

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

CONSULTATION RESPONSES BY QUESTION 2024/25

CONSULTATION COMMENTS 2024/25

Q1 The council plans to increase its budget from £425,000 to £525,000 which would pay for the new projects listed below. Is this a reasonable amount?

Not unreasonable amount
To carry on your good work to boost the town
No should be NO further expense(s) until projects started are completed!
This is not a reasonable amount. You should be looking at stopping wasting OUR money on ridiculous projects the town does not want it need. Or the GLAM project. This should have been a fixed price quote from a reputable company and not a bunch of cowboys. This is a massive fraud on behalf of the Council. The Library roof should have been the priority and should not have been neglected. You are responsible for the upkeep of our heritage buildings. Get your act together and stop, I repeat STOP, wasting the Town's money. Don't hide behind the fact that it's as KBC that authorised then projects, you are still the same Council under a different name. Exactly the same people.
The town needs improvements; the TC cannot help financially with the Library, but must use any influence it has to push for completion of the GLaM project. Use any
Cost of living crisis, people can't afford it, cut out the running and speed that save 30k
We need the library to open before anything
Not in the current economic climate.
Running event not needed, Kettering town harriers seem to be having an enormous influence where monies are being spent lately, numerous running events locally already
If money spent wisely and not wasted (like NNC did with our museum, library and art gallery) so leaving us with nothing!
We cannot afford this.
Extra money that will be provided can hopefully be for new projects and events in Kettering.

Which new projects should we start?

- Running event £25,000
- Cultural events £10,000
- Play area improvements £7,000
- Flower displays in town £25,000
- Neighbourhood Plan £10,000
- Speed warning devices £3,500

Tell us why:

Running event specialised
I feel that speed warning devices are needed as a lot of the terraced streets are used as rat runs for boy racers and illegal motorbikes. Some of the neighbourhoods in town are very neglected and need investments. With Wicksteed Park removing most of there free play equipment for younger children it's important that the smaller parks are invested in and kept safe for our young people.
We should be doing more to stop speeding, play areas are important for a child's development, flower displays Brighton the area up. Neighbourhood plans should be visible & enhancing the neighbourhoods
All improve the town
Library repairs/"Cornerstone" debacle/Manor house museum
The Flowers bring the only things of beauty to our town. Nothing else gives us any pleasure.
These have the most favourable response from the public
Events bring the community together and visitors that spend money in our shops, flowers displays help brighten up our town
What is the neighbourhood plan about? We need help in Bayes/Field Street areas - we are pretty much ignored. But you have not offered a choice or info about the area the plan would apply to
running event and speed warning not needed
We need the library to open before anything
Being a commuter town, kids are more likely to have time to spend in town.
Makes for a better place to live, work and play.
Attract families and customers into the town centre
Improving the play areas for children will increase the community development and help improve people's mental health and wellbeing. Cultural events sound wonderful. Not sure what a neighbourhood plan entails but that also sounds needed.
Good play areas always needed (I don't have small children). Put cameras up especially in town centre on no through way and use fines to pay for everything else.

Cultural events bring more people into town. They should be spread throughout the year in the town square. Running events are already held at Wicksteed Park and we don't need any more in the town. Flowers are very expensive and seem a waste of money when some people are struggling to earn enough money to feed themselves. Why not spend money on the most deprived neighbourhoods in Kettering like the Grange. There are some excellent projects happening in Northampton in local community centres. We need the same.

Need to get companies into the empty shops to encourage people back into the town. The current town centre area is appalling and a reason I would put of the town and

These benefit the entire community and are a financial investment in the upkeep of the area.

These would have the most favourable impact on the people of Kettering.

Speed warnings next to all schools. Play area improvements because children are our future.

So every age can benefit from something out in the community to promote wellbeing. Not sure what speed warning devices are for!

Running event for health and wellbeing. Flower displays to encourage people to go into town . Speeding devices to stop people speeding down Kingsley Avenue.

More physical activity and well being events

We cannot afford any of these.

Please see survey attached on research to highlight more diversity events in town.

Which things should we keep doing?

- Events costing £120,000
- Markets in the town centre £16000
- Maintaining and improving allotments £10000
- Running grants schemes and the lottery £40000
- Funding infrastructure projects £20000
- Building new public toilets
- Managing Kettering Charities which pays out fuel grants
- Hosting Town Meetings for local groups

Tell us why:



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All improve the town
Kettering by the Sea is an amazing evening and brings a significant amount of trade and visitors to the town.
These are schemes which make a difference to more people
Events and markets are key to bringing people into our town centre,
What infrastructure projects? Examples needed
wasting money, you want to increase by 100k cut out 70k of stuff here already
Keep these at the moment but ensure you get the best value for money.
Maintaining and improving allotments if those in need benefit from it. Community orchards have worked well in other communities.
Stop using companies to run the food fair etc , they make enormous profits when KBC could run them and take the profits.
Having events in the town centre to encourage people to use the town. Allotments and grants encourage groups to support the community building a sense of wellbeing.
Allotments are good for mental and physical health. Public toilets are desperately needed. It is shocking that they don't exist.
General markets selling local produce from local people! What is meant by infrastructure projects?
Markets- anything to help improve our poor town centre/. Allotments for people's health and to eat fresh fruit and veg. Toilets are a must if we want people and families to shop here.
Increase in diversity events
Public toilets are a health requirement, public markets benefit everyone.
Extra support for new and existing community groups in Kettering.

