

**Responses received from**

Kettering and Corby Citizens Advice

Alison Holland - for Brightkidz and Brightwayz

Kevin Marchand, Headlands Residents Association

Mr Sean Bennett

Mr Stuart Wildman

Mr David Brown

Mr Jamie Wildman

Cllr Paul Marks, NNC

Heading	Our Questions	Summary of responses
<p><b>The Corporate Plan</b></p> <p>Please see the document here:-</p> <p><a href="http://ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk/kettering-town-council-corporate-plan-v3.pdf">kettering-town-council-corporate-plan-v3.pdf</a> (<a href="http://ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk">ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>)</p>	<p>Does the Plan focus on the right things?</p>	<p>The plan is clear and detailed and if I may say so quite ambitious but in a good way!</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I think it has the right focus. Can't see anything that should be removed.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The town needs to create an ethos that it is a great place to belong to. We must banish any negative images across all age groups.</p> <p>Effort will be needed to link Hanwood Park with the town otherwise it could become a separate entity. This is more than branding as it affects all KTC does. This needs a Committee solely with this in mind to ensure co-ordination. This would feed social media work / branding / events etc.</p>
	<p>Are there things that should be removed from it?</p>	
	<p>Are there things which aren't mentioned but should be?</p>	<p>It's now or never for town centres. Some have bucked the downward trend and lessons need to be learned from the successful towns. At the conference held two years ago, two experts gave their opinions, amongst which was the need for increased internet and social media coverage in the town centre.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I think there is an opportunity for some work to be carried out collaboratively and in partnership between Kettering Town Council and the other local Town Councils (Desborough, Rothwell etc) as this could provide some economies of scale with shared priorities.</p>

		<p>Perhaps jumping ahead but some measuring of impacts/positive outcomes would be useful going forward and demonstrate to your constituents the value of the work the Town council is delivering</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Should be more practical actions around sustainable travel and it take into account the many comments already mentioned on the public feedback for the Commonplace consultation about active travel in the town. eg there is a great need and demand for secure cycle parking in the town centre. This and other issues raised by the consultation could be addressed by the town council maybe in collaboration with the unitary.</p> <p>Should be a budget to cover admin time for the town council to apply for other funds - the budget should look at other income potential like this. Eg OPFCC funding can be applied for by town councils to address road safety issues, lottery funding applications. Also, if these bids are done with community partners it shares the work and strengthens the bids.</p> <p>Overall I also think there needs to be a bigger focus on bringing people together of all ages, having more events and really strong ties being built with community organisations, schools etc. (The town council has started doing this well with open meetings).</p> <p>Engagement with the next generation is critical. There should be an objective to engage with the school parliaments or councils to gain input on their views/ any changes. This would be Members time with admin support from the Clerk's team to co-ordinate. Timing would fit in with annual planning for budget/events etc</p> <p>-----</p> <p>It seems a pity not to devote some resources to creating a base line to measure activity against. This might be interview time, focus groups on specific subjects etc. This allows us to measure success.</p>
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		<p>A key starting point would be what people think of the town now and what could be changed (once again with sensible constraints) The same would apply to understanding the very small green spaces we have and how they can be managed</p> <p>To support the community it would a service to establish and manage a complete list of all organisations that support the third sector. This would be charities, voluntary groups and support groups. The Clerk's office could act as a focus with an allowance for admin time to co-ordinate. This would allow groups to find out what others are doing etc and possibly support each other</p>
<p><b>The budget and precept</b></p> <p>We are planning to spend £350,000 this year, which will cost a Band D household £19.50 over the full year – 37.5p/week.</p> <p>Here is the summary</p> <p><a href="#">budget-v4.pdf</a> (<a href="http://ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk">ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>)</p>	<p>Is this the right amount?</p> <p>Do you agree with the headings in the budget ?</p> <p>Are there any lines in the budget which should be changed?</p>	<p>Budget seems fine ----- Looks good to me. ----- Can't comment on complex financial issues, except that, however hard the times are, we need to spend to survive. ----- It could be more as it will be difficult to raise once set ----- There are many people who will still struggle with an increase of this kind</p>
<p><b>Public toilets</b> – the temporary toilets in Meadow Rd have proved popular, but North Northamptonshire Council is removing them from March. We intend to provide ladies, gents, disabled and baby</p>	<p>Where might new toilets best be located?</p>	<p>We need to encourage pedestrians into the Heritage quarter, so location close to the market square. ----- Near the existing position would be good, so it serves the park, marketplace area and is at the end of town furthest from the supermarkets and Newland centre loos. However one of the side streets between Horsemarket and the high street could be good too.</p>

