

# Kettering Town Meeting

MINUTES OF THE FULL KETTERING TOWN HELD IN THE ST PETER & ST PAULS PARISH CHURCH, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Town Clerk: Emma Driver

Item No	Item Description
1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Eve Edwards, Clark Mitchell, Sarah Tubbs
2	<b>Welcome from the Mayor</b> The Mayor Cllr Scott Edwards, thanked Rev David Walsh and everyone associated with helping to set this evening up and lettering us use this fantastic facility. KTC look forward to using facilities like this more and more.  The Mayor also thanked everyone for coming along and we look forward to hearing what everyone has to say.  Introduced Cllr Keli Watts as Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk  Thanked everyone for registering and coming along. Because of Covid regulations in May KTC could only have a limited number of people attend which is why we have decided to hold another event in the autumn.
3	<b>Community Group Session</b>  <b>Accommodation Concern</b> Jo Moore and Dionne Anderson  Quite often the people who come to see us are living in poor quality house and are eating poor quality of food and don't know where to go.  One of the services they offer is to give housing advice if people are being evicted. This week 3 people were served section 21 notices which is emergency eviction.

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We help people know their rights and register on keyways if eligible Landlords want 6 months' rent, and guarantors and this isn't always achievable for people.

Offer advice to people regarding budgeting. Always looking for volunteers to help with this. If someone can manage household accounts and if they have been in debt themselves then they are the best people to help out.

See people who have been out of work or furloughed and they quite often have self-esteem issues. We try to provide a professional confidential service with sound proofed rooms.

People who are in poverty are on electric/gas metres and they are far more expensive. Used to be able to get help with white goods but the charity that helps in Northampton have run out of money for this financial year already. Looking at how we can get funding.

Partner with KCU and give out food parcels. Only allowed 4 food parcels a year. We try and help you not need a food parcel next week but try and be part of the longer solution.

Give benefits advice and check everything is being claimed what a person is entitled to.

All support is free but because of Covid then ring to make an appointment.

Work closely with rough sleepers.

Looking for new trustees. Man with vans and grow across the community.

Cllr Don asked about the problems with some homeless obtaining ID and keeping it secure.

Accommodation Concern replied they provide secure boxes etc

If people need then Accommodation Concern will be postal address and keep ID/documents for safe keeping

A bank in the town does offer a bank account for people of no fixed address.

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## **Corona Kitchen and St Edward's soup kitchen.**

Frank Rodgers

Up until a couple of weeks ago ran I Corona Kitchen. Would like to thank KTC and NNC and the previous KBC for support

I would ask if anyone who is a member of a church or organisation with a small kitchen to think about if they can serve food on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Currently looking for any volunteer groups or churches with facilities and volunteers to cook a meal.

Cllr Dez Dell asked – how many meals we served over the 17 months?  
Answer 30,000 meals during the time open.

Cllr Maggie Don – wanted to say thank you and congratulate you on being nationally recognised.

Will be putting an article on our website to see if anyone can help.

## **Beccy Hurrell Voice & Arts Limited**

Lindsey Atkins, Director

Based in the Yards and started 10 years ago. We provide a high quality arts school, inspire children and adults. Provide an inclusive atmosphere

There are 3 pillars of business: -

### **3rd Pillar Academies Program**

KGH choir/Parkinsons voice group

To include art and drama as well

Celebrate the people that come to us.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar Arts School**

Believe everyone should have access to arts

Schools no longer have time or money

Approaching business to fund arts in schools

Problem solve and share ideas.

Teach skills to help calm participants down in situations they made find uncomfortable or stressful

### **1<sup>st</sup> Pillar Dance Studio and community-based hub**

Springboard to help businesses start up

Working with Tresham college and Princes Trust

Looking for a kick start scheme, teaching skills

January will be offering well-being for movement

Visit website for more information

Workshops held once a month

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## **Brightwayz and Brightkidz - Inspiring Active Travel**

Alison Holland, Projects and Partnerships Director

Based in Geddington and started the business about 18 years ago. Started a walking bus scheme which reduces the school run traffic and also gives children a nice wake up in the morning.

We are a social enterprise not for profit business and funded by products that they sell which are sold across the country.

Another aspect is the project work we do which has grown over the last few years. Grange Primary had a worry children could be knocked over while playing out. Promoting road safety and start the project STEPS Safe Travel Enabling People and Schools.

