

In this edition...

Are you still in the dark about how our town council works? If so, then you may find the article on page two very illuminating!

Lighting is also the subject of the main article on this page – which describes how this year's Christmas display in the town centre is to be transformed by a new set of bulbs.

Sadly, the town council's attempt to seek people's views through the summer edition of the newsletter was disappointing – though the few who responded to the farmers market survey had some sensible things to say, as you will see below.

On page two there's news of another chance to give your views on how Burton Latimer should develop over the next 20 years. Kettering Borough Council's latest plans will be on display at the Civic Centre on 12th November.

And on the back page, there's an answer to the question that so many local people have asked over the last few years: whatever happened to the Swimming Pool Trust?

And finally...

After editing Burton Latimer News for the last two years, I have decided to step down.

During my stint I have aimed to raise the profile of our local council and to provide more insight into the work our town, borough and county councillors do on our behalf.

It's not been easy – but I hope it's been useful and enlightening.

Thank you for reading.

Warwick Hunt
Editor, Burton Latimer News
October 2013



Switch-on date announced for new Christmas lights

This year's Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Friday 29th November in the town centre.

To add extra sparkle to the occasion, Burton Latimer Town Council has bought new lights for the town – the old ones having finally given up the ghost after many years of service.

The new display uses energy-efficient LED bulbs, and comes with a lifetime guarantee. The evening of festive fun is a chance to see the new illuminations for the first time.

Many of the local shops, cafes and restaurants will be open late, and there will also be a number of gift and food stalls to help you get your Christmas shopping under way.

The Salvation Army Band will be playing seasonal music, and local

youth choirs will be singing carols.

Children will be able to enjoy John Scarrott's funfair, and visit Santa in his grotto.

And, as in previous years, there will be a children's prize draw on the night – with the lucky winner getting the chance to throw the switch to turn on the lights.

Tickets for the draw cost 50p and will be available in November – from the farmers market on the 2nd, and from Sainsbury's Burton Latimer store on the 16th and the 24th.

The stalls and fair will be open from 5pm, with the entertainment commencing at 6pm and the lights switch-on taking place at 7pm.

If you wish to book a stall – or require further information – please contact Jan Smith on 07867 419984.

Consultation results: don't all shout at once!

Burton Latimer has spoken! Or rather – a grand total of nine people have given their feedback on the farmers market in our August / September survey.

Comments about the market indicated that it was highly valued by those who responded – who tended to be regular visitors. Suggestions for improvement included having more stalls (such as bread, fish and flowers), advertising the market more effectively, and offering a more family-friendly event with live music and attractions for children.

How does the town council work?

Being a member of Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) doesn't just mean turning up at a BLTC meeting once a month. Our councillors – who are all volunteers – are also involved in a range of other council-related activities.

Much of the council's business is co-ordinated by its two committees:

The Finance & General Purposes Committee chiefly looks after the financial side of the council's business. This involves developing and monitoring all the council's financial policies, making recommendations to the council on the course of action to be taken on important financial matters, and ensuring that the proper financial procedures are followed at all times.

The Planning Committee considers all applications for the development (or change of use) of buildings and land within the town. After carefully looking at each application, the committee sends its views and recommendations to the designated Local Planning Authority for Burton Latimer – which is Kettering Borough Council (KBC). KBC's Planning Committee then makes a final decision on whether an application should be approved, taking account of all the comments it has received – including those from BLTC's Planning Committee.

The council and its two main committees each meet monthly at the Civic Centre, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

In addition, each councillor is a member of one or more working groups that oversee specific areas of council-related activity, and most of our councillors also represent the interests of our town on so-called 'external' bodies – both within Burton Latimer and beyond. One or two of our town councillors also have specific roles that take up their time on our behalf.

BLTC working groups	External bodies	Individual roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports & Leisure Group• Civic Centre Management Group• Finance Monitoring Group• Events Steering Group• Farmers Market Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Forum• A6 Forum• Ancient Parish Charity• Community Centre Management Committee• Twinning Association• Heritage Society• Pocket Park• Swimming Pool Trust• BLAST• Health Centre Patients' Forum• CPRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highways representative• Parish Path & Tree Warden• Flood Warden

You can find out more about these groups – and who does what – from the 'Town Council' section of the website www.burtonlatimer.org.

County Council news

Action to prevent flooding

From April 2013 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) took on the lead role for flood prevention and defence in the county – which should lead to greater control of development in flood plains and better co-ordination of plans for protection of people and property between the various agencies responsible.

Early signs suggest that pooling of knowledge and resources in this way is already bringing benefits.

A focus on quality, not just cost

More emphasis is being placed on the quality of service delivery as a measure of performance, rather than just delivery of the budget.

In that respect, NCC's Fire and Rescue Service is regarded as one of the best and most innovative in the country.

It has adopted a method of fighting fires using less water, and has secured separate outside funding for developing a training centre – which will earn money for the county council to spend on other local services.

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.

Burton Latimer's future: view the latest options

Kettering Borough Council (KBC) is holding another drop-in session at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 12th November 2013, to hear what local people think about revised options for Burton Latimer's future development.

KBC will be displaying its latest ideas as part of ongoing work to produce a Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document (or LDD for short), which is expected to play an important role in guiding future development across the whole borough – including Burton Latimer – for the next 20 years.