<p>changing facilities in a steel unit - clad in timber</p>		<p>-----</p> <p>Wherever they are located they should blend in with the surroundings Why don't we run a competition (with suitable constraints on cost) to create something unusual – once again fitting in with our vision of “Kettering”</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Should be in safe, well lit area where lots of people pass by for added feeling of safety. If too tucked away it won't feel safe but also don't want loos to be over prominent! Maybe put some cctv in area and also add cycle racks next to it to increase use/foot flow and thus safety of area.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>A couple of potential options in the vicinity of the existing that could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to their existing location and utilization of the 'closed-off' doors within the former M &amp; S building on Meadow Road. This building is currently being readied for a new occupier so there would appear to be an opportunity there.</li> <li>• The vacant building to the north and attached to the existing 'Staffline' building within Wadcroft Car park</li> <li>• Utilisation of part of 73-75 High Street adjacent to 'Peacock inn'</li> <li>• Utilisation of part of the former Court Building within Dryland Street</li> </ul> <p>If a modular container is pursued, then there would not appear to be a great deal of options although the car parking space between 'Revs' and the former 'Gala' building may be an option for a small facility.</p>
	<p>Should we include other features?</p>	<p>The proposal for male, female and disabled toilets is an outdated model and consideration should be given to a gender neutral toilet as this would cater for non-binary people.</p> <p>-----</p>

		<p>It strikes me that the first option for location should exhaust the potential for using existing buildings as a steel container (even if clad) would not represent a viable long-term option and is likely to have visual implications as the cladding degrades. This approach may also save on initial monetary outlay.</p>
	<p>What times should it be available?</p>	<p>Open until the pubs shut. ----- Ideally availability 24/7</p>
<p><b>What sort of work would you like to see our grants scheme support?</b> We haven't written the rules yet and would welcome your thoughts. We are aiming to make grants up to a ceiling of £2500 per project or organization.</p>	<p>What should the grant scheme focus on?</p>	<p>I think the criteria for the grants programme should be as broad as possible whilst being mindful of quality controls and checks to prevent fraudulent applications. It would be good to see included opportunities for pieces of work to be delivered in order to build up evidence of need, thus giving the possibility of longer term sustainability if other funds were attracted on the back of it. The reporting requirement should be proportionate to the amount of grant awarded. ----- I think that grants are too small and too short term to have any real impact on the legacy. What sort of town do we want? Are we aiming for another Corby, or a Market Harborough? ----- See above about understanding the "third sector" in Kettering. There should be some flexibility if a really beneficial scheme comes along ----- If grants are £2500 they need to have minimum admin and need to be really easy especially for new groups to apply for (even unconstituted but with easy measures in place to ensure spent well and impact promoted). Could there be a young persons grant fund or scheme such as seed funding for teens to buy stock/materials for teenage markets to encourage local entrepreneurs. The markets are a great way for teens to have a chance of trying a business idea. I used to</p>

		<p>run the Kettering town centre youth partnership and this was an idea from that. So these grants need to be available for age 12+.</p> <p>The grants need to focus on supporting people to put creative ideas into practice which are engaging, innovative and help bring people together in neighbourhoods or venues such as the town centre or local parks. Ideally the council would also be involved in delivering an aspect too eg markets so it is about collaborations rather than just handouts</p>
	<p>What is the right upper ceiling?</p>	<p>£5k is a more realistic ceiling figure, however this is linked to the total level of funds available.</p> <p>There may be opportunities here to work in partnership with neighbouring town councils to increase the pot available per application where priorities align.</p>
<p><b>What sort of public events do you want to see provided?</b></p>	<p>What sort of events should we prioritise and for whom?</p> <p>Which venues should we work with?</p> <p>Apart from the town centre, where should events take place?</p>	<p>Kettfest when it works, works well, and attracts to the centre. The so-called 'Carnival' merely serves to draw people away from the town centre with its low key , anachronistic displays. It is an embarrassment, it should be radically remodeled or abolished.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Climate related, eco fair, active travel event, arts project combined with recycling, challenge and demos with lots of people taking part .</p> <p>Use town centre, parks, green patch, Wicksteed.</p> <p>Look at starting play street schemes and encourage street based events not just for jubilee but any time.</p> <p>Help support the carnival and Kettfest.</p>