Look at how to encourage children to travel to school – i.e., road safety work, wicky bear etc.

School has increased the number of children by 11% by the end of the year who were taking part in the scheme and the Government target was 1%. The school was very pleased with it and won an award for the county.

Have expanded and just finished a project called Compass, KBA and Southfield Schools took park, and it was part funded by the police and looks at how children travel to school.

Want to work with more schools as the funding is there to help more schools to have an active travel plan.

Any Councillor who does work with schools to get in contact with Alison

Cycling UK have obtained money to encourage people to cycle in Kettering. Fund cycling mechanics and its free to come along to. A large cycle ride on Sunday which falls under the same project. Starts at Burton Latimer at 10.30am for a community bike ride, bike to Barton Seagrave and end at the green patch.

Brightwayz – working with NNC and helping them to develop the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan. What is needed to improve cycling and walking routes.

Look out for the survey and consultation which is coming out.

Would like town councillors to take part in a session. Alison to contact the town clerk.

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## **Family Support Link**

Rachel Bott, Operational Manager/  
Rachel Lamb Project Coordinator and Support Worker

Covers whole of Northamptonshire. Can provide advice via Teams, What's App, phone calls. Their aim is to try to give clients a voice. All of it is free and we are there as long as we are needed.

Work with children and usually go into schools and provide a 16-week session. Also hold summer youth groups and get children all over the county attend. Can be any young person and it gives them a chance to meet other young people.

Set up weekly groups for young people.

Cllr Maggie Don asked– do you need parental consent?  
Answer under 16 need parental consent or social services consent.

Trying to grow and encourage network or do direct network sessions. Office is in Wellingborough but work throughout the county. Adults can come to office or walk or talk in local area. Have a helpline Monday – Friday which is a confidential service.

## **Groundwork**

Cllr Anne Lee

I have been on the board for 7 years. 504 people attended one of the summer events. Also ran holiday activities twice a week during the summer holidays. Better together Covid Support work offering support and reconnection after Covid.

Work closely with Rhythm Thyme which provides poetry readings etc. Also supporting a cultural forum for artwork on the High Street. The Veg box scheme now has a new on-line boxing system. For more information check on our website [www.greenpatch.org.uk](http://www.greenpatch.org.uk)

The Green recovery fund employed 12 young people. Looking for more employment and training programmes to run in the future. Youth Works work with several secondary schools.

Kick Start – Green jobs for young people. Cllr Lee to find more information and pass to KTC.

## **Grow Wild**

Oliver Connolly can't attend but has sent text to be read out by the Mayor which is as follows: -

Grow Wild is a new service in the Kettering area that provides practical outreach services for adults with disabilities, learning disabilities and

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mental health needs. Outreach projects are all based outdoors and involve support to engage in local environmental projects and outdoor activities. It could be seen as a more advanced version of 'forest school', whereby adults with barriers can engage in activities that instigate true personal and environmental development.

We will take part in lake/river clearance, planting native plants and trees to improve biodiversity and contributing to the local community gardens/parks/commons.

Activities will also include rambling, cycling and other forms of exercise which boost cardiovascular and respiratory health as well as mental wellbeing.

Activities are designed to be therapeutic, breaking down the negative impacts of isolation and helping to build confident individuals with improved mental health and a developed practical skill set.

Transport is provided and participants can be picked up from home, if you would like more information please visit the website at [www.GrowWild.Life](http://www.GrowWild.Life) pick up a leaflet or call Oliver Connolly on 07779960099

## **Kettering Complementary Therapy Group**

Barbara Lewis, Dawn Cooper

We welcome anyone who wants to maintain their health and well-being. Have been in existence for approximately 20 years and organise taster sessions and support all the health and well-being events held in the town. Our main aim is to promote awareness to use complementary therapy to help healthcare.

We still continued to meet during the pandemic either outside or on-line. When the pandemic came to an end Kettering held a health and well-being festival which included taster sessions, advice and a raffle for Cransley hospice. We had a pop-up shop based in the Newlands Centre and was told we could occupy it for two months. This was open in May and June. It was seen as an opportunity to give health and well-being advice to people in the high street. A lot of people hadn't spoken to people for 18 months or felt frightened to go out and didn't know where to go. We offer lifestyle advice to clients including diet, sleep and exercise. Had a lot of people referred to us from KGH and we would have liked to continue in the shop but had to vacate end of June.

