



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.
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Minutes of the **MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL FORUM** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 21st October, 2019 at 7.00 pm

SPEAKERS:

Mr G Brown	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment, Planning, Property, and Finance
Mr P Horsfield	Monitoring Officer
Mrs L Stephenson	Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways, Transportation & Road Safety

CLERK TO THE FORUM: Mr K Silcock Governance Officer

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 were received from the following:

	Cottesmore Parish Council
Mrs R Powell	Ward Member for Whissendine

3 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the Parish Council Forum held on 15 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record by parish representatives and were signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

5 "TALKBACK"

The Chairman stated he had organised a visit to the Oakham Fire Station for county councillors and a small number of parish representatives. The visit was a success and the Chairman felt a further visit could be organised for more parish representatives.

Mr Gordon Brown, Chairman for Barrowden Parish Council reminded the Forum that in 2018 the Parish Council Forum agreed for Barrowden Parish Council to make an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government regarding

the relationship between Building Control and Planning during the construction of property.

After 12 months, rather than the required 6 months, and chasing from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Barrowden Parish Council received a response from the then Minister for Housing, Kit Malthouse. However, Barrowden Parish Council thought the response was not satisfactory and missed the point of the proposal.

Barrowden Parish Council would appeal the decision and resubmit the application to government asking that interaction between planning officers and building control inspectors needed to be made a statutory obligation.

6 CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Mr Phil Horsfield – Deputy Director Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented an item regarding the Conduct Committee at Rutland County Council, detailing the role of the Committee.

The Conduct Committee was responsible for the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the Council, including:

- To advise the Council and parish councils on the adoption or revision of their Code of Conduct;
- To monitor and advise the Council and parish councils about the operation of their Code of Conduct; and
- To assess, consider and determine complaints of breaches of a Code of Conduct.

The input of parishes was essential to ensure the good operation of the conduct framework. There were currently two parish representative vacancies on the Conduct Committee.

Mr Horsfield highlighted that the Code of Conduct was the work of members (who are the ones that enforce it) rather than the Monitoring Officer.

7 HIGHWAYS UPDATE

A presentation was received from Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Highways. A copy of the presentation would be appended to the minutes.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mr G Brown noted that the Council was looking into bringing all digital services into one location on the website, making it easier for residents to access the services of the Council.
- ii. The Council would grit the main roads, along with roads in and out of villages.
- iii. You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself. It is unlikely you would be held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you have cleared it carefully.
- iv. If further grit bins were needed, this would need to go through Parish Councils and they would pay for them. Rutland County Council would fill the bin for free twice.

- v. Community Speed Watch schemes were a great way for the community to work in partnership with the police and authority to tackle speeding.
- vi. If interested in joining, Parishes should send their interest to TravelForRutland@rutland.gov.uk and list possible locations that would benefit from data being collected.
- vii. RCC would provide the training and equipment for those that are part of the Community Speed Watch.

8 TRANSFER OF LAND

Mr Gordon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Planning, Property, and Finance notified the Forum that there were small parcels of land that currently belonged to RCC, including open spaces, play areas, and verges. If there were any pieces of land in a village or town in Rutland that the Parish wishes to take over control they should contact landcharges@rutland.gov.uk. There would be no cost for the transfer of ownership.

9 ST GEORGE'S BARRACKS AND LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Gordon Brown, provided the Forum with the following statement regarding St George's Barracks and the Local Plan:

"Colleagues will recall that the last Parish Forum I reported on the background and progress of the St George's site and the Local Plan.

Officers are reaching a conclusion on the Sustainability Appraisals covering social, economic and environmental assessments of the individual sites which have been put forward by landowners and developers along with reviewing their viability and deliverability. All of this work is required to develop an appropriate Spatial Strategy as laid out in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance.

The two larger sites, SGB and Woolfox, which have been put forward required a more detailed assessment for their viability and the ability of the developers to deliver new homes during the Plan period. This is because when the Examiner comes to consider these sites he will need to be provided with evidence to this effect.

SGB has almost been completely assessed based on the November 2018 Evolving Masterplan. This has confirmed that SGB is viable but does require the Housing Infrastructure Fund funding of £30m. To date that bid, submitted in February 2019, has been fully scrutinised by Homes England, both of their external consultants, MHCLG and against the Treasury's Green Book. Over 200 questions have been asked and the answers provided seem to have been satisfactory although that is difficult to conform. However the bid still lies in the "to be decided" pile.