<p><b>How can we best use our money to support community resilience?</b> We want residents in the town to be healthy, have good mental health, be active, for young people to be kept away from drugs and anti-social behaviour, for people to be safe in their homes and streets, and to encourage people to be as sustainable as possible in how they live their lives.</p>	<p>Is this list the right “long list” for support?</p> <hr/> <p>What should be our priorities be for this new fund in 2022-23?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <hr/> <p>Making outdoors accessible and safe for all to use</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Although I think that the issues here are important, the evidence that programmes such as these fundamentally affect health behaviour is lacking. Tackling rough sleepers, the homeless and poor living conditions might be a better approach. Levelling up is an attractive political slogan, but what does it mean in practice, very complex issues.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>£7400 will not make much impact so targeted pieces of work need to be identified in the hope that this can lead in some way to bigger things.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>It’s not just young people who use drugs and are ASB problems; however more needs to be done for young people to give them opportunities, reduce boredom, give them focus, good interests and purpose.</p> <p>Young people feel the town centre isn’t for them e.g. due to ‘no skate’ rules.</p> <p>Special effort needed for the teatime/twilight hours in town centre to bring some life to it and make it feel safer.</p> <p>Older people especially disabled in mobility scooters etc need to feel safe on streets and having more people around would help that. Also stopping drivers from parking on pavements helps those with mobility scooters, prams etc.</p>
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	<p>Should we support the Levelling Up programmes with this fund?</p>	<p>Lighting is an issue especially for women at night. A 'safe wait' taxi room would be good.</p> <p>More actions on promoting cycling and active travel are needed eg allowing careful cycling in the town centre. Won't be able to get businesses using cargo bikes deliveries unless that rule is changed.</p> <p>Making cycling easier for all abilities = greater community resilience.</p> <hr/> <p>The KTC funds should be utilized in different areas of the town that still have deprivation.</p>
<p><b>Community Lottery</b> This will raise money for good causes locally – 58% of proceeds will go to good causes and the rest to prize money and administrative costs</p>	<p>What good causes should we prioritise?</p>	<p>Don't go there.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Street pastors and Accommodation Concern (who don't just address housing but any kind of poverty in the town).</p> <p>-----</p> <p>We need to know what is out there first – see above</p> <p>There are synergies between groups that might not be being exploited – shared support / use of facilities etc</p>
<p><b>Are their local facilities in need of renewal?</b> We've got a modest fund to improve facilities across town.</p>	<p>Is this a good use of money?</p> <p>Should we be looking to focus on specific things which need most attention?</p>	<p>I would question whether this expenditure should be picked up by NNC.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Add decent seating and enough of it at bus stops and coach pick up (by London road car park entrance). Helps address accessibility, use of sustainable transport and comfort for older/less able people and makes trip to town centre to spend money more attractive. It's so awful to see old ladies with their bags of shopping perching so uncomfortably on bus shelter benches.</p> <p>-----</p>

		Anything that makes the town more attractive to visitors is good. A tourist information office, better signing of local heritage.
<b>The town's general market</b> Covid meant the market has shrunk to almost nothing.	Should effort be put into reviving it?	Absolutely essential and, I suspect a very popular option. It needs to be on the Market Square and well promoted. Buses need to stop close by and parking charges need to be reviewed.  ----- Yes. Get activities happening on market days to draw more people and stalls. Use the stage for performances eg local dance clubs, schools etc as it will draw families in. Have pop up seating and big street toys. Good market is not just about stalls selling things but is about stuff going on eg the vegan market was brilliant and had shire sounds radio there.  ----- If it helps our identity yes. If the stall holders cannot make a go of it without large subsidy then no
	What does a good market look like in your view?	Good footfall ----- For an answer to the last question: just look at some old photos!
<b>Planting trees and encouraging bio-diversity.</b>	Where should trees be planted to have best effect.	Planting trees is easy. The difficult part is the maintaining, pruning, watering, leaf disposal. Too many of Kettering's once fine trees are now a disgrace: the broad-leave limes just seem to drop leaves and ooze sap over everything. Careful selection of more suitable urban species is essential, so bear in mind the long-term implications. If it's carbon trapping that is the main priority, there are other schemes that are more efficient. You could also stop mowing the 'meadows'. -----