Open on a Friday – need more volunteers to help us sign post people to us. A lot of people disadvantaged due to not having smart phones, FB etc

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## **Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Chris Davison, Lead Governor, Public Governor - Kettering & Corby

Integrated NHS Trust. Wanted to support Barbara as community initiative run by the community for community.

Have three statistics to give you: -

only 20% of what makes us healthy comes from health care

40% education

30% lifestyle, drinking, smoking

10% where you live

If we are going to respond effectively to the challenges, we face we need to work together. Major reform which means working closely with voluntary sector and local authority. 2<sup>nd</sup> reason #healthcare on the high street.

Half of people seen had high blood pressure. Wasn't just prevention and due to social circumstances had nowhere to go. The service provided by the Complementary Therapy Group provided a safe place for people to go. Most visitors felt digitally excluded as they didn't have smart phones, Facebook etc.

1 in 4 people have a mental health but the figures should be 4 in 4. Bodies and minds change and circumstance change. We are part of solution. Support pop up shop, taster sessions and a safe place for people to go.

How many people are involved with this project - Kettering Mind, Northants Public Health, KGH and whole range of voluntary groups. Open 10 – 4pm every Friday and volunteers come in on a rota. Always need volunteers who have compassion and empathy.

## **Kettering Allotment Society**

Russell Attwood

I came along to the previous meeting, and I wish to thank KTC for the progress regarding the contaminated land at the allotment. The site has been visited by an officer from NNC and it has been agreed we are going to wait until vegetation has died down before any work can be carried out. Still have a waiting list for allotments but working hard to reduce this. Have been approached by the community payback scheme to do some work on our allotments but need to put toilets in place first.

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## **Kettering Arts Society**

Rev Tom Houston

Re-opened in September and had over 500 people come through the doors. We now have a card machine to take payment and have just brought new chairs. We are now looking at getting the word out really and want to connect with other arts projects and groups too. Would like to be a champion with other arts groups. If anyone knows of any other art groups who want to link up, then please let me know.

Lots of fund raising planned. Underfloor heating project which would like to be complete within the year. Also would like to have a screen that comes down. Which means we can show films, cultural films etc. Currently trying to fund raise for this.

Cllr Maggie Don asked about the fund raising to lay the floor and will the wooden floor be going back down.

Answer – The floor needs relaying but will be ceramic tiles for the underfloor heating.

Cllr Emily Fedorowycz asked what is coming events are coming up?

Answer Back to Saturday night's – Gary Delaney, Simon Evans, Marvel Theatre Show. All details are on the website.

## **Kettering Civic Society**

Paul Ansell Chairman & Monica Ozdemir Secretary

We promote the town and its people aiming to highlight the town's architecture and rich social and cultural history/past and present that will create a vibrant town/centre that will benefit the local community and bring visitors to boost our economy.

The Society was formed in 1969 founded to encourage a high standard of planning and civic pride.

The Society is an independent voluntary organisation and a pressure group.

We are stakeholders in the town and have supported the council in its successful bid for High Street funding.

We sit on the High Street Historic Action Zone Board. We have acted as consultees including providing information for the Historic Assessment of the High Street for Austin Heritage Consultants and Consultants *Influence*.



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We are part of the Cultural Consortium receiving Historic England funding for 2 projects.

A documentary film with the UK Film School about the Kettering Mosaic and the abstract images that record the town's industrial and cultural heritage.

2. Three art panels, each being displayed at Wicksteed Park, Kettering Station and the High Street.

We have a blue plaque heritage trail around the town which we continue to expand.

Annually we present the Silver Rose Bowl award for either the built environment or for civic pride. This year it will be awarded to the Green Patch.

The Society has had a long-standing connection with Kettering station which began when it successfully stopped the ironwork from being removed in 1978.

Time Travellers is our community room situated on platform 1 which has a variety of uses including a meeting room, exhibitions are held here and when steam trains visit, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 9am -10am the room is open with a variety of Kettering themed artifacts for sale. We are station adopters and tend the planting around the station and we belong to *Community Rail Network*.

We hold fundraising events coffee mornings, quizzes, fashion show, open studios, dinners, afternoon teas, day trips, holidays, annual proms concerts, theatre trips, talks

We have won awards for our voluntary work at the station from Northamptonshire Heritage Society and Community Rail Network we belong to both organisations.

