



Burton Latimer Town Council **Annual Report 2015/2016**

Civic Centre

This continues to be the Council's principal asset and it is used for a wide range of activities. We applied for a grant from KBC and as a result have managed to replace the two back doors. We have, over the year, introduced a new booking system for hiring rooms at the Civic Centre and this has proved very effective. We continue to promote room hire to ensure the Centre is at the hub of the community.

The restructuring work to improve the Youth Room has continued and there is now a Youth Group held once a week and a youth theatre group on three evenings. We continue to promote the room for activities for young people and hope to get more bookings during the daytime and at weekends. We have had some success in hiring the Conference room for training activities and the Adult Learning courses have been very active this year.

Website (www.burtonlatimer.org), Facebook and Twitter Accounts

The average number of daily visitors over the year has continued to increase and the website is proving to be a popular source of information for the population.

In addition to the considerable amount of information about the Council and the community, the website has an interactive section enabling questions to be asked on a variety of subjects. A 'Council's Achievements' section has also been added to ensure residents know the Council's activities. The monthly Town Council meeting is now being recorded and this should be on the website in the next few months. We are currently exploring ways of improving the website as technology continues to move on since the website was first implemented.

The Facebook and Twitter social media sites have continued to grow in strength throughout this year. The Twitter account currently has 115 followers and the number of 'likes' for the Facebook page stands at 449. The social media accounts have been used extensively to promote local causes, activities and events (including all meetings of BLTC and its principal committees). They have provided an alternative route through which local residents can raise issues or concerns with the town council and receive a timely response.

Business Links

The Council has been actively working with businesses within Burton Latimer and recently held another successful cheese and wine evening allowing Burton Latimer businesses to meet and share their thoughts and vision for the future. BLTC were successful in securing the funding from the Northern Extension of the Wind Farm. This means that it can be used for other projects rather than solely for solar panels. The grant funding from this money is being

managed for BLTC, via giving grants to residents, by a Community Association. There was a very informative presentation given by Rachel McGrath, from this Community Association at the last cheese and wine evening. It has been a major achievement of BLTC this year to obtain independence of this money from KBC.

The Business and Social Directory continues to be useful source of information for the population and this has been updated and is accessible on the Council's website.

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. A group of residents and councillors meet every three months to monitor the actions and improvements set out in the plan. If any resident is interested in joining this group please let us know.

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.

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 build up a good working relationship with Northamptonshire County Council over highway matters. It is hoped to build up a similar relationship with KBC so that the parameters relating to the monies will be finalised in the near future to enable schemes for Burton Latimer to be put on the table for discussion and implemented

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. Additionally, approval has been obtained for the installation of more double yellow lines on dangerous corners. Extensive repairs have also been carried out in Churchill Way car park.

There are plans in hand to improve the High Street and also carry out traffic calming measures in Cranford Road. The Town Council continues to work hard with NCC to improve Calcotts Corner on the Finedon Road to enable lorries from IVG Whites to go

straight to the A509 rather than through Burton Latimer via Finedon and Higham Roads. This will make a huge difference to the traffic flow and safety of Finedon Road.

BLTC have also been successful in getting new signage to the Pocket Park and Football Club.

Finance

The Town Council's 2015/2016 'Summary of Receipts and Payments' (Subject to Audit) will be added to the Annual Report as Appendix 'A' in May. The Precept for 2016/2017 is £13,200. The main reason for this is because KBC have withdrawn all the grants given to Town and Parish Councils. This means we have to find an extra £8000 a year.

Environment

The Council continues to endeavour to make sure that dog bins are strategically sited to meet the dog walkers' requirements, also to ensure that as much use as possible is made of the dog warden. We work closely with the relevant department of Kettering Borough Council regarding litter picking and when needed we supplement this service by getting the Community Payback team to do certain areas. We would stress the importance we place on people not dropping litter and cleaning up after their dogs. The Community Payback team has carried out extensive litter picking in certain areas. 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 is now in its tenth year of operation. 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. Any suggestions for developing the Farmer's Market would be most welcome.

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 will take place on Sunday the 26th 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 maintenance of this fantastic natural facility, would they please ensure that they contact one of the councillors. The Pocket Park Management Board is now functioning more effectively, with volunteers from the community closely involved. The Community Pay Back Team continue to help maintain the Pocket Park.

The Council continues to be very appreciative of the work done by the Pocket Park volunteers. We hope to finalise the transfer of land from A.P. Lewis to the Town Council in

the near future. We are about to implement a four year business and management plan for the Pocket Park to ensure it continues to be a lovely and peaceful place for residents to use.

