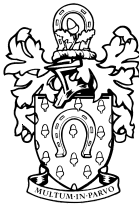


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## Rutland County Council

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Notes of a Meeting of the **PARISH COUNCIL FORUM** held on **Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7.00pm** in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham

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**Mr Kenneth Bool – Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)**

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<b>SPEAKERS:</b>	Miss Sue Bingham	Governance Coordinator, Rutland County Council
	Mr Kenneth Bool	Councillor, Rutland County Council
	Mrs Helen Briggs	Chief Executive, Rutland County Council
	Ms Heather Caldicott	Transport, Strategy Officer, Rutland County Council
	Mr Hugh Crouch	Community Safety Manager, Rutland County Council
	Mr Terry King	Councillor, Rutland County Council
	PCSO Matt Mcdade	Leicestershire Police
<b>CLERK TO THE FORUM:</b>	Miss Marcelle Gamston	Corporate Support Officer
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b>	Mr J Atkinson	Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils
	Mr E Baines	Rutland County Council (Martinsthorpe Ward)
	Dr M Barker	Tinwell Parish Meeting
	Mr D Casewell	Uppingham Town Council
	Mr N Begy on behalf of Greetham Parish Council	
	Mrs R Kelly	Tinwell Parish Meeting
	Mr A Redmayne	Thorpe by Water Parish Meeting
	Mr A Stewart	Rutland County Council (Cottesmore Ward)
	Mr K Thomas	Rutland County Council (Whissendine Ward)
	Mrs M Towl	Burley Parish Meeting
	Mr M Warrington	Ketton Parish Council

There were 31 County and Parish representatives attending the meeting. A list of representatives who signed the attendance sheet is attached.

## **1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed all parish representatives to the Parish Council Forum.

## **2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received as listed above.

## **3) NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Notes of the Parish Council Forum held on 18 July 2016 were confirmed by parish representatives and signed by the Chairman.

## **4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the notes of the last meeting.

## **5) "TALKBACK"**

Mr Cliff Bacon

1. My name is Cliff Bacon and I represent Clipsham Parish Meeting and the LSP Environmental Theme Group
2. I wish to say a few words about the recently adopted Rutland Corporate Plan and related subjects.
3. The adopted Corporate Plan which was published around the 20<sup>th</sup> September, having been approved by Cabinet and full Council, is a high level document which sets the scene for the council's aims from now to 2020. It is very heavily weighted towards the intention of encouraging population growth and economic development in that period on a scale which has not so far been experienced in Rutland. Sadly, the intention to protect our natural and historic environment and our smaller villages from the impacts of development is almost completely absent from the plan.
4. The Environmental Theme Group did submit a consultation response in July but unfortunately that input was almost completely disregarded.
5. The purpose of my Talk Back is:
  - Firstly to encourage you please to go onto RCC website and read the adopted Corporate Plan, 22 pages, fairly easy reading. Then, consider your own views on the relative weight given to growth and development compared with the weight given to protection of our existing smaller communities, their environment and their heritage assets. If the apparent absence of intent to protect the environment worries you, please communicate that clearly to your ward member councillor and I suggest you make sure that the Leader sees your communication, as well
  - Secondly, the Rutland Local Plan is currently under review and the outcome is crucial to the preservation of Rutland's environment or to its transition into a development zone. An "Issues and Options Consultation" was published in November 2015 and consultation closed on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Many of your villages may have responded with input. We did. The process is that the Council will

consider all comments before preparing the next “Preferred Options” version of the Local Plan. This was due to come out in September/ October 2016 but has been delayed and there is no answer that I can find as to when the Preferred Options version will be published. Once the preferred options are published, I would guess they will be very difficult to get changed. I encourage you to find out how you can become much more involved in the intermediate consultation process of the Local Plan, before the publication of the Preferred Options

version. This may provide an opportunity for you to influence the outcome before it is too late. Please may I encourage you to look into this, because the risk is high in my opinion, that Rutland is going to become a growth and development zone in the near future unless the villages step in with some very clear views on looking after their very special environment.

