

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOWLING GREEN ROAD, KETTERING AT 6PM ON THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

Attendees : Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Dez Dell, Maggie Don, Scott Edwards, Alexander Evelyn, Keiron Farrow, Emily Fedorowycz, Clark Mitchell, Anup Pandey, Daniel Perrett, Mark Rowley, James Towns, Sarah Tubbs, Keli Watts, Bev Wright, Martyn York,

Item No	Item Description
1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Craig Skinner, Cllr Eve Edwards
2	Welcome from the Mayor The Mayor welcomed everyone to the first Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for coming along
3	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Simon Cox, North Northants Business Network Thank you for letting me speak tonight and congratulations on the election results. The network has been here for the last 6 years. We have been keeping people motivated. We soon be writing to every Councillor personally to help support local businesses. We have formed a partnership with Alison Holland and want to work with KTC. On the 8 October the business awards will be held.</p> <p>Question asked by Cllr Fedorowycz What is the kind of things that you are doing and how can we help?</p> <p>Reply Working with KTC to provide support within the town and keep up to date with the business community and get information to business and retailers, we need to let people know about it. Looking forward to getting the meetings back on track now we have a green light. Looking forward to working on the environment too.</p> <p>Alison Holland will be attending primarily on behalf of the KTCP and the North Northants Social Enterprise Network. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am one of the founding members of the Town Centre Partnership and the Lead of transport/community issues. It's not just shops and retailers that make a town centre vibrant for everyone, its night life too. I have</p>

Kettering Town Council

worked in sustainable transport sector for 17 years and work with councils across the UK.

Interested working with local schools. If there are any parking problems around the school areas, then please let me know.

Set up North Northants Social Enterprise Network. The town is thriving with social enterprises being sustainable commercially and there are many of them. If KTC know of any social enterprises, then let them know about the website www.nnse.org.uk

Question Cllr Dez Dell. I have worked with Alison previously regarding active travel. How can active travel benefit the town centre?

Reply

Living streets research is being undertaken and a massive amount of business comes via people walking or cycling there to a town centre i.e., bus stop outside the library. Starting to talk with Highways and hope to have more news in the next few months Social Enterprise is mission led and not for profit. It's aimed at business that has a social aim at heart. There is a lot more information on the website.

Russell Attwood, Kettering Allotments

Have 4 sites in Kettering, one of the sites in Kettering doesn't come under Kettering Allotments. We are self-managing the day-to-day management of the allotments. We are very successful and currently have a waiting list. The list shot up during lock down and we are trying our best to get waiting list down. The Allotment members are very diverse including women and families. We carry out active management of the waiting list, smaller plots are now given and have been quite firm when the plot is neglected and overgrown.

We have a concern though. There is a small piece of land adjacent to the Scott Road site, which is included in allotments, but not used by them. The land was rented by an individual and was paid directly to KBC. The allotment society would like this land. We feel that KTC now have a duty of care as its dangerous and a hazard and insecure at the boundary. Big sheets of glass, and the allotment can't take it on as it is as it needs to be decontaminated. There is also a metal hut structure which someone may have been sleeping in at some time.

Have tried to approach KBC before but we haven't got anywhere.

Question asked by Cllr Dell How many allotments will be affected regarding the new road at Margaret Road?

Kettering Town Council

Answer

I didn't know how many plots this would affect. Lower 2 flood every winter

Mike Annable, Chair Kettering Amateur Swimming Club

Providing competitive swimming 80% being 18 or under. Losing around a fifth of members and volunteers. The club faces a number of challenges one being we can't get enough pool time due to Covid. The impact is that members are expected to travel to Oundle, Thrapston and Uppingham. Requirement to travel disengages members. The other sites offer facilities that are superior to Kettering i.e. a good gym, good coffee however the recent refurbishment at the swimming pool has improved the experience. There is no teaching pool.

Would request a feasibility study and KTC to hold NNC to account. The lease expires March 2022. Need to provide facilities that are fit for purpose for the future.

Nikki Farrar-Hayton. Manager of Home-Start Kettering Area

Thank you for letting me speak. I am the Manager for Home Start and have been for 20 years and have seen a change in the town and would like the opportunity to ask today what families would like to see in town centre.

Top of the list is housing although I recognise that isn't KTC's remit. There is a lack of affordability of housing and landlords are not doing repair works.

Footpaths. Can't get pushchairs along, parents don't want to push chairs along bumpy footpaths.

Bulky item collection. It used to be that if you received benefits then you have a fee reduction to have items collected, but the charge is now the same. This deters people from using the service and items stay outside.

During lockdown to improve mental health people have been relying on the greenspace so I would like to give thanks to the gardeners.

Would it be possible to promote buggy walks to encourage people to come out?

If parents use cloth nappies at other towns, then they receive incentives, but we don't do that in Kettering.

Our AGM will be held 9th July via zoom and a lunchtime event. All Councillors will be invited.

Kettering Town Council

Question asked by Cllr Dez Dell – how have things changed over last 18 months

Answer

Don't get any funding we are self-funded. Throughout pandemic we couldn't do personal visits but we could offer phone calls. Mental health problems have been highlighted and made worse and need further support. Since March last year a meeting place in Montagu Street has been closed and we don't know when this will be open again. Could KTC help find a solution as a hub where families could meet as a children's centre. Maybe the old bingo hall where families could come together?

