amenity. The Community Pay Back team continue to provide invaluable help to maintain the Pocket Park.

The Council continues to be very appreciative of the work done by the Pocket Park volunteers. Linden Homes have now completed their work and this has enabled us to add two extra access points to the Pocket Park. All of the Pocket Park land is now owned by Burton Latimer Town Council thus protecting it for the future enjoyment of all.

We have recently produced a four year business and management development plan for the Pocket Park to ensure it continues to be a lovely and peaceful place for residents to use. The plan includes a new picnic area, sensory garden and new portacabins so we can hold conservation and interest groups to increase awareness of our environment.

### **Christmas Lights:**

The Town Council endeavours to ensure there is a suitable display of festive lights each year. Last year we reinstated the Christmas tree with lights in the Millennium Gardens. The new display was generally well received by the community. The new light columns posed a few problems around compatibility with the Christmas Lights but these were overcome in time for the switch on! Last year's Christmas Lights Switch On event was very successful, again with a stage sponsored by Alpro, Connect FM hosted the event and a full range of entertainment and stalls were enjoyed by all. It was very pleasing that many local businesses joined in the celebrations and opened their shops and gave away free drinks, mince pies etc on the evening

### **Police:**

We continue to work closely with the Police in respect of anti-social behaviour, patrolling of the no alcohol zone and dangerous/illegal parking in the town. We are still waiting for an agreement to be reached between NCC and KBC on the use of Parking Wardens. Until this is implemented we rely on the police. They cover a very wide area but have been active where parking has been a problem such as near the

local schools. We have also, recently, been receiving improved reporting by the Police of crime within Burton Latimer.

### **Community Payback Team:**

The Town Council continues to be grateful for the work done by the Community Pay Back Team and, apart from that mentioned elsewhere in this report, the CPT has played a leading role in ensuring that the garden in front of the Civic Centre looks attractive.

They continue to weed and keep tidy the footpaths and redecorate the Civic Centre and street furniture. They have also done extensive work in the Pocket Park, for the Burton Latimer Scouts and Guides, the Cricket Club and the Football Club.

The Community Pay Back Team (CPT) have done a large amount of work in keeping Burton Latimer tidy and have also done considerable work in the allotments. They have also carried out extensive litter picking in targeted areas. If there are any areas which local residents feel need attention please let us know. We would stress the importance we place on people not dropping litter and cleaning up after their dogs.

### **Sports and Leisure:**

This group now meets regularly and is seeking ways to improve sports and leisure within Burton Latimer including play areas.

**Appendix 'A' Council's 2016/2017 'Summary of Receipts and Payments'  
(Subject to Audit)**

**BURTON LATIMER TOWN COUNCIL**

**YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2017  
PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS ACCOUNT**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
<b>2015/16</b>		<b>2016/17</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
480.00	Farmer's Market	540.00
23,500.00	Precept	32,200.00
3,285.06	Reclaimed VAT	2,610.05
3,200.00	KBC Grant - Christmas Lighting	3,200.00
26.28	Bank interest received	24.70
278.47	KBC Cllrs' Ward Initiative Fund	N/A
1,183.00	NCC Cllrs' Empowerment Fund	918.00
7,810.62	Room Hire	10,995.49
5,365.96	Rent	5,454.20
2,200.00	KBC Town Centre Grant	2,200.00
200.00	KBC Community Grant (Pocket Park)	N/A
1,750.00	KBC Community Grant (Civic Centre)	1,000.00
3,167.32	Pocket Park - Duck Race/Other	3,557.53
119.50	Christmas Lights Switch On Event	362.00
25.77	Youth Room Rate Rebate	N/A
475.00	Kettering Town FC (signs)	N/A
1,200.00	Taylor Wimpey Sponsorship (Xmas Lights Switch On)	N/A
	Cllr Currall (balance of Chair's Allowance)	325.22
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<b>54266.98</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>63,387.19</b>
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<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
5,306.25	General administration	6,156.59
10,622.46	Other	9,384.18
17,378.36	Civic Centre	20,426.14
15,495.72	Salaries & wages	15,617.00
1,000.00	Chairman's allowance	1,000.00
1,352.22	Pocket Park	3,106.54
42.00	Christmas Lights Switch On	N/A
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<b>51,197.01</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>55,690.45</b>
<b>3,082.97</b>	<b>DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>7,696.74</b>
<b>50,135.63</b>	<b>BROUGHT FORWARD 1ST APRIL 2016</b>	<b>53,205.60</b>
<b>54,266.98</b>	<b>ADD RECEIPTS</b>	<b>63,387.19</b>
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<b>104,402.61</b>		<b>116,592.79</b>
<b>51,197.01</b>	<b>LESS PAYMENTS</b>	<b>55,690.45</b>
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<b>53,205.60</b>	<b>CARRIED FORWARD 31ST MARCH 2017</b>	<b>60,902.34</b>

**Subject to Audit**

**Appendix 'B'      Town Councillors' Attendance  
(Full Council and Planning Committee)**

**BURTON LATIMER TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE  
2016/2017  
(April - March)**

	<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total No. of Meetings</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>
	<i>(incls. Annual Parish)</i>		
<u>Councillors</u>			
M. Brereton	<b>5 (6)</b>	<b>4 (4)</b>	<b>9 (10)</b>
J. Currall	<b>11 (13)</b>	<b>4 (4)</b>	<b>15 (17)</b>
J. Davies	<b>6 (6)</b>	<b>3 (4)</b>	<b>9 (10)</b>
C. Groome	<b>12 (13)</b>	<b>10 (12)</b>	<b>22 (25)</b>
R. Groome	<b>11 (13)</b>	<b>7 (12)</b>	<b>18 (26)</b>
M. Jerram	<b>12 (13)</b>	0(0)	<b>12 (13)</b>
F. Macdonald	<b>12 (13)</b>	<b>7 (13)</b>	<b>19 (26)</b>
N. Padget	<b>12 (13)</b>	<b>9 (12)</b>	<b>21 (25)</b>
M. Roche	<b>7 (12)</b>	0 (0)	<b>7 (12)</b>
J. Smith	<b>7 (13)</b>	0 (0)	<b>7 (13)</b>
S. Watts	<b>10 (13)</b>	<b>7 (12)</b>	<b>17 (25)</b>
D. Zanger*	<b>6 (13)</b>	0 (0)	<b>6 (13)</b>
 Clerk	 <b>12 (13)</b>	 <b>11 (12)</b>	 <b>23 (25)</b>

Notes:

*(i) Not every Councillor is a member of Planning Committee; the bold figures in the Planning Committee column indicate Committee members*

*(ii) the figures in brackets denote the maximum number of meetings possible for each Cllr (takes account of Cllrs joining BLTC and joining/leaving Planning Committee during the 12 months)*

*(iii) F&GP Committee is not included in the above - disbanded after April's meeting.*

*\* Cllr Zanger was ill for most of the 12 months*

**Burton Latimer Town Council  
March 2017**