

# KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

## REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 2021/88

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	TOWN MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2022
Wards Affected:-	All

### 1. Purpose of Report

To agree a schedule of Town Meetings in 2022 and identify a theme for each.

### 2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to adopt a cycle of thrice yearly Town meetings and to identify the themes for each meeting for the coming year.

### 3. Information

3.1. The Council convened two town meetings in 2021, in May and September, and these were opportunities for local groups to introduce themselves to the Council, outline their activity and answer questions. 12 groups attended the May meeting and 18 groups and businesses the September meeting, with 6 attending both. Each group had three minutes to present themselves, but for some groups and some topics, this proved impractical.

3.2. This report suggests providing some structure to Town Meetings, to maximise the value to members and to community organisations, and, by giving good notice of future meetings, would allow more preparation and notice to be provided for all concerned. With a set focus, the meetings could concentrate on discussing related items and arriving at some conclusions to inform Town Council policy or activities. It would also allow some partner agencies to be invited along as appropriate.

3.3. It is proposed that there could be three Town meetings a year, in February, May and September. Exact dates can be agreed when the calendar of meetings is agreed at December

council for the following year. Each meeting should have an agreed “theme” and a set of potential subject areas is set out below:-

- Climate change/environmental stewardship
- Health and well being
- Economy and growth
- Community safety and crime
- Young people
- Support for the elderly

3.4. Members are asked for their views on venues – ideally one large enough to accommodate a good number of attendees safely.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

Town meetings are a valuable form of engagement and collective problem solving

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

The cost of meetings is nominal and can be accommodated within budgets.

#### **6. Policy Implications**

The Town meetings can contribute to policy making and increase awareness of local issues, challenges, and opportunities.

#### Background Papers

Notes of previous Town meetings

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