

In this edition...

Our new Town Mayor, Roger Knight, is keen to use the council's newsletter and website to enable local residents to have more say about what happens in the town.

So, starting now, each quarterly edition of Burton Latimer News will ask for your views on specific topics – which can be given via the website or by filling in a form.

This time, you are invited to share your thoughts about the farmers market – and the details of how to do this are on page two.

But sometimes, a more active method of engagement will still be needed – as with Kettering Borough Council's recent paper on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation options.

In this case, the consultation period started a month after the Spring edition of the newsletter had been distributed, so many residents (particularly anyone without an internet connection) were taken by surprise when the issue came to light.

To get round this problem, our town councillors held a number of meetings with local residents to hear their views, and a short version of Burton Latimer Town Council's (BLTC's) formal response to the options paper appears on this page.

In this edition you will also find a summary of BLTC's accounts for 2012-13, a request for ideas about how to spend our town centre grant (more consultation!), and a brief introduction to Nigel Padget – the newly co-opted member of our town council.

Warwick Hunt
Editor, Burton Latimer News
July 2013

Kettering Borough Council's consultation on Gypsy & Traveller accommodation

Burton Latimer Town Council has responded to Kettering Borough Council's *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options* paper.

The document – which was released on 3rd June 2013 for a six-week period of consultation – identified eight potential sites and 10 alternative sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community within the Borough for the next 18 years.

Kettering Borough Council will take account of the responses to the consultation when identifying which sites should be explored further.

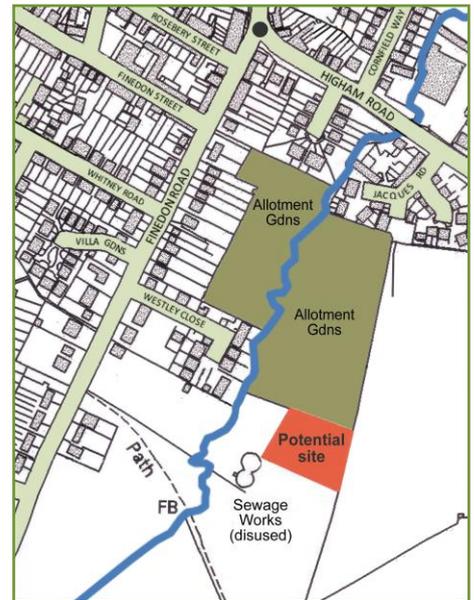
The list of potential sites includes the old Burton Latimer sewage works, near to the brook and allotments south east of Finedon Road. Kettering Borough Council's

document suggests that this could accommodate up to seven 'pitches'.

In its response – which was informed by several meetings with local residents – Burton Latimer Town Council stated that it strongly opposes any future development of this site, and listed 22 points to support its view. These included:

- The ground is 'boggy', with poor drainage and the risk of flooding – so development of the site would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework;
- Development of the site would significantly detract from the landscape, and would integrate poorly with the immediate surroundings;
- The proximity of the site to current residents means that any future development could have an adverse effect on their quality of life;
- The interests of the neighbouring allotment-holders need to be preserved;
- There are significant access difficulties, which cannot easily be overcome;
- There are important ecological features to be preserved – including an ancient hedgerow and a protected habitat for Great Crested Newts;
- The land – which includes the residual infrastructure for the disused sewage works and a sinkhole – is unstable and contaminated, and this would be difficult to rectify;
- Burton Latimer's medical centre and primary schools cannot currently cope with any population expansion beyond that already planned for the town.

The full version of Burton Latimer Town Council's response to the consultation is available on town notice boards, and from the website www.burtonlatimer.org.



Map showing the potential site for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Burton Latimer

Burton Latimer Town Council

Payments & Receipts Account Year Ended 31st March 2013

2011/12		2012/13
£	RECEIPTS	£
10,650.00	KBC - Annual Grant	9,450.00
855.00	Farmer's Market	455.00
17,500.00	Precept	17,500.00
2,281.76	Reclaimed VAT	2,369.73
3,250.00	KBC Grant - Christmas Lighting	3,200.00
18.61	Bank interest received	20.93
3,205.00	NCC Empowering Councillors Grant	11,785.73
577.15	KBC Councillors Ward Fund	513.00
400.00	Public donations	N/A
97.26	Heritage Society	N/A
21.05	Sale of Furniture	N/A
250.00	Christmas Lights Switch on	N/A
1,731.47	Room Hire	4,512.50
6,513.61	Rent	6,497.76
4,400.00	KBC Town Centre Grant	2,200.00
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51,750.91	TOTAL RECEIPTS	58,504.65
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	PAYMENTS	
5,440.96	General administration	5,955.33
9,102.77	Other	4,774.84
16,074.70	Civic Centre	15,779.84
15,113.90	Salaries & wages	15,403.56
500.00	Chairman's allowance (£500 balance pd April 2012)	1,500.00
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46,232.33	TOTAL PAYMENTS	43,413.57
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5,518.58	SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	15,091.08
25,124.98	BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	30,643.56
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30,643.56	CARRIED FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR	45,734.64

Accounts are subject to External Audit

County Council news

Boundary changes

The number of County Councillors has been reduced from 73 to 57. Burton is now joined to Pytchley and Broughton rather than to part of Barton Seagrave.

Danger on the A6

In the past five years there have been 34 accidents on the A6 between Finedon and Junction 10 of the A14, resulting in four deaths, 12 serious injuries and 42 slight casualties.

As one of the most dangerous routes in the county this stretch of the A6 has been designated as a 'Red Route' and is subject to an investigation by experts.

A range of interventions is now being considered, and will be followed by a programme of works.

