

In this edition...

Burton Latimer News has a scoop!

The bridge over the railway on Finedon Station Road is going to be rebuilt as part of the work needed to electrify the Midland Mainline – and this page has further details of Network Rail's plans to close the bridge for 13 weeks while the work is carried out.

Meanwhile, our Parish Plan has received further commendation, and more of the actions identified by local residents have been carried out – as described at the foot of this page.

On page two George Sneddon, our Town Clerk, provides an illuminating insight into the different responsibilities of our Town, Borough and County Councils.

If you've ever been tempted to moan about "the council", this should help you to see that it's more complicated than you think!

And finally, you'll not want to miss Burton Latimer's annual Duck Race and Fete on 23rd June – so turn to page three to find out what's in store.

Warwick Hunt
Editor, Burton Latimer News
April 2013

Bridge over railway to be rebuilt

The Finedon Station Road bridge on the outskirts of Burton Latimer is to be rebuilt by Network Rail as part of a £70 million investment to speed up journey times on the line between London and Sheffield.

The new bridge will provide the extra room needed for trains to travel at higher speeds, and allow space for the future installation of overhead line equipment as part of the proposed electrification of the line between Bedford and Sheffield.

Network Rail's current plans – which are subject to approval from the Office of Rail Regulation in October 2013 – are to start electrification work on the line from 2014, and to electrify as far as Corby by 2017, to Leicester, Derby and Nottingham in 2019, and to Sheffield in 2020.

When completed, the work is expected to cut up to 8 minutes off the journey between London and Sheffield.

Justin Page, Network Rail acting route managing director, said: "This work will deliver quicker journeys for the ever-growing number of passengers on the Midland Main Line.



Our longer-term plans to upgrade and electrify the line will transform our diesel railway into one of the most modern in Europe providing more seats, even faster journeys, and cleaner and quieter trains."

The Finedon Station Road bridge will be closed for 13 weeks between 3rd June and 3rd September 2013 while the rebuilding work is carried out.

Traffic diversions will be in place, though access for pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained for the vast majority of the time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Network Rail's 24-hour helpline on 08457 11 41 41 – or tweet @NetworkRail.

Burton Latimer's Parish Plan: more praise – and more action

Burton Latimer's Parish Plan has been highly praised by Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

Elaine O'Leary, ACRE's Rural Officer for North and East Northants, said: "It is excellent – one of the best examples I have seen of a parish plan: well laid out; easy to read; and

the sort of living document that will only benefit the community."

Meanwhile, further actions have been completed since the Plan was published in January 2013.

Litter has been removed from the Spinney, dog waste bins have been placed at the end of Church Lane and Preston Court, and the

recycling facilities in Churchill Way are to be improved, with new bins being sited in a more suitable spot just off the car park.

Also, Burton Latimer Town Councillors have agreed a long term priority list of improvements to local roads with members of the County Council highways department.

Which Council does what?

How many times have you heard someone say “the Council should do something about ...”?

The trouble is, it’s not as simple as that. You need to ask, “Which council?”

It may seem surprising, but apart from overseeing the Civic Centre, Farmer’s Market, Christmas lighting, Council website and newsletter, and the Pocket Park, Burton Latimer Town Council actually has very little direct control over what happens in the town.

That’s because most things fall within the responsibility of the statutory authorities (such as Central Government, Northamptonshire County Council, and Kettering Borough Council) and our Town Council has no authority, or the resources, to implement change in these areas on its own.

However, that doesn’t mean that our Town Council is powerless, as those other bodies have a statutory duty to consult Burton Latimer Town Council on matters affecting local residents.

In addition, our Town Council has a good working relationship with the organisations involved and lobbies them at every opportunity

to ensure that the views of Burton Latimer residents are put forward – and whenever possible, achieve positive outcomes for the local community.

But that can only happen if our Town Councillors are in tune with what local people think – so, as Burton Latimer residents, it is down to us to make sure that our views are known.

Burton Latimer residents may raise any matters of interest or concern by contacting individual Town Councillors, by attending a Council meeting and addressing the Council during the public forum session, or by writing (or sending an email) to the Clerk of the Council. All the relevant contact details are listed on the back page.

Of course, in many situations it is more appropriate to contact Kettering Borough Council or Northamptonshire County Council directly – as long as you know which organisation does what.

Even then, finding the right department or person to speak to isn’t always easy, so the box below lists some of the principle areas of responsibility for each organisation and the main contact details.

Kettering Borough Council

 01536 410333

 www.kettering.gov.uk

Principle areas of responsibility

- Council housing, Council Tax and housing benefit;
- Parks, amenities, open spaces, art galleries, museums, leisure & sport, and tourism;
- Planning and development control;
- Cemeteries & crematorium, dog fouling, and pest & dog control;
- Refuse & recycling, street cleaning, grounds maintenance, and council house maintenance & repairs.

Northamptonshire County Council

 0300 126 1000

 www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Principle areas of responsibility

- Highways and street maintenance, street lighting, gritting, parking restrictions, disabled parking scheme, and bus passes;
- Waste recycling centres;
- Education & school admissions, adult learning, and libraries;
- Registration of births marriages and deaths, and Social Services;
- Fire and rescue services.

Kettering
Borough Council

 Northamptonshire
County Council

County Council news

Budget for 2013-14 agreed

At its meeting in February the County Council agreed its budget for the next financial year starting this April.

Reductions in the Government grant and a continued Council Tax freeze have meant that a lot of difficult decisions have had to be made, and some services will receive less funding than they were hoping for.

But the County’s Children’s Services – which were recently rated as ‘inadequate’ by Ofsted – have been allocated additional money to implement a recovery plan.

Burton Latimer Library

The Library is closed until early May for the removal of asbestos and general refurbishment.