We continue to lobby government to make a decision, either way, so that we can decide whether SGB can be considered as part of the Local Plan or not. This lobbying has included contact with MOD, Homes England, MHCLG and via the Mayor of the Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough as well as the Chair of the LGA who meets with the Secretary of State on a weekly basis. I met with the Housing Minister Ester McVey and her adviser and they confirmed that our bid was not her desk but somewhere else. I also met with the MHCLG Secretary of State Robert Jenrick in his constituency in Newark, Notts last week. To date no news has been forthcoming. Six bids have been announced as successful but these were on average

for about £100m. No bids have been rejected since our bid was submitted in February of this year. The best indications we have is that the remaining bids are with the Treasury for final vetting. We await their decision and we will continue to lobby for a decision.

Woolfox also continues to be assessed based on the information provided by their Agent, most recently a traffic assessment. This information has been on a drip feed basis from their consultants since last September.

The Planning Policy Team will continue to finalise all of the evidence and come to a conclusion on an appropriate spatial strategy

It is still our intention to commence the Pre-submission consultation on all the elements of the Plan including the Spatial Strategy, proposed policies and allocated sites in early 2020 subject of course before that to input from the GIR Scrutiny Panel, then the approval of the Pre-submission Plan by Cabinet and Council, all probably involving additional specific meetings.”

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. If the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid was unsuccessful, the St George’s Project would not be viable and would not be included within the Local Plan. This would cause the Council to look at other sites to meet the minimum development of 160 houses per year.
- ii. The existing Local Plan covered site allocation to 2025.

10 PARISH BRIEFING PAPER

The Parish Briefing Paper was circulated at the meeting and would be distributed by email to all parish clerks.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was received.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 13 January 2020
Monday 23 March 2020

Potential agenda items for the Parish Council Forum should be sent to the Governance Team at governance@rutland.gov.uk for consideration by the Parish Council Working Group.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

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Rutland
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Highways Updates

Cllr. Lucy Stephenson (Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways, Transportation & Road Safety)

5

Minute Item 7





Vegetation / Hedge Cutting:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/roads-and-highways/highway-maintenance/hedges-and-trees/>

- Duty of landowners
- Reporting:
 - Inspectors
 - Residents / PCs and TCs (FMS)
 - Dealing with a complaint:
 - Letters
 - Press coverage over the summer
 - Issues
 - Tone of letter
 - Special circumstance
 - RCC trees and hedges
- Next Steps:
 - Initial letter (re-drafted)
 - Liaison with business support
 - Resident complaints prioritized
 - Parish / Town Council / meeting involvement
 - Resident serving department



Winter Maintenance:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/roads-and-highways/winter-service/gritting/>

- Reminder:

- Snow routes / gritting routes

- ✓ • Grit bins:

- Annual check and re-fill
- **One re-fill free of charge****
- 5 working days notice to highways@rutland.gov.uk

- Snow Warden Scheme:

- Purpose
- Training
- Equipment
- Timeline



Community Speed Watch: Introduction

TravelForRutland@rutland.gov.uk

- Current Work:

- Highways Transport Working Group
- Road Safety Strategy

- [∞] • What is it?

- Involvement of local communities in the reduction of speeds

- Purpose:

- Monitor speeding with a view to working with the police to reduce speeding

- Next Steps:

- Completion of RCC CSW scheme
- Establish and interested group of volunteers (numbers)
- Identify possible locations (30mph-40mph zones)
- Training / risk assessments (RCC in liaison with Speed Watch group)
- Equipment (RCC)
- Timeline of activity



Question from Mr. N. Newton:

"With the advent of driverless vehicles there will be an obvious attraction to logistics companies to programming their vehicle movements at night, when traffic is sparse, to the obvious detriment of those villages alongside the A47, A606 and A6003. Will the County Council portfolio holder for transport initiate discussion in the relevant regional and national associations to try and ensure that local authorities have a voice in routes and times of autonomous lorries. For example driverless lorries cannot drive through rural villages between midnight and 6am. This did not happen with Sat Nav technology with some very odd commercial routes as a result."