If you are in favour of us installing a new speed warning device, where do you think it should go?

Windmill Avenue
Around mill road where people fly over speed bumps.
St Mary's Road & Northfield Avenue
Gipsy Lane
Next to all schools.
Kingsley Avenue - people still drive fast down here
Roads where traffic is coming inside Kettering such as Rockingham road

Please give us any more comments:



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I suggest that more neighbourhoods become 20mph zones. The Town Council could invest in the excellent signs from '20s plenty'

Please, please look at opening a n indoor market. Market Harborough has so many independent shops and a fabulous high street. People travel to go to the market. Swansea city is thriving because of its indoor market. Kettering needs a good market. I think it's important allotments are maintained and improved. It's a good way Thor people to provide food. Get out in fresh air and support the local food banks and resource centres,. Fuel grants are needed so local charities can get out to everyone needing help.

All spending should be STOPPED until projects in the pipeline are completed!!

Just get the library roof fixed and stop wasting our funds on the Glam project.

St Mary's Road is 30mph but many drive much faster despite children crossing the road where there's no safe crossing point. Northfield Avenue mini roundabout outside B&Q drivers charge through there without slowing down often faster than 40 MPH.

I think if you want to consult the public, you need to explain more what you are going to be spending money on. Headlands has a neighbourhood plan but is a nice middle class area that is pretty much self managing by the residents. Here around Bayes and Field street, it's dirty and run down and miserable, It's areas like this that need help.

Lots of loose paving slabs as you get out of the centre into residential areas around Regent Street, Dryden Street etc. As it gets icy, this presents a problem, probably.

Take away parking charges. Improve bus services

Is there any funding available for adding a little more fun and creativity into the town? Many areas are looking a little bleak and unloved. If you enter the town at certain points you are greater with filthy falling down buildings, dirty unloved shopping centres and over grown vegetation growing out of all sorts of places. It's hard to love somewhere and want to support when it appears to have been forgotten about for the most part. Is there a duty of care for the upkeep of shops and buildings by the owners that could be addressed?



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Apologies for my negativity but it is definitely justified.

I have just been looking at the Budget spend plans for Kettering & asking residents for their ideas on what money can be spent on in Kettering as well as mentioning plans already in place.

I appreciate the effort that a lot of people are going to planning and organising events in the town but I just had to email my thoughts.

I am 65 years young, Kettering born & bred & I am ashamed to live in this town. If I was younger (although am still thinking about it), I would definitely move out of Kettering. No matter how many events are held in the town & how much funding is given to different areas it doesn't take away the fact that this town isn't safe anymore & has a totally depressing feel about it. I've always loved walking around the town but now have one eye over my shoulder all the time looking if anyone behind me & also watching carefully who I may be approaching along the road. Only a few weeks ago a man & woman were coming towards me & they shouted out loud when close to me to make me jump. Walking through the town is very uncomfortable with unsavoury characters & people begging & children vaping & shouting abuse.

I'm saying all this but I don't know what the answer is. The basics need addressing in the town. It's all okay to hold events but after they are over we're still left with an awful town & it will only get worse I fear. We also have a lot of boarded up units but I think that's a national thing with people shopping online & killing off the shops.

Thank you for listening & passing on my concerns to whoever you feel may be interested, including the Mayoress. I'm impressed that she is being very visible at different things in the town.

I just had to write down how I feel. I should just mention I have volunteered for a charity for a number of years so I do try & give something back in my retirement.

I would appreciate my details being kept confidential.

Many people use the road by Specsavers as a drive through. Put cameras up and use the fines to pay back the instalment costs. Any extra should be used for the greater good.

Please give us any more comments in the box below :

Any money that is spent needs to not just go into the town centre. I don't see that the improvements in the town centre have made it any more attractive, e.g new paving, which seemed way too expensive.

Deprived neighbourhoods now need the investment to help the local people. They don't travel into town.

The library was very important to a lot of people and this is now closed as well as the museum. We are travelling out of Kettering to go to other libraries and museums. Cultural events now need to be organised to keep people coming into town. Local businesses in the town square will benefit We don't come into town to shop. This is the same for most of our friends.



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An actual speed camera would be best and create income.

Public toilets are needed now. They need to be open from early to late, not nine to five.

As a pedestrian and visually impaired have issues with e-scooters whizzing by on the path passed me. The Rockingham Road is poorly lit and probably an issue for NN council? I have to walk from (to and from work 6:30am and 8pm). Thought the areas for pedestrians were being looked at to divide from e-scooters last year when I spoke to councillors!!! An information point in Newlands ref to local events and to Lighthouse entertainment would be nice for those with no internet.

I worked in the town centre for all my working life in shops (3) in all I worked in Colemans of Kettering most of that time. It is a shop sadly missed by me and my customers, because it shut October 2022. I think people would still shop in town if they could not online!

Waste of money.

Please see supporting evidence of market research that was conducted at local community groups and places of worship. Research findings suggest more events are needed in 2024 and there is a need and demand for further multi-cultural events in the local area.