Lesley Thurland & Cllr Thurland

Planning Committee we want places for people to live and not exist. Cost of change to coat of arms. Will this come from reserves ? Reply from Cllr Scott Edwards - An Amount has been set aside we knew it had to be changed for legal reasons.

Frank Rodgers, Corona Kitchen and a search for a new venue.

We are currently in the Corn Market Hall but need to vacate end of May. We serve meals 4 days a week to whoever requires a meal. I would like to say thank you to Greg Ward and Shannon Petrossian of NNC as they have been extremely helpful in finding us another location as the Cornmarket Hall needs to open again to hold weddings etc. Hopefully we will be relocating to one of churches in the town centre but will confirm this. We serve meals Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday Parish Church, Saturdays Johnny's Happy Place and on Sundays Keno Lounge for 3 and the Sikh community 1 day a month. We serve an average of 96 meals a day, the last couple of months we have been averaging 110 meals per day. Had a dip just before Christmas but now 110 meals a day. We try to find a reason why we get cyclic activity but can find no reason for it.

Travis at Illicit Skateboards in The Yards.

Owned a skate shop in Kettering for about 3 years. In 2004 a skateboarding ban was brought into the whole town centre. I am trying to get good things for the youth to do and skateboarding is now an Olympic sport, and it should be raised as a good thing for people to do and not be a bad thing.

Question by Cllr Mitchell

I have heard stories of teenagers going into shops with skateboards and have been refused entry, but skateboarding has been a big part of Kettering's history for a long time and is also going to be an Olympic sport. How big an impact has this ban had? Travis you

Kettering Town Council

also teach skateboarding at Adrenaline Alley – how many people do you teach for sport/exercise?

Answer

It feels like skateboarders are being discriminated against going into supermarket if you are carrying a skateboard. Northampton was the first town to have indoor skatepark and a lot of Kettering's history is with skateboarding. I see a very dated approached towards skateboarding when its ok to use scooters, kick a ball etc.

Mark Ingram Secretary of the Holyoake Court Residents Association

Brings greetings and best wishes from the members of the Residents Association. We formed on 4 October 2018 as a partnership with KBC and local residents. Through the partnership with the council, we have continued to enhance the area and have done a lot of work in the gardens and installed an outdoor seating area and have also hosted events in the common room. As a result of this and especially during the pandemic it has created a sense of community i.e. residents helping each other, taking meals over to neighbours etc. Over the last year this has happened more, people are looking after each other. We have had some cameras installed to help with antisocial behaviour. Wanted to come along this evening to introduce ourselves and hopefully when we come out of the pandemic hope to have to some social activities which KTC might come along to.

Paul Jackson KCU

CEO for the last 10 years. The Charity has been here since 1984 and the main aim to reduce poverty. We provide free training and education including basic literacy numeracy and IT.

We provide a food bank service. We supply food directly to referral partners and more importantly they get advice too. We also do furniture upcycling and recycling. We give them furniture for nothing or very little cost. Our aim is to encourage upcycling to reduce landfill. We have a scheme called Dignity in Crisis and we try to supply furniture, white goods, cooking utilities to supply a package of the basics. Have seen increase in demand during last 12 months. We have found that family support is decreasing and mental health increasing. We think that debt will also increase.

Would like KTC support for the future.

Kettering Town Council

Question Cllr Keli Watts Money for northing/Repair shop. Have you considered running classes to members of public and charge them so they can learn how to do this?

Reply

Have run courses funded by KBC for up cycling and recycling. Some people who have done those courses have moved onto employment and it would be good if we could have more funding to do this.

Rev. Tom Houston Vicar of St Andrew's, Kettering Manager of the Kettering Arts Centre.

New Vicar of St Andrews and taking over the Management of the Kettering Arts Centre. The Kettering Arts Centre is a good asset for the town and has attracted some big name.

Unfortunately, though we have missed out for Arts Council Funding and as the Church doesn't pay rates can't apply to NNC for funding. Would like to make links with KTC and link up.

Cllrs welcomed Rev. Houston to the town and agreed that the Arts Centre is a great facility and hoped that the Christmas Fair would be able to take place again this year.

It was agreed by all Councillors that this evening's event was a great success and Cllr Don had a couple of statements from organisations who couldn't attend due to restrictions on numbers due to Covid 19 and requested to read them out.

Headlands Residents Association

Look forward to KTC helping to preserving and promoting open green spaces even if it's a small patch of grass as every bit of green is precious. Would like to consider some wall art in some public spaces. Art will be associated with history of community, shoes trade etc,

Youth Works – Rockingham Road

Hosted meeting 18 months and the purpose of this meeting was to create ways to develop ideas and improving people's perceptions of the town. Wish to be part of the solution not the problem. Unfortunately, Covid lockdown put a damper on things but hope to meet again soon to pick up the original ideas. Hope to bring like-minded people together.

Kettering Town Council

	<p>It was agreed that KTC would look at holding another of these meetings later in the year, hopefully autumn and would confirm the date.</p>
--	---

	<p>Cllr Edwards thanked everyone for coming along and meeting closed 19.05 hours.</p>
--	---

DRAFT