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PARISH BRIEFING



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Also available online at:
www.rutland.gov.uk

Monday 21 October 2019

Annual Report 2018/19



Rutland County Council has published its annual report for 2018-2019, setting out how local services have performed over the past 12 months.

The Council publishes data showing how it has performed against a number of key targets after the end of each financial year.

To help provide a clear picture of how the Council is serving communities, this data has been turned into a simple guide which people can read to see how well their local services are working.

The Annual Report highlights performance across a wide range of services, including: Health and Social Care, Children and Young People, Learning, Highways Waste and Planning.

[Read the 2018/19 Annual Report online](#)

Brexit Update

Rutland is part of a regional and local resilience partnership of local authorities where we all have plans in place to ensure we are prepared around the services and support that we deliver.

These plans include support to communities and business. There is regular communication to check and test these plans remain robust.

Government has made provision for local authorities to support this, including resource for signposting and communication, business seminars and guidance through trading standards and support and advice through community organisations.

Chris Traill, Strategic Director for Places at RCC is representing us on these regional and local networks, and Holly Bremner, Head of Communications at RCC is linked into the comms cell.

Further information can be found using the following link:
www.gov.uk/euexit.

Make Sure Your Business is Ready

Businesses should take action and prepare for Brexit if they:

- Export goods to the EU
- Import goods from the EU
- Transport goods by road
- Export animals or animal products
- Export services to the EU
- Move goods between Ireland and Northern Ireland

We're working with local businesses and organisations to highlight the information and guidance that's been made available on the government's Brexit website.

As well as writing to all businesses in Rutland, we are publishing a series of information videos in which local business owners share their top tips on preparing for Brexit.

Watch the latest Brexit business video online at: www.rutland.gov.uk/brexit.



Council Approves Targets to Help Fight Climate Change

Rutland County Council has agreed a raft of new targets, initiatives and actions to help in the global fight against climate change.

A Climate Change Action Motion was presented by Councillor Gordon Brown, Cabinet Member for the Environment, at Rutland's Full Council Meeting on Monday 14 October 2019.



Among the measures put forward as part of Rutland County Council's Climate Change Action Motion are commitments to:

- Make sure the Council's activities achieve a net-zero carbon footprint before 2050
- Achieve 100% clean energy across all council functions by 2050 or earlier
- Provide a climate change impact assessment on all relevant council decisions
- Request that scrutiny panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing council policies and strategies
- Review council activities to take account of production and consumption emissions
- Set up a Climate Change Partnership Group involving councillors, residents, young people, climate experts, businesses, and other relevant groups

Full Council on Monday 14 October 2019 approved the creation of a new Task and Finish group to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for Rutland.

The frequency and timing of meetings to inform the development of the report will be decided by the Task and Finish Group at its first meeting.

For more information about the Climate Change Action Motion, or to view terms of reference for the proposed Biodiversity Task and Finish Group, please see the [Agenda and Reports for Full Council on Monday 14 October 2019](#).

Rutland Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Rutland Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Association is a registered charitable organisation that draws its membership from the Neighbourhood Watches of the towns and villages in Rutland.

The Association has been active for some 20 years or more, promoting, representing and supporting these NHWs and working with Leicestershire Police in the cause of crime prevention.

At the June Parish Council Forum meeting, we drew attention to the need for Town and Parish Councils to become more proactive in the cause of crime prevention.

Specifically, we asked that you promote downloading of our acclaimed Rutland NHW Smartphone App, which now claims approaching three thousand downloads and provides a unique means of reporting and hearing about crime in the community, as well as a range of additional useful features.

Information from the App can also usefully be transmitted through social media, newsletters and websites to your residents, where it is relevant to your individual locality. To download the App, go to Google Play Store (Android) or Apple App Store (iPhones) and google "Rutland Neighbourhood Watch App".

To continue to support and provide the app to the community, the Rutland Neighbourhood Watch ask for donations. To make a donation to the RHW Association: either send a cheque to David Wheeler, RNHWA Treasurer, 23 Ermine Rise, Great Casterton, Lincs, PE9 4AJ or make a BACS transfer to the HSBC Bank account 31258516, sort code 40-45-03, in both cases making payment to Rutland Neighbourhood Watch Association.