The original proposals have been refined to take account of feedback from previous consultation events at the Civic Centre in March and May 2012, so this session is a chance to give your views on KBC's latest thinking, and to guide our Town Council's formal response.

The session will run from 5pm to 8pm, and our local councillors will be on hand during that time to hear your views.

KBC will use the feedback from this event and from BLTC's response to produce the final document that will be submitted for approval early in 2014.





Working to support those in need

A Councillor's personal view

By Ruth Groome

I first became a Kettering Borough Councillor representing Burton Latimer in 1995, and I joined Burton Latimer Town Council in 2002.

Formerly a business librarian and training manager for a large financial services company in Peterborough, I gave up my full-time employment to concentrate on bringing up my children, and my work in the local community.

With three teenage sons growing up in the town, I am very concerned about how it continues to develop as a thriving community.

I have always known Burton Latimer as a welcoming and friendly place, and am involved in many of its organisations – including Burton Latimer Heritage Society, the Friends of Burton Latimer Library, and the Ise Valley Protection Group.

Supporting the underdog

I think the most important things about being a local councillor are being available to people, helping them to have their say in how things are run, and speaking up for them if they are dissatisfied with any aspect of local government.

I see being on the Town or Borough Council as a service to the community and an essential part of my Christian faith, rather than as a service to politics.

In particular, the role gives me an opportunity to support the more vulnerable and needy members of our community.

For instance, I represent the Town Council on the Burton Latimer United Education Foundation (which gives grants to young people to help them with their studies), and serve on the Burton Latimer Ancient Parish Charity – which gives grants mainly to help the elderly with their winter heating bills.

And as a daughter of a World War II RAF officer, I was very pleased to be asked to join the Burton Latimer Ex-servicemen's Association Committee – which has resources to help local people who have served in the armed forces in the past, and their families.

Foodbank scheme

The latest project that I am involved with (and which is supported by all four churches in the town) will bring a Foodbank distribution centre to Burton Latimer, as a satellite of the well-established scheme operating at St Jude's in Kettering.

Foodbanks aim to provide a safety-net to help those facing a financial crisis – for instance, due to loss of employment, a sudden and drastic reduction in working hours, or an unexpected household expense such as a boiler repair bill.

Some clients are referred by health visitors or social workers, while others are directed to the centres by Borough or County Councils, Surestart or the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The local Foodbank will be based

Diary dates

Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

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

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 5th November 2013
- Tuesday 3rd December 2013
- Tuesday 7th January 2014

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 14th November 2013
- Thursday 12th December 2013
- Thursday 16th January 2014

Planning Committee meetings

- Thursday 28th November 2013
- Tuesday 24th December 2013
- Thursday 23rd January 2014

Christmas Lights switch-on

- Friday 29th November 2013
From 5pm, Town Centre

at Burton Latimer Methodist Church on the first and third Friday of the month, between 7.30pm and 9pm.

Donations of food can be made at Burton Latimer Library and Zaza's coffee shop in the High Street, and our Churches also have regular food collections.

Foodbanks are staffed by highly trained volunteers, who – after an initial needs assessment interview – offer advice and signposting, sometimes to more specialist help. All conversations with clients are private and confidential.

The foods provided are non-perishable, relatively easy and cheap to buy, and very nutritious. They are always supplied with a simple recipe card, and make a real difference to people in need.

For more information, call 01536 415495 – or visit the website: www.stjudeskettering.org.uk.

Future Gypsy & Traveller accommodation options – update

Kettering Borough Council (KBC) received an overwhelming response to its Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation options paper published in June – especially from

Burton Latimer residents – and it is taking the council's officers longer than expected to sift through all the comments.

KBC's original plans to discuss

this topic at a Planning Policy Committee meeting in October were shelved, and it is now expected to feature on an agenda at a later date – to be confirmed.

Burton Latimer website wins award

Great excitement! Our town website www.burtonlatimer.org has been awarded 'Best Informative Website' in a competition run by Northamptonshire Libraries and Northamptonshire ACRE to find the best community websites in the county.

At the prize-giving evening at ACRE's Northampton headquarters on 4th September, the judges praised the website's design, wide-ranging up-to-date content, and the ease with which they could find the information they were looking for.

In addition to Best Informative Website, the judges awarded prizes for Most Online Engagement, Most Impact on the Local Community, and Best Young Person Designed Site.

The prize for Best Overall Website 2013 went to Geddington.



Ask the Council: whatever happened to the Swimming Pool Trust?

Burton Latimer residents with long memories will recall that a lottery to raise money for a local swimming pool was started in April 1983.

The aim was to provide one third of the capital cost, with the Borough and County Councils providing the rest of the capital and sharing the running costs – but sadly, the original plans had to be ditched.

Fund-raising ceased in March 1994 when no further progress could be made with the building project due to a lack of support for the scheme from the council partners, whose priorities had changed.

However, legally the money has to be spent on swimming-related

activities, so after long discussions with the Charity Commission the swimming lesson grant scheme started in February 2001. Since then more than 6,000 grants have been made, totalling over £195,000.

Grants of 50% of cost are still available to residents of Burton Latimer, Barton Seagrave, and Isham – of any age – to pay for swimming lessons and life-saving courses. Claim forms are available at Kettering and Wellingborough swimming pools.

The bank account balance stands at just over £57,000 (as at 1st July 2013), allowing the scheme to run for approximately three more years.

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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