		<p>We need more trees but they have to be well thought out and complement rather than cause conflict with active travel schemes. Eg planting a tree where a cycle path needs to go is not so eco. Also need right kind of trees depending on the spot eg not crab apple right next to cycle Lane like in St Mary's road unless the apples and leaves can be regularly cleared away to stop slipping. Also trees are better than bushes in terms of feeling of safety and openness.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Funding for tree planting is positive, however there is a disappointingly excessive focus on tree planting from all Parties as a means of sequestering carbon, offsetting carbon emissions and improving biodiversity locally, with no complimentary funding drive for wildflower meadow creation in evidence. Tree planting must be balanced by wider habitat enhancement through wildflower planting, meadowland, and pollinator bank creation where possible, or by designing tree planting sites in such a way to incorporate rides, glades and clearings that are well stocked with nectar sources and foodplants for a variety of invertebrate species. Recommended resources:-</p> <p><a href="#">'Right Tree, Right Place – Why There is More to Tree Planting than Meets the Eye'</a>, which provides context on tree planting and the suitability of landscapes to accommodate planting schemes,</p> <p>objectives of the <a href="#">Grasslands+ Initiative</a>, which demonstrates the importance of grassland in combating climate change and improving biodiversity,</p> <p>Review <a href="#">Plantlife's Road Verge campaign</a>, which presents an opportunity to connect grassland habitats (e.g. wildflower meadows) via pollinator corridors – the species-rich roadside verges – and therefore provide invertebrates such as butterflies and bees with a means of travelling between otherwise inaccessible, fragmented habitats across the council's jurisdiction, and</p> <p>Assess whether <a href="#">butterfly banks can be created</a> on grassland in areas where tree planting is deemed unsuitable, or on new developments as an alternative to domination by amenity grassland.</p>
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		<p>The council must debate investing not just in the purchase, planting and upkeep of trees, but also grassland cultivation, nutrient enrichment, preservation and improvement of existing grassland sites, wildflower seeding and plug planting of native flowering plants to benefit local pollinators that will experience no benefit from tree planting. 76% of butterflies have seen a decline in abundance, occurrence, or both in the UK since 1976, and it is imperative that steps are taken to reverse this trend. The UK has lost 97% of its meadows since 1945.</p> <p>Species-rich grassland has been proven to retain as much – if not more – carbon than woodland. Wildflower meadow creation is therefore just as important locally as tree planting as a climate change objective. The council must consider the importance of such sites and increase the total area of land prescribed as such, either through the conversion of amenity grassland, improvement of scrubland, reclamation of wasteland, or other means, and consider the worth of designating sites as wildflower meadows or matrixes of habitats instead of tree planting sites alone.</p> <p>I encourage discussion concerning whether funds can be distributed evenly between these two complimentary initiatives – tree planting and meadow creation – that will improve biodiversity and offset carbon emissions locally.</p>
	<p>Do you have land that might be suitable?</p>	<p>There is capacity in Slade Crescent and Bishops Drive for a few trees</p>
<p><b>General comments</b></p>		<p><b>Any other comments</b></p> <p>I think this is a great opportunity to do lots of good things in the town that can involve everyone. The town council needs to keep working closely with community groups to support each other. Also need to seek out other resources/funds so more can be done.</p> <p>I am very keen to see cycling, walking, scooting, skating, bus travel etc all promoted and supported much much more throughout the town. Good cycle storage facilities, better</p>

		<p>seating, cycling access to high street, (council encouraging) strong police presence and crackdown on cycle thefts is really key.</p> <p>Finally, for the last three years I have been reaching out to both councils with a proposal to develop an accredited town centre travel plan which brings together all the existing initiatives and supports plans for more. There is funding available towards this. Our social enterprise (Brightwayz) has done/is doing this for other sites eg local schools, Wicksteed, Rushden Lakes, KGH and it would really help the town centre if we could do it there too. However this is something that would need the support of the town council as good partnership engagement is key.</p>
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