

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS, MEETING LANE, KETTERING AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2024

Attendees :

The Mayor, Cllr Craig Skinner (Chair) and Councillors Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Dez Dell, Maggie Don, Alex Evelyn, Clark Mitchell, James Towns, Sarah Tubbs, and Bev Wright

Speakers (10)

David Brown, Kettering Cultural Consortium
Giles Coleman, Royal British Legion
Debbie Cox, Kettering Arts Centre
Karen Hayes, Citizens Advice, Kettering and Corby
Barbara Lewis. Kettering Complementary Therapy Group
John Perry, Accommodation Concern
Michelle Shaw, C2C Social Action
Kelvin Singh, North Northants Sports and Welfare Club
Jonathon Smith, Kettering MIND
Martin Toms, Natural Ise

Other attendees (10)

Anne Albrecht, Leigh Hill and Denise Waghorn, Kettering Kosmos WI
Faith Cosgrove, Royal British Legion
Chris Dickinson, Kettering Complementary Therapy Group
Eleanor Patrick, Toller Church
David Roberts, Kettering Vineyard Church
Kevin Marchand, Headlands Residents Association
2 x other attendees

Martin Hammond, Town Clerk, Emma Dezelu, Deputy Town Clerk, and Zuzanna Brzostowska, Admin Officer

Item No	Item Description
1	Apologies for Absence Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Emily Fedorowycz, Anup Pandey, Keli Watts and Karan Harris, Kettering Street Pastors
2	Welcome from the Mayor The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for coming along

Kettering Town Council

3	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the annual Town meeting held on 24th May 2023 were confirmed as accurate record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
4	<p>Presentation on the Town Council's first year</p> <p>Martin Hammond presented the main features of the Town Council's last year of operation, outlined the priorities within its corporate plan and some of the projects it was undertaking, as well as summarising last year's and the current year's budgets.</p>
5	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>The following people made presentations and answered questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) David Brown, Kettering Cultural Consortium David summarised the recent history of the Consortium, its widening out of membership and some of the things it was supporting during the coming year.b) John Perry, Accommodation Concern John described AC's workload and patterns of demand