

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS ,
MEETING LANE, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 6th SEPTEMBER 2023

Attendees :

The Mayor, Cllr Emily Fedorowycz (Chair)
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Dez Dell (from 8pm) Maggie Don, Scott Edwards, Clark Mitchell, Mark Rowley, Craig Skinner, James Towns and Bev Wright

Presenters

- Jo Moore, Kettering Area Partnership/Accommodation Concern
- Callum Sanderson and Chris Davison, Kettering Mind
- Jane Rowley, Youth Works
- Sylvia McLevy, with Candice and Alex, KCU
- Zoe Martin, Picture the Difference
- Russell Attwood Kettering Refugee Assistance
- Emily Oakley and Alice Brown, Groundwork Trust

Attendees

- Pia Bellamy Kettering Wombles
- Diane Burdon, Kettering Wombles
- Ella Cardinali, Groundwork
- Lynn Chapman, KCU
- Travis Clayton, Illicit Skateboards
- Jac Green, Library Service,
- Karan Harris, Street Pastors
- Karen Hayes, Citizens Advice
- Grey Lindley, Groundwork Trust
- John McClaren, Kettering Parish Church
- Eleanor Patrick, Toller Church
- Josie Pearce, Kettering Parish Church
- Anjona Roy, Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council
- Jess Scrimshaw, Library Service

Plus three other members of the public

Martin Hammond, Town Clerk, Emma Dezelu, Deputy Clerk, Zuzanna Brzostowska,
Administrative Officer

Item No	Item Description
1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Eve Edwards, Alex Evelyn, Keiron Farrow, Daniel Perrett, Sarah Tubbs, Keli Watts and Martyn York and from the Civic Society,</p>

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	<p>Kirstie Stevens, Library Service and Angie Steele, Grange Resource Centre .</p>
2	<p>Welcome from the Mayor</p> <p>The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about work to support people with mental health challenges in town and to see where further connections and joint working could be achieved. She also briefly outlined those services and funding streams provided by the Town Council which were aimed at supporting mental health interventions.</p>
3	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Presentations were provided by</p> <p>Jo Moore, Kettering Area Partnership who outlined the structure and purpose of the local health and wellbeing partnership, and set out the reasons behind its selection of mental health and young people as it priority for intervention work in Kettering urban area. She described the distinct demographics of the Kettering urban area (more young people, less car ownership) and a shortage of activities or services aimed at young people. The LAP was seeking to break down barriers in accessing services. There were opportunities for any organisation or individual to engage with the partnership work and support its activity.</p> <p>Callum Sanderson and Chris Davison, Kettering Mind. They described Mind's current principal service structure, and the numbers of clients accessing various services, including trends in usage. There was some evidence that young people were more likely to access informal provision. They nevertheless reported a 51% increase in referrals to CAMHS services since 2019 across all ages. A collaborative approach to tackling mental health was therefore essential to prevent escalation of issues.</p> <p>Jane Rowley, Youth Works who described her organisation's services and user profile, the challenges inherent in providing support to people with a chaotic lifestyle but also their ability to offer an immediate and local response to individuals seeking help. They too were able to divert people from accessing statutory or emergency services on a daily basis.</p> <p>Sylvia McLevy, with Candice and Alex, both volunteers, KCU. KCU had developed mentoring and befriending services as a response to local demand for this, and this had enabled some young people particularly to develop their skills and interests and make a wider contribution to the community. Alex and Candice described their experience as volunteers and service users and the benefits that their involvement with KCU had brought them.</p>

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Zoe Martin, Picture the Difference who described her organisation's work and user profile, how they had helped people with additional needs perceive their place in the world and better recognise their emotional state and take action accordingly. PtD's ethic was to get people involved in creative and inclusive activity and learning.

Russell Attwood Kettering Refugee Assistance. Russell outlined the work this group had taken on to support Ukrainian guests in the area, and to support asylum seekers living in two local hotels. They had worked closely with others such as the Kettering mosque, to develop support for both communities, in the interests of wider community harmony, but in seeking to make life more tolerable for people who had arrived as a result of trauma and war.

Emily Oakley and Alice Brown, Groundwork Trust described how the Green Patch particularly contributed to people's physical, social and mental health, giving examples of how people had benefitted from gardening activity and widened their networks and social interaction. Patch Fest in June had been aimed at drawing in more young people as users of the Green Patch

Some of the emerging themes from the subsequent discussion and debate was

- The underlying problem of social isolation in worsening mental health
- The role of many organisations in preventing self presentations and referrals to the emergency services and A&E
- The importance of growing the opportunities available, especially for young people, to socialise in a constructive environment and to tackle the perception that it was too risky for some people to leave their homes to do so
- The importance of physical and creative activity in improving mental health, particularly outdoor activity
- The need for greater awareness of current services and existing social groups , including cadet and scouting organisations amongst the community
- The critical importance of training and recruiting volunteers and staff to provide a rounded approach to people's need
- The challenges and experience of immigrants, overseas students and other newer residents of "fitting in" to the wider community, and being able to be economically independent.

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	The Mayor concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contribution and encouraging one to one conversations between attendees whilst they had the opportunity tonight.
	Meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed
Date

(chair)