There was also a very successful 'Party in the Park' event held the evening before the Duck Race to raise money for the BLTC Mayoral Charities. It is hoped to hold a similar community event this year.

Christmas Lights

The Town Council continue to add new lights to the existing ones 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 Town Council has been liaising with the County Council to ensure that the proposed new light columns, when fitted, are able to accommodate the festive lights. Last year's Christmas Lights Switch On event was very well attended, again with a stage, Connect FM and a full range of entertainment and was enjoyed by all.

A 'Christmas Carols' evening, around the beautiful tree in the Millennium Gardens, was held for the first time just before Christmas. This was hugely successful and a large number of residents joined in and enjoyed the festivities.

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. There is now a dedicated Parking Attendant. However they cover a very wide area but have been active where parking has been a problem such as near the local schools. When the yellow lines are repainted it will enable the Parking Attendant to ensure there is less illegal parking.

Community Payback Team

The Town Council continues to be grateful for the work done 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 for the Burton Latimer Scouts and Guides, the Cricket Club and the Football Club.

Sports and Leisure

This group now meets regularly and is engaged in improving sports and leisure within Burton Latimer including play areas.

(see Appendices attached)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016 - APPENDIX 'A'

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS ACCOUNT

(Subject to Audit)

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
2014/15		2015/16
£		£
675.00	Farmer's Market	480.00
23,500.00	Precept	23,500.00
5,300.24	Reclaimed VAT	3,285.06
3,200.00	KBC Grant - Christmas Lighting	3,200.00
27.16	Bank interest received	26.28
228.68	KBC Cllrs; Ward Initiative Fund	278.47
N/A	NCC Cllrs' Empowerment Fund	1183.00
4,510.00	Room Hire	7,810.62
7,122.41	Rent	5,365.96
2,200.00	KBC Town Centre Grant	2,200.00
500.00	KBC Community Grant (Pocket Park)	200.00
N/A	KBC Community Grant (Civic Centre)	1,750.00
3,049.22	Pocket Park Duck Race	3,167.32
10,915.45	Transfer of PP Bank Account Balance	N/A
746.30	Christmas Lights Switch On Event	119.50
N/A	Youth Room Rate Rebate	25.77
N/A	Kettering Town FC (signs)	475.00
N/A	Taylor Wimpey Sponsorship (Xmas Lights Switch On)	1200.00
1500.00	NCC contribution to Street Light Update (part PFI)	N/A
5278.00	Wind Farm Grant	N/A
33.35	Repayment of balance of Chair's Allowance	N/A
200.00	Public Donation (bench)	N/A
305.00	Scrapped copper cylinder	N/A
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69,290.81	TOTAL RECEIPTS	54266.98
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
5637.70	General administration	5306.25
17,681.21	Other	10,622.46
22,662.59	Civic Centre	17,378.36
15,326.52	Salaries & wages	15,495.72
1,000.00	Chairman's allowance	1,000.00
1,702.70	Pocket Park	1,352.22
1,347.69	Christmas Lights Switch On	42.00
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65358.41	TOTAL PAYMENTS	51197.01
3,932.40	DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	3,082.97
46,203.23	BROUGHT FORWARD 1ST APRIL 2015	50,135.63
69,290.81	ADD RECEIPTS	54,266.98
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115,494.04		104,402.61
65,358.41	LESS PAYMENTS	51,197.01
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<u>50,135.63</u>	CARRIED FORWARD 31ST MARCH 2016	<u>53,205.60</u>

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016 - APPENDIX 'B'

Town Councillors' Attendance (Full Council/F&GP Committee/Planning Committee) April – March 2015/2016

	<u>Full Council</u>	<u>Committees</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>F&GP</u>	<u>Planning</u>	
Total No. of Meetings	12	12	12	36
Councillor				
J. Currall	11	9	7	27
C. Groome	10	9	6	25
N. Padget	10	4	10	24
M. Jerram	12	10		22
F. Macdonald***	9	5	5	19
R. Groome	12	4 (sub)	3 (sub)	19
S. Watts*	11	6*	2*	19
J. Follows*	6*	4*		10
D. Zanger	7	1 (sub)		8
H. Denton-Stacey***	5*		1*	6
J. Smith	6			6
M. Roche**	2*			2
Clerk	12	11	11	34

Notes: (i) Not every Councillor is a member of F&GP and Planning Committee; the bold figures in the F&GP and Planning Committee columns indicate Committee members

(ii) (sub) indicates non-Committee members who substituted for Committee members in their absence

** indicates new Cllrs elected in May 2016*

*** indicates new Cllr elected in October 2016*

**** indicates Cllrs with significant absence due to illness*

Additional Note: Cllr Watts withdrew from F&GP & Planning Committees part way through the year