



### In this edition...

Three notable events are taking place in Burton Latimer over the next few weeks.

The first (and arguably the most important for Burton Latimer's future) is a drop-in session at the Civic Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> May to allow local residents to consider options for development in the town. This has been organised by Burton Latimer Town Council, and is a follow-up to the public rally held last November. Page two has the details.

On the same page (but on a lighter note) there is information about the annual duck race and fete – which, this year, is on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

And on this page, you can find out about the town's plans to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 5<sup>th</sup> June. There's probably still time to organise your street party – but don't leave it too late!

Warwick Hunt  
Editor, Burton Latimer News  
April 2012

### The Jubilee Walks

Each guided walk starts at the Millennium Garden and ends at the Community Centre.

The start times have been arranged so that walkers will reach the Community Centre in time for the cake-cutting ceremony at 1pm.

- The Toddle** starts at 12noon
- The Waddle** starts 11.45am
- The Bobble** starts at 11.30am
- The Hobble** starts at 11.30am
- The Longle** starts at 11.15am

### Celebrating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Burton Latimer Town Council and the Community Association have organised a day of special events on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This special occasion in the life of the nation is a chance for local people of all ages to get together in an informal way – so, if you'd like to join in, why not...

- Organise a picnic on the King George V playing field – where hot dogs and drinks will also be on sale, plus a bouncy castle and fun for children
- Turn up in fancy dress – or wear patriotic red white and blue – if you want to stand out from the crowd!
- Take part in a guided walk around the town – there's one to suit all ages and ability (see map and description below)
- Tackle a quiz based on local knowledge
- Meet at the Community Centre at 1pm to raise a toast to The Queen and join the Town Mayor at a celebratory cake-cutting ceremony
- Hold a street party – and get to know your neighbours better. Kettering Borough Council has agreed to waive the usual £50 fee for handling applications – but you will still need to fill in a form to let KBC know that your street party is taking place (so that they can alert the emergency services) and arrange liability insurance.



## Annual duck race and fete

The 2012 duck race and fete in the Pocket Park will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm.

This annual fun-packed event is organised jointly by the Pocket Park group and Burton Latimer Scouts.

All money raised for the Pocket Park will go towards its upkeep and to fund conservation projects.

This year's jamboree will have all the usual favourites, including: a real ale tent; hot dogs and burgers; 60's band; numerous stands and stalls; plus tractor rides and plenty of things for children to do.

There will also be a couple of new attractions this year – with "flights" in the CockpitSonic aircraft simulator and a performance of patriotic songs (given that it's the Jubilee year!) by our local Burton Latimer school choirs.



Duck race tickets will be on sale at the Farmers Market in May and June, and at Sainsbury's and Bosworths. They cost £1 each – and there is a £100 first prize!

If you are able to sell any tickets, or would like to have a stand or stall at the event, please contact Maureen Jerram by email at [mjerram@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mjerram@tiscali.co.uk), or by 'phone on 01536 725524.

## County Council news

### Improving local rail links

A campaign is under way to get improved railway services at Kettering and Wellingborough – including track upgrades, electrification and a link with the planned High Speed Line from London to the North.

An adjournment debate on this topic took place in the House of Commons on 16 April.

### Action on road closures and diversions

Efforts are being made to reopen Cranford Road as soon as possible so that the X1 bus can get through again, and decent access is restored for residents and the garden centre.

Also, in the future, the procedure for approving road diversions and closures to accommodate new developments is going to be changed to ensure that there is meaningful consultation with local residents, the Town Council – and other affected parties, like Stagecoach – **before** decisions are made.

### Education

Urgent action is taking place to provide extra capacity at St Mary's School so that Burton Latimer primary school children can be sure of a place in a local school.

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Burton Latimer's representative on Northamptonshire County Council is Christopher Groome.

He can be contacted by email at [chris.groome@b-r-t.co.uk](mailto:chris.groome@b-r-t.co.uk), or by 'phone on 07973 638742.

## Town centre parking

Keen-eyed drivers will have spotted that the new parking restrictions in High Street are now in place. There are some minor works still to be done, but the local shopkeepers are generally pleased with the changes.

Discussions are also being held with the Police to ensure that the new arrangements are enforced.

## Future development in Burton Latimer: don't miss this final chance to have your say

Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) is holding another drop-in session at the Civic Centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to hear what local people think about a range of options for Burton Latimer's future development. The session will run from 5pm to 8pm, and BLTC councillors will be on hand during that time to discuss the options with you and hear your views.

The findings from last year's Parish Plan household questionnaire showed that this topic is the one that concerns local residents the most – and this was also made clear by the 130 people who attended the public rally organised by Burton Latimer Town Council at Meadowside School last November.

Since then, Kettering Borough Council (KBC) has been working on the production of a Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document (or LDD for short). Once this document has been finalised and adopted, it is expected to play an important role in guiding future development across the whole borough – including Burton Latimer – for the next 20 years.

Among other things, the adopted LDD will show where land in Burton Latimer may be used in the future for housing, employment and retail purposes, and where leisure and community facilities may be sited. The LDD will also contain policies relating to specific topics – such as design, affordable housing, and protection of the open countryside.

But to get the content of the LDD right, KBC wants to hear what local people think about the different options, and has already held a consultation event in Burton Latimer on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to gauge local opinion.

The drop-in session on 17<sup>th</sup> May organised by BLTC is therefore another chance for local residents to give their views on KBC's options, and to guide our Town Council's formal response.

KBC will use the feedback from their public consultation events and from BLTC's response to identify the preferred choices to be included in the final document that will – in due course – be submitted for approval.

For more information about this event, please contact Fergus Macdonald by email at [h.macdonald1@sky.com](mailto:h.macdonald1@sky.com), or by 'phone on 01536 725922.



## Getting involved, and (maybe) making a difference

### A Councillor's personal view

By Andy Walpole

My road to becoming a councillor began by going to council meetings and listening to what went on.

I did this for about 12 months before thinking to myself that I would like to get involved in council matters – mainly because I was frustrated that I could not say anything during the meetings, and thought that if I was on the council I could influence some of the decisions being made.

#### On the election trail

My first opportunity came when a place became available on the council because one of the other councillors was standing down. I duly investigated the procedure to be followed, and filled in the necessary forms to stand for election.

I was up against two other people at the time. I had decided to stand as an Independent councillor because I wanted to make my own decisions and not be governed by a political party – which I feel is very important at a local level, because it is about the people in the town and not a political statement.

Disappointingly, I came second in that election – and learnt my first lesson in what it is like to battle against a large political party.

However, I continued to go to the local town council meetings, and last April in the general election I stood again for council.

This time, there were not enough people standing for election – which meant that no vote was needed; the 11 people who had put their names forward (including me!) automatically became councillors.

Because I was not voted on to the council my friends now jokingly call me a “default councillor”.

#### Making things happen

Planning matters were the topic that really interested me in council business, mainly because I was concerned about the expansion of the town and the lack of infrastructure to support this.

Having sat through endless planning meetings I now realise that this is not a straight forward topic, and at times I have become very frustrated with the bureaucracy and lack of what I sometimes consider common sense.

The problem is that our hands as town councillors are very tied at times because we don't have the ultimate decision on issues – and sometimes, neither does Kettering Borough Council.

I can fully sympathise with members of the public who become frustrated by these issues when sitting in meetings, because not long ago, that was me!

Being one the younger members of the council, I hope to be around to see the development of Burton into the future – but I think it will

## Diary dates

### Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

All BLTC meetings start at 7pm  
Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Council Meeting

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Planning Committee meetings

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012

### 2012 Duck Race & Fete

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Burton Latimer Pocket Park

### Diamond Jubilee events

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012

become a very different place to the one we know now.

The Pocket Park is something else that I'm really keen on. I got involved as a volunteer after my friend Harvey York asked me if I would help out with the grass cutting, and it is really nice to see people enjoying the park when we are working there.

It is a great facility that we have in the town and we would like to see more people using it.

So if like me you have thought “I can do that better”, give it a go and become involved in your town. Sometimes it's not easy, but it can be very satisfying when you achieve something positive.

## Twinning Association news

Six Burton Latimer residents visited our Italian twin town of Castelnuova Magra this month, and another trip – this time, to Altendiez in Germany – is planned for September. Later in the year, people from both Castelnuova Magra and Altendiez are planning to visit Burton Latimer.

Our twinned towns are very beautiful and well worth a visit, and the Twinning Association is always keen to attract new members. If you would like to get involved – perhaps by fundraising for these exchange visits or helping with accommodation – you would be very welcome. For more information about the Twinning Association, please contact Maureen Jerram by email at [mjerram@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mjerram@tiscali.co.uk), or by phone on 01536 725524.

## Burton Latimer Business & Social Directory launched

Picture the scenario: it's a cold Monday morning and your central heating is on the blink. What's more, your garden fence has blown over in the night, the guttering needs fixing and you need a taxi to take the cat to the vet. Where do you turn to for help with this (admittedly unlikely) tale of woe?

Well, from 1<sup>st</sup> June you will have a new option with the launch of a local directory listing almost 200 Burton Latimer-based businesses.

The idea for this came from a meeting of the Business Forum set up last year by Burton Latimer Town Council, which looked at ways to support local businesses. It has been compiled by local volunteers Robin Hall and Roger Knight.

The directory will be available online via the town's community website [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org), and copies will also be available at the library and Civic Centre.

And if you need some relaxation to recover from such a taxing day, then the directory can help with that too; it will also contain a list of the clubs, societies, teams and sporting activities that go on in the town!

## Got a question? Just ask the Council

**I recently received my council tax statement and noticed that Burton Latimer Town Council is raising £17,500 in 2012/13 through a local Precept. What does this mean?**

Town and parish councils are self-funding and do not receive any money from Central Government.

However, some receive financial support from county or district councils, and Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) – like other town and parish councils in the borough – receives an annual grant from Kettering Borough Council.

But the grant doesn't cover all the town council's costs – so BLTC asks Kettering Borough Council to top it up through a "Precept" – and this forms part of the council tax paid by local residents within the town, as shown on your statement.

BLTC has been doing this since 2001, and each household pays a small share in line with their council tax "banding".

As you would expect, town and parish councils are required to manage their financial affairs in a responsible manner.

They can only levy a Precept that is necessary to ensure that they have sufficient funds to meet their budgeted expenditure and enough in reserve to avoid bankruptcy.

The good news is that, by keeping its costs down, BLTC has managed to avoid any increase in the Precept for 2012/13.

## Contact Burton Latimer Town Council

Town Clerk: George Sneddon

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@ [council@burtonlatimer.org](mailto:council@burtonlatimer.org)

✉ Burton Latimer Town Council, Burton Latimer Civic Centre, 120 High Street, Burton Latimer, Northants. NN15 5RH

## Contact Burton Latimer News

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KBC – Ruth Groome, Jan Smith and Derek Zanger represent Burton Latimer on Kettering Borough Council

NCC – Christopher Groome represents Burton Latimer on Northamptonshire County Council