During this period a mobile library will provide a limited service in the Civic Centre car park on Mondays and Tuesdays, or readers can use Kettering Library.

The KBC Customer Service Centre is temporarily located in the Civic Centre back office and will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 5pm.

The CAB is also there on Fridays from 10am to 1pm.

St Mary’s school

The scheme to expand and improve St Mary’s School continues to progress.

In the short term it is planned to provide another mobile class room.

Election arrangements

On Thursday 2nd May elections will be held for the County Council.

The number of County Councillors is being reduced from 73 to 57, and at the same time the electoral boundaries have been revised to take account of population changes.

Currently, the Burton Division consists of Burton Latimer and the southern part of Barton Seagrave.

The new Burton and Broughton Division consists of Burton Latimer, Pytchley and Broughton.



Countryside and community: protecting what we value

A Councillor's personal view

By Jan Smith

It seems inconceivable that I have been a councillor for six years. So much has changed in this time as our town has grown – and yet it still retains its character.

I became a councillor as I care deeply about people and place. It is imperative that we retain and maintain our beautiful countryside, for it is getting out in green open space that not only maintains the mind, but we also see the wonderful array of crops and animals our farmers nurture to put food on our table.

Sympathetic development

I understand developers' needs to build profitable homes, but I believe they should be affordable and fit for purpose – which means being big enough for a family to live in, store everyday items and park a car in the garage or off the road!

They should also be developed sympathetically so that they are in keeping with the surrounding area, meet people's needs to be near their jobs, and leave areas that are unsuitable for housing to nature.

An eye to the future

As councillors we have a duty to ensure that our decisions are 'future-proof', so that our legacy does not leave future generations in greater debt – both environmentally and financially.

As a community we need a sense of place, a sense of belonging, and compassion for the environment – and I always try to remember that our actions as councillors will affect family, friends and the wider local community in some way.

This is exemplified in our local youth group, where our young people have a place to meet, share thoughts and get support and advice with issues they may be dealing with – knowing that if they ever need help the Groundworks youth workers are always only a phone call or text away.

Through this scheme our young people have embarked on lifelong skills courses, and are evolving into kind, well-balanced young adults who have a voice and are listened to.

That way, they can help to shape our country for the future.

Diary dates

Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

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

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Council meeting

- Tuesday 7th May 2013

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 4th June 2013
- Tuesday 2nd July 2013

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 16th May 2013
- Thursday 13th June 2013
- Thursday 11th July 2013

Planning Committee meetings

- Thursday 23rd May 2013
- Thursday 27th June 2013
- Thursday 25th July 2013

2013 Duck Race & Fete

- Sunday 23rd June 2013
Burton Latimer Pocket Park

For me being a councillor allows me to meet and help wonderful people.

But at the heart of all I do is a desire to achieve good things for our town and to help others.

I firmly believe in Martin Luther King's immortal words: "*never look down on anybody unless you happen to be helping them up*".

His advice is perhaps something we could all be mindful of.

Burton Latimer's annual duck race and fete

This year's duck race and fete in the Pocket Park will be held on Sunday 23rd June, starting at 1pm.

As well as the excitement of seeing all the ducks floating down the river (and the chance to win a prize!), the afternoon of family fun offers a bouncy castle, miniature rides, tractor rides, an Irish band and a real-ale tent.

There will also be over 20 stands and stalls selling burgers, hot dogs, strawberries and cream – and much, much more.

The annual event is a joint venture between the Pocket Park Group and Burton Latimer Scouts.

All funds raised go to support the upkeep of the Pocket Park (which is maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers) and the Scouts, so please come and have a wonderful time.

Entry is free and the duck tickets cost £1. If you can sell a few tickets or would like a stall at the event, please contact Maureen Jerram by email at mjerram@tiscali.co.uk, or by 'phone on 01536 725524.



New household recycling scheme to be introduced

Kettering Borough Council will be introducing a new and improved recycling service throughout the borough during Spring 2013.

The new service will replace the blue boxes and introduce a new wheeled bin, allowing residents to recycle a wider range of items – including juice and milk style Tetra-pack cartons, and all plastics (though not plastic bags).

Cardboard will also be placed into the new wheeled bin, which will allow room for more garden waste to be recycled in the current grey wheeled bin. The red box will still remain for paper.

The new bins are being delivered at the end of April or beginning of May for the service to commence later that month.

For further information please visit www.kettering.gov.uk/recycling.



Attend County Council meetings without leaving home!

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has introduced webcasts as a new way for residents to stay up-to-date with local government issues without having to physically attend meetings.

By transmitting audio and video over the Internet, the webcasts will enable viewers to watch council meetings live from the comfort of their own home – or even on the move with an Android or iOS device.

The real-time broadcasts also provide a way for the authority to reach high numbers of interested parties – including local residents who may be affected by issues being discussed – as the space

available for public meetings at County Hall is limited.

A new page on NCC's website (www.northamptonshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home) allows access to the live webcast of a number of the authority's meetings, including:

- Full Council
- Cabinet
- Development Control (Planning)
- Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel
- All Scrutiny Committees
- Health and Wellbeing Board

The webcasts are also archived and available to view up to six months after the date of the meeting.

Contact Burton Latimer Town Council

Town Clerk: George Sneddon

☎ 07732 331946

@ council@burtonlatimer.org

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

Contact Burton Latimer News

@ newsletter@burtonlatimer.org

📍 Burton Latimer News, Burton Latimer Civic Centre, 120 High Street, Burton Latimer, Northants. NN15 5RH

Burton Latimer Councillors – contact details

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Vacancy

KBC – Ruth Groome, Jan Smith and Derek Zanger represent Burton Latimer on Kettering Borough Council
Burton Latimer's future representative on Northamptonshire County Council will be elected on 2nd May 2013