Ongoing projects; Membership of the Kettering Cultural Consortium, Town Planning, Blue plaques Kettering's coat of arms

## **Kettering Wombles**

Donna Burdon (Tinker)

Founded Kettering Wombles in 2019 from started off with 15 members and now have 655 members. Carry out solo picks, family picks and have adopted the council's H&S.

Little pick any spaces.

Cllr Dez Dell asked what the bag count was of what has been picked up

Answer 2894 bags in Kettering since February 2021

25000 bags as a county collected since January.

We report needles, glass and fly tips that we may find.

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## **North Northants Business Network**

Simon Cox

The Kettering Business Awards will take place at Kettering Park Hotel in 2 weeks' time and will be raising money for the street pastor team

Kettering Town Centre Partnership Group which includes Cllrs Howe and Smithers, and meetings will take place with them on a quarterly basis.

Business network currently working on digital voice, voice marketing and also sonic branding.

Hospitality sector is currently struggling for staff. If anyone is aware of people looking for work then let Simon know.

Tresham College are currently needing another Trustee if anyone is interested or knows of anyone who might be interested.

Eco Futures Northants group have started to look at the environment hoping to work towards 2030. Have identified 90 cost saving exercises to save money and be more eco-friendly.

Cllr Maggie Don asked if people are struggling to get work experience, can Simon's organisation help.

Answer Yes. There is not officially gateway just message Simon if know of a vacancy or anyone wanting work.

## **Open Door Church**

Adrian Horner

Montagu Street was Rehab/Sessions Nightclub.

Pre Covid we were running weekly hot meals and serving Christmas dinners which we hope to do this again this year. Over the last year the main thing we have done is supporting Corona kitchen.

Lots of agencies are working together via zoom to share good practice. Have started Oasis well-being group which is safe place for people to come and talk about mental health issues. It's a place where its ok not to be ok.

Cllr Martyn York Asked about Love Kettering, tell us some more about this.

Answer - Organised some church events but need to do something more. Have a look at #lovekettering

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## **Payman Investments (Royal Hotel)**

Dr Tahirih Danesh

Took over the hotel a few months ago and tried hard to turn the hotel around. Started to get a café going and the venue can be used for community events. Wish to hold events and experiences and focus on education, cultural and artistic. Very much focused on restoring historical items which have been removed from the hotel.

Open to ideas of how to use parking spaces for the community. The downstairs space is available for use. Could be parking, storage and we welcome collaboration.

## **Picture the Difference**

Zoe Martin Founder and Creative Director

Kettering based and specialises in performing arts for special needs, autism, physical disabilities, socially anxious or mental health issues.

Based at William Knibb centre and open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday daytime and Monday evening.

Have received National Lottery funding for the past 3 years.

Do lots of work around arts, 3D animation, film making and music. Also have access to music production studio and we do a lot of community performance.

Want people to feel at ease and express themselves and give the opportunity to explore different feelings.

Did a performance at Wicksteed Park and at the Green Patch also want to take the performance out to schools

## **Save Weekley Hall Wood**

Frankie O'Dowd

Wanted to share what an excellent resource this is for dog walking, runners, walkers etc. It's a nature resource and we have 18000 signatures who want to save this wood. We are a local community group and the reason we are trying to save the woodland is because there is currently a plan to build 5 warehouses on it and we would prefer woodland. This site was an ironstone quarry, but nature has taken back the area and we as residents of Kettering are enjoying the benefits. 500 – 1000 use and benefit from the wood every day. Nature watchers and photographers and we now have more idea of deer, butterflies etc which call woods home.

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	<p>Since plans were submitted, we taken part in community awareness days at Geddington School, protested outside the Municipal Offices during an NNC Planning Committee. Save Weekley Hall Wood not political group. Kettering has beautiful parks, but the woods are special and would like KTC to join them to say how lovely the woods are and to save it and perhaps create a country park for Kettering.</p> <p>Cllr Bev Wright asked if there were any upcoming events? Answer - This Saturday having a nature walk around the woods, more details on FB site. There will also be a market stall to sell tee-shirts.</p>
	<p>The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along and ask for volunteers to come along and support any of the organisations they can.</p> <p>The Mayor gave personal thanks to all of the volunteers to give up their time to the people of Kettering when in need or want to come and talk. Thank you to each and every one</p> <p>Cllr Don don't want to lose contact with people and asked if we could put organisations on website.</p> <p>It was advised that KTC have to be careful on what we put onto website as can't be seen to publish one company over another but it its charitable company then we can put link onto website.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.47pm</p>