Action to improve children's services

As part of a wider response to the recent adverse Ofsted report, the County Council has reorganised the scrutiny function to bring all children's services (education, social services and corporate parenting) together.

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, or by 'phone on 07973 638742.

Consultation corner: Burton Latimer's farmers market

Burton Latimer Town Council would like to hear your views about the farmers market – which is held on the first Saturday of every month in the town's Millennium Gardens.

As well as being a place to buy fresh food, the market provides an opportunity to meet our town, borough and county councillors, and to discuss any concerns with the local police community support officers. Also, local organisations often use the event to publicise their activities and future plans.

The market has been running since 2006 – and it's now time to take stock.

How well does it meet your needs? Do you use it – and if so, what do you think about the produce on offer? How well does it work as a community event? Can you suggest any changes or are there any improvements that you would like to see? There are two ways to give your feedback:

- Visit www.burtonlatimer.org, and complete an online questionnaire, or...
- Pick up and fill in a paper version of the questionnaire (which will be available at the farmers market in August and September, and from Burton News and Burton Cleaners) and return it to any councillor, or post it through the Civic Centre letterbox.





Community spirit's alive – but what happened to localism?

Town Mayor's personal view

By Roger Knight

It was a privilege to be elected as Town Mayor in May.

I seek your support in the three events that I am planning, and invite your comments and interest in your town council (which is still yours even if you are one of the majority who don't vote!) as we try to use our influence – and the few powers we have – to benefit all who live and work in our expanding town.

Community events

On the August Bank Holiday Monday 26th August I am organising a Mayor's Walk to encourage local people of all ages to get together.

There will be a choice of five routes, ranging from ½ mile to six miles in length, all starting from Bosworth's Garden Centre in Finedon Road.

Tickets – which include entrance for the walks, various refreshments and a raffle – are on sale from the Garden Centre, and from Burton News, Burton Cleaners, and all town councillors.

The walks will also be an opportunity to raise money for two charities: the NSPCC and the IDDT – which supports people with diabetes. Sponsorship forms are available, and there will be a prize for the most money raised.

My Civic Service will be at St Mary's Church on 20th October – to which all are invited – and there will be a charity dinner on Saturday 22nd February 2014, with a well known

after-dinner speaker and musician who has his own radio programme.

Localism

Soon after joining the council in 2011 I wrote in this newsletter about the Localism Bill, which has since become law.

The Bill listed six ways to help us move from 'Big Government' to 'Big Society': reducing bureaucracy; letting locals do things in their way; local control of public finance; developing the supply of public services; opening up government to public scrutiny; and strengthening accountability to local people.

I expressed the view that this might give back some of the powers removed in 1974 when the borough council took on many of the powers and responsibilities of the former Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

But two years later, not much seems to have changed, as central government has handed over very little power to local communities.

For instance, the development of local plans has been encouraged, but the process has been slow. The plans are also compromised by the pressure to build new houses – and government planning inspectors still retain overall control.

However, I also wondered if we really wanted such powers handed back, in view of the limited interest in local politics.

For instance, our own town council has suffered two resignations

Diary dates

Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

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

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 6th August 2013
- Tuesday 3rd September 2013
- Tuesday 1st October 2013

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 15th August 2013
- Thursday 12th September 2013
- Thursday 10th October 2013

Planning Committee meetings

- Thursday 22nd August 2013
- Thursday 26th September 2013
- Thursday 24th October 2013

Mayor's Walk(s)

- Monday 26th August 2013
Bosworth's Garden Centre

Civic Service

- Sunday 20th October 2013
St Mary's Church

recently, and the turnout at most elections remains extremely low.

But on the plus side, our county council has done well to reduce the number of county councillors that were elected last May.

So, have those six ideals in the Localism Bill been lost in the need to balance the national books and pursue other courses considered to be more urgent?

Or is it because the demand for localism and the Big Society is not shared by most people – who just want to get on with their own lives?

What remains true for me is that building a sense of community remains important and that local organisations – including the town council – have a key role to play.

2013 – a record-breaking duck race

This year's event was extremely successful – with a record number of people attending, despite the showery weather.

Thanks to the Burton Latimer Scouts and all the other volunteers,

the stands and stalls were protected from the weather in marquees.

We sold 1,550 duck tickets and the proceeds from the event will be shared between the Pocket Park and the Scouts.

Since we are all volunteers this money will make a real difference to us, and help the Pocket Park to provide a lovely place for all to visit.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the event.

Meet our new town councillor

Burton Latimer Town Council has co-opted Nigel Padget to fill the vacancy caused by Andy Walpole's resignation earlier this year.

Nigel lived in Burton Latimer as a child (his father was the local GP until his retirement in 1991) and returned to the town 15 years ago.

He is secretary at the local Baptist Church and has been involved in community outreach work over several years.

With an interest in the local community, recreational facilities and planning, Nigel hopes to be able to contribute positively to the life of Burton Latimer in his new role.



Spending the Town Centre Grant – your ideas wanted

For each of the last three years Kettering Borough Council has given us a grant of £2,200 to promote Burton Latimer and enhance the town centre – and we are hoping to receive the same amount this year.

So far we have used the funds to make improvements to the Millennium Gardens, to publish an up-to-date Business and Social Directory for the town (which is available on the town's website www.burtonlatimer.org – or ask any councillor for a hard copy), and to provide a new notice board outside the Civic Centre where local groups can advertise their events.

Street furniture in the town is



about to get a lick of paint, and we are hoping to buy new Christmas lights to replace the old ones that are virtually beyond repair.

The town council is now considering how best to spend this year's grant – so please speak to any councillor with your suggestions or use the website contact form.

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

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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