- Finally, I want to mention the situation on the Conservation Officer who is responsible for the protection of listed buildings and structures (of which there are about 1600 in our County) and concerning which a question was asked at the last PC Forum. We have had a full time conservation officer in Rutland for the past 35 years to my personal knowledge. With 1600 conservation buildings it may be considered likely that at any one time some 10% of them are undergoing structural repairs. You may think that 160 listed buildings under repair needs some independent professional monitoring by a Conservation Officer to make sure the jobs are being done according to planning conditions. I am led to understand that since our full time conservation officer left his post an arrangement has been made with South Kesteven District Council to make their conservation officer available to Rutland for one day per week. Would you please consider whether you think this is sufficient to protect our heritage buildings, and if you don't think so, please may I suggest that you again let your Ward Member know, in clear terms what you think, and that this is reported to the Leader. Thank you.

### Capping

Concerns were raised regarding parishes being at serious risk of capping from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next year, being limited to 3%; with parish and town council income coming only through the precept. The precept would be impacted on by the withdrawal of the Parish Council Support Grant. RCC would provide a written response with guidance to all parishes.

Below is the written response, received following the Forum.

### ***Finance consultation***

*The Government is now considering responses in relation to its consultation on the local government finance settlement for 17-18. Parishes will recall that there were various proposals that could impact directly on them. The proposals included:*

- *extending the referendum principles to larger, higher spending town and parish councils – at the level quoted £75.46 Band D and £500,000 (total precept), it would appear not to apply to any of our parishes for now*
- *extending the proposal to cover all parishes – clearly this could apply to Rutland parishes. The Government itself recognised the issues of proportionality, practicality and cost that could be raised by such a step and we suspect that little support would be received for this proposal.*

*The Government also said parishes will not be in the category to which the referendum principles applies where there has been a transfer of responsibilities, and where various conditions are satisfied. In effect, a transfer of responsibilities resulting in the 2% limit being exceeded (for the precept to cover the agreed cost of duties transferring) in itself would not trigger a referendum.*

*We now await to see the Governments final proposals which are not expected until mid-December.*

*If parishes have questions on these issues then our view is that they should seek advice from the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (tel 0116 235 3800, email [admin@leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk))*

## **6) FINANCIAL UPDATE – Councillor King, Leader of Rutland County Council**

Key areas highlighted included:

- i) That RCC would be losing millions of pounds out of the budget over the next few years. Considering various areas of funding to reduce.
- ii) RCC currently operating largely within budget.

The following points were noted:

- i. RCC to contact parishes regarding costs associated with cemeteries, grass cutting and streetlighting.

A more detailed presentation would be given at the January 2017 Forum.

## **7) THE WORK OF YOUR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – Councillor Bool, Chairman of Rutland County Council**

A presentation was received from Councillor Bool, RCC's representative on the Combined Fire Authority Board.

Key areas highlighted included:

- i) That the Fire and Rescue Service employed in the region of 700 staff (600 operational and 100 support).
- ii) The Service maintained 20 fire stations, a fleet and equipment maintenance facility, a training and development centre, an occupational health facility and a Service HQ building. A significant fleet of emergency response vehicles and a vast array of operational equipment.
- iii) The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) was the responsible body overseeing the delivery of the fire and rescue function in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- iv) The Service was one of the lowest funded Services in the country but was also one of the best performing.

The following points were noted:

- i. That the difference in figures for the number of incidents attended in Rutland by Station Area (2015-16) between Uppingham and Oakham

was due to Uppingham operating on a retained basis and therefore operated for 66% of the year. Oakham operated as a 24/7 wholetime manned station. The figures also worked on geographical response. Both station areas worked as a collective service for the county.

- ii. Consideration was being given to basing a special 4x4 in Uppingham. This would be able to tackle difficult terrain, for example, Rutland Water.
- iii. The Fire Service operated a cross border support system for first vehicle attending an incident due to response times, therefore Stamford could possibly attend a fire in the Ryhall/Casterton area of the county.
- iv. In Oakham there was a tie-in with the East Midlands Ambulance Service for first responder basis.
- v. The retained crew at Uppingham was fully trained to fire brigade standard.
- vi. Blue Light Collaboration was looking to expand cross border services to improve the efficiency of the emergency services.

