

### In this edition...

If your New Year's resolution is to keep fit and eat more healthily, then the allotment article on this page could be just what you're looking for: a way to combine regular exercise with growing your own food.

But if gardening's not your thing, there's a variety of other local clubs and societies listed in The Burton Latimer Directory. An updated edition is now available, as you'll see on the back page.

Burton Latimer's Parish Plan has also been published recently. Actions to protect and enhance our town for the future – as suggested by local residents – are listed on page two.

And on page three, Derek Zanger – one of our longer-standing local Councillors – describes how his role has changed over the years.

Someone who will no doubt be reading Derek's words with great interest is John Currall. John is the Town Council's newest recruit – and you can find out a bit about him on the back page.

Warwick Hunt  
Editor, Burton Latimer News  
January 2013

### Demand for local allotments grows

With the current trend towards organic gardening and wanting to know where our food comes from, it's perhaps not surprising that allotments have become more popular in recent years.

Burton Latimer Allotment Association – which was established in 1911 – has seen the number of plot-holders (or 'allotmenters', as they are sometimes called) increase from 22 to 72 since 1984, and there are currently another 10 people on the waiting list.

The local allotments are situated on a 4.5 acre plot at the end of Jacques Road (off Higham Road), and the land is self-managed by the local Association on a 10-year lease from Kettering Borough Council.

You don't need to be an expert gardener to become a member, as there's always someone ready to give friendly advice to a fellow enthusiast who's keen to learn.

Also, the local Association is a member of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (also known as The National



Allotment Society), and their website ([www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk)) is a good source of advice on how to plan and look after an allotment.

As well as being able to enjoy fresh and tasty home-grown food, many people go to their allotment to socialise and for the camaraderie.

Recognising this, our local Association is considering having an open day, and arranging social events – such as a BBQ, and day trips combined with other societies.

For more information about becoming an allotment-holder, or about the local Association's forthcoming social events, please contact the Secretary, Dave Richards, by email at [blaa.enquiries1@btinternet.com](mailto:blaa.enquiries1@btinternet.com).

### Local primary school expansion approved

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has approved plans to increase the number of primary school places in Burton Latimer.

St Mary's School is one of several schools in the county that had been earmarked for expansion – and the proposal was backed by Kettering Borough Council, who noted in their letter of support that housing developments in Burton

Latimer will bring extra demand for local primary school places.

NCC's decision means that from September 2013 St Mary's will become a two-form entry school, with its intake doubling from 30 to 60 pupils each year.

The maximum number of pupils at the school will increase from 288 to 420 – making it about the same size as Meadowside Primary School.





# Burton Latimer Parish Plan

## The next steps

Burton Latimer's Parish Plan has been published (to great acclaim from those who have seen it), and submitted to Kettering Borough Council for adoption.

As well as explaining the background to this community project and giving a brief history of Burton Latimer, the Plan lists a total of 56 actions to protect and enhance our town for the future – based on suggestions made by local residents in their 2011 Household Questionnaire responses. It also notes that 30 of these actions have already been completed, and that some of the remaining items on the list – especially the longer term ones – will require help from other agencies, such as Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

The full "to do" list of actions still to be taken is set out below:

**Housing development:** Seek greater influence over the use of money received by the Borough and County Councils from housing developers (known as 'section 106 monies'), to ensure that it benefits our town.

**Business & employment:** Re-establish the local Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to provide a strong voice for locally-based businesses; encourage more stall-holders and customers to use the monthly farmers market; and smarten up the High Street and Churchill Way.

**Education:** Develop the Civic Centre further as a venue for local educational activities; explore the potential for adult education courses being provided in the town by Tresham College, Moulton College, and the University of Northampton; and in the longer term, aim to provide secondary schooling in the town as the local population grows.

**The local environment:** Provide a wider range of recycling facilities at more locations in the town – and ensure that recycling bins are emptied more often; create a new footpath route on the eastern side of the town; and use the Community Payback scheme to help keep Burton Latimer tidy.

**Traffic & transport:** Continue the current highway resurfacing programme; create parking bays for the disabled in front of the Churchill Way shops; ensure all major bus stops in the town have shelters; and protect Church Street from any extra traffic that may result from possible development schemes in the future.

**Safety & crime prevention:**

Encourage the installation of modern, directional, white street-lighting – which will make CCTV more effective; promote the development of more local Neighbourhood Watch schemes; and create a dedicated youth centre within the Civic Centre

**Local amenities & services:** Develop the town centre in line with proposals previously set out in the Urban Design Framework; and review the provision of public WC facilities within the town.

**Leisure & recreation:** create a "welcome pack" that can be issued to new Burton Latimer residents; publish a map of local footpaths and walks; identify footpaths that can be upgraded to bridleways; and press for a sports and leisure facility to be developed within the town.

**Churches & places of worship:** Develop local church provision for young people who wish to deepen their understanding of faith; and create opportunities for worship as churches together, for those who might not identify with traditional forms and patterns of worship.

**Local government:** establish a regular open surgery at the Civic Centre, where town councillors are on hand to discuss local issues and address residents' concerns.