**8) RUTLAND COUNTYWIDE TRAVEL SURVEY** – Heather Caldicott, Transport Strategy Officer, Rutland County Council (RCC)

Ms Caldicott presented an overview of the key findings from Rutland County Council's recent countywide travel survey.

Key areas highlighted included:

- i) 3615 responses had been received (21% response rate). 67% of responses were received from residents aged over 60.
- ii) Travel for healthcare appointments was a key area. Responses showed that a number of residents have trouble getting to hospital appointments – particularly at Peterborough City Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary.
- iii) Bus travel – Top 5 suggestions for improvement:
  - Frequency and times of bus
  - Evening services
  - Ticket fares
  - Sunday/weekend service
  - Service reliability/punctuality
- iv) There was a limited awareness of transport and community transport schemes operating in the county.
- v) 71% of respondents walked for health or leisure at least once a week.
- vi) 17% of respondents cycled for health or leisure at least once a week.
- vii) 51% stated that more/extended designated cycle routes, protected from traffic would encourage cycling.
- viii) There was an element of conflict between cyclists and other road users.
- ix) Road safety and highways maintenance – respondents ranked six areas in order of importance. Listed below (% rated as good, very good or excellent):
  - Roads (34%)
  - Pavements (39%)
  - Street lighting (49%)
  - Drainage (31%)
  - Road signs and lines (52%)
  - Grass cutting (54%)

Most commonly reported improvement suggestions were:

- Pothole repair
  - Maintenance and repair
  - Improved, wider safer pavements
  - Quicker responses
  - Longer term fixes
- x) The findings would be filtered into RCC's Total Transport Review, helping to identify gaps in provision.
- xi) Findings will also inform RCC's Local Transport Plan 4 was still in the early stages of development.
- xii) A more detailed copy of the survey was available online at:

[http://www.rutland.gov.uk/transport\\_and\\_streets/rutland\\_travel\\_survey.aspx](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/rutland_travel_survey.aspx)

The following points were noted:

- i. That the online survey detail allowed data to be filtered by postcode where a more detailed breakdown was required, for example, cycling in Uppingham. However, such analysis would be time intensive.
- ii. That the response rate figure for the Uppingham Hopper was available online through the summary graph.
- iii. That the RCC Corporate Plan through sustainable development sought to encourage sustainable forms of transport.
- iv. That the outstanding response rate brought a challenge of analysis. Still in the early stages of analysing data- further analysis will follow.
- v. That although areas may be covered by the Call Connect Service it was not necessarily practical for medical appointments.

The Chairman thanked Ms Caldicott for her presentation.

**9) COMMUNITY SAFETY** – Hugh Crouch, Community Safety Manager, Rutland County Council and PCSO Matt Mcdade, Leicestershire Police

Mr Crouch presented on services which could be accessed and PCSO Mcdade presented on the Virtual Beat Project.

Key areas highlighted during Mr Crouch's presentation included:

- i. The aim of Community Safety was to work together with partners to ensure that Rutland remained a safe place to live, work and visit.
- ii. That after five years of decline in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents being reported this year had seen a slight increase in reports.
- iii. RCC Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, working with partners including the Police, were able to provide advice and support to tackle alleged issues.
- iv. Anti-Social Behaviour could be reported by:  
Calling 01572 722577 or 101 to report issues  
or email [communitysafety@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@rutland.gov.uk)
- v. Domestic Abuse – commissioned Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland service UAVA (United Against Violence & Abuse) able to access number of services including crisis support, outreach support, group programmes,

counselling and therapeutic services . 58% increase in service available to county.

- vi. Further services and vulnerability included:
  - Alcohol/Substance Misuse
  - Prevent (Preventing Violent Extremism)
  - Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Hoarding
  - Cyber / Online Safety
  
- vii. A victim support service was offered by Victim First, Contact details below:
  - a. 0800 953 9595
  - b. [support@victimfirst.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:support@victimfirst.pnn.gov.uk)
  - a. Website [www.victimfirst.org](http://www.victimfirst.org)
  - b. Twitter: <https://mobile.twitter.com/Victim1st>
  - c. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Victim1st>

Key areas highlighted during PCSO Mcdade's presentation included:

- i. The sole aim of the virtual beat was to offer the public another avenue to contact the police, providing an opportunity for people who cannot or would not contact the police by telephone or face to face to have their say; and also the ability to engage and converse with multiple members of society at the same time. The project was being trialled by Rutland and Leicester East Area.
- ii. Leicestershire 2015 survey of 2,400 Year 9 Students found that:
  - 50% had over 200 online "friends"
  - 34% had over 25 friends they had never met offline.
  - 23% had received threats or harassment.
  - 54% said their parent was not interested in their online usage.
- iii. Cyber bullying was quite common.
- iv. Leicestershire Police had a dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Team to investigate and deal with allegations; and a referral desk to take referrals for vulnerable young people.
- v. The Police were working with partners to develop training packages for young people and parents; training their local officers in internet safety and providing them with the resources to use with young people; and delivering inputs to schools and colleges.
- vi. Useful websites for Parents:
  - [Thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/](http://Thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/)
  - [Getsafeonline.org/](http://Getsafeonline.org/)
  - [Cyberstreetwise.com/](http://Cyberstreetwise.com/)
  - [Ceop.police.uk/](http://Ceop.police.uk/)

The following points were noted:

- i. The aim of Virtual Beat Project was to target over 50s. Following contact from schools/parents and children was now being utilised to engage and help those groups.

- ii. The Project was not looking to take officers off the street.

The Chairman thanked Mr Crouch and PCSO Mcdade for their presentations.

- 10) ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PARISH COUNCILS** – Helen Briggs, Chief Executive and Sue Bingham, Governance Coordinator, Rutland County Council.

Due to time constraints this item was not taken.

- 11) PARISH BRIEFING PAPER**

The Parish Briefing Paper for 12 October 2016 was circulated at the meeting.

- 12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman informed the meeting that ‘Starfish’ a film about two Rutland residents, Tom and Nicola Ray, was to be released on 28 October.

- 13) DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 30 January 2017

Wednesday 5 April 2017

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.06 pm**

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**PARISH COUNCIL FORUM**  
**Monday 12 October 2016, 7.00PM**

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Mr Kenneth Bool	Chairman
Mr Tony Graveling	Ashwell Parish Council
Mr Dave Blanksby	Barleythorpe Parish Meeting
Mr Gordon Brown	Barrowden Parish Council
Mr Richard Littlejohns	Barrowden Parish Council
Mrs Sheila Saunders	Barrowden Parish Council
Mr Mark Wood	Bisbrooke Village Meeting
Mr Cliff Bacon	Clipsham Parish Meeting
Mrs Joan Edwards	Cottesmore Parish Council
Mr R Hyde	Cottesmore Parish Council
Mr Norman Milne	Edith Weston Parish Council
Mr Derek Palmer	Exton and Horn Parish Council
Mr John Pitts	Exton and Horn Parish Council
Mr Nick Begy	Greetham Parish Council
Mr A McGilvray	Ketton Parish Council
Mr Peter Duncan	Langham Parish Council
Dr Janet Higgins	Langham Parish Council
Mr Lawrence Webster	Market Overton Parish Council
Mr Christopher Renner	Normanton Parish Meeting
Mrs Angela Ashpole	North Luffenham Parish Council
Mr Paul Cummings	North Luffenham Parish Council
Mr Terry King	Rutland County Council (Exton Ward)
Mr Tony Mathias	Rutland County Council (Oakham SE Ward)
Miss Gale Waller	Rutland County Council (Normanton Ward)
Mrs S Smith	Ryhall and Belmesthorpe Parish Council
Mrs Carolyn Welch	South Luffenham Parish Council
Mr Colin Wright	South Luffenham Parish Council
Mr Richard Foster	Stretton Parish Council
Mr Michael Clatworthy	Tickencote Parish Meeting
Mrs Christine Edwards	Uppingham Town Council
Mr Ron Simpson	Uppingham Town Council
Mrs June Titterton-Fox	Whitwell Parish Meeting

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