Copies of the Parish Plan are available at Burton Latimer Library and the Civic Centre. The document can also be viewed on the town's community website: [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org)

## County Council news

### Government grant cut

The expected reduction in Government grant to Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) for the next financial year (i.e. from 1 April 2013) was announced just before Christmas.

Councillors and officers have been balancing the desire to maintain front-line services with the wish of Government to freeze Council Tax for another year.

The proposed budget is now available for consultation on the County Council's website ([www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)) before it is finalised in February.

Particularly challenging are growing demands for adult and children's services as the numbers of elderly people and children in the county increase.

Although progress is being made in reducing 'back office' costs and in making a shift in social services away from dealing with problems towards preventing them happening, the required speed of change is putting a lot of pressure on everyone involved.

### Planned rail upgrade moving forward

In July the Government announced plans to upgrade the Midland Main Line which passes through Kettering and Wellingborough. The aim is to speed up the services to 125 mph, but also to save costs and reduce carbon emissions.

In addition, Network Rail is putting forward the case for an electrified north / south spine from Southampton via Oxford, Bletchley and Bedford. This line will provide new opportunities for carrying freight and passengers to and from Kettering and Wellingborough, with direct services to the south west.

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

He can be contacted by email at [CGroome@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:CGroome@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or by 'phone on 07973 638742.



## The challenging and changing role of a Town Councillor

### A Councillor's personal view

By Derek Zanger

I find it difficult to believe that I have now been a Town Councillor for almost 12 years. Where has the time gone?

People have often asked why I decided to become a Councillor and my reply is always the same: I was frustrated by the lack of help I was receiving from those who were supposedly in a position to help, and I thought that by becoming a Councillor myself I would be able to rectify that – and more importantly, help people who found themselves in a similar situation.

I must say that I soon found out that it wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. In fact it has become a full time job for me, and I continue to enjoy the challenge.

### A broad and changing role

I can say, though, that the role has changed over the years. The Town Council has become much more proactive, and is often referred to by officers at Kettering Borough Council (KBC) as a good example of how a Town Council should be run.

As well as being a Town Councillor, I am one of Burton Latimer's three representatives on

the Borough Council – where I am also a member of the Executive.

This means that I can help to ensure that local views are taken into account in discussions and decisions that affect the running of all aspects of the Borough – and more importantly, Burton Latimer.

However, it can be very frustrating at times, especially when trying to represent local residents' views at Planning Committee meetings. Difficult though it is, we have to accept that there are rules and legislation that must be adhered to.

That's why it has always been my policy, especially with planning, to make sure that, even if we fail to get the decision we want, we must try to mitigate any adverse effects to achieve the best possible result for local residents and the town.

### Some local achievements

One of the recent successes we have had as a Town Council was to bring the old medical centre back into use, as many local people wanted.

This has resulted in the creation of the Civic Centre and a Heritage Centre, with community facilities

## Diary dates

### Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

All BLTC meetings start at 7pm, and take place at the Civic Centre

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Planning Committee meetings

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

that are accessible to all.

I am also proud of setting up the Farmers Market in Burton Latimer seven years ago. This monthly community event has suffered recently due to the economic climate, but is still supported by some of the original traders.

I have always believed that if you put in the work the results will come – not always instantly, but eventually – if you persevere.

Having been a Councillor for all these years there's one thing I would change if I could – and that is people's understanding of what a Town Councillor does.

I would also like to encourage people to become a Town Councillor – although I have never been able to work miracles!

## Town Mayor's Charity Dinner is a great success

There was a capacity crowd of 61 for the Town Mayor's Charity Dinner held at Great Harrowden Hall – the home of Wellingborough Golf Club – on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Not only were the dinner and the entertainment excellent (the guest speakers were Wetherbys Director Adrian McGlynn and TV and Radio Presenter Sarah Kennedy), but the Town Mayor's chosen charity – the Air Ambulance Service – will benefit by about £500.

Town Mayor Christopher Groome would like to thank all those who came to the event – plus everyone who sent donations, gave raffle prizes, or bought raffle tickets – for their generosity in enabling us to achieve this fantastic sum for the Air Ambulance Service.



## Town Council returns to full strength

Burton Latimer Town Council is delighted to have co-opted John Currall to fill the vacancy caused by Debbie Russell's resignation in 2012.

John has lived in Burton Latimer since 1997. He is an active member of the community, and is keen to promote the interests of the town.

In the past he has worked extensively in the hotel industry. He currently works as a lunchtime supervisor at St Mary's School, where he is the Treasurer of the Parent / Teacher Association and much involved in fundraising.

John's appointment means that the Town Council now has its full complement of 12 members again.



## The Burton Latimer Directory: 2013 edition now available

The Burton Latimer Directory – which was first published in June 2012 – has been revised and updated for 2013.

The new version includes several businesses not previously listed, along with an extensive index of the sports and social activities on offer in the town.

Once again, the directory's development has been sponsored by Burton Latimer Town Council.

Copies are available at Burton Latimer Library and the Civic Centre.

The 2013 edition can also be viewed online or downloaded from the town's community website: [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org).



## Contact Burton Latimer Town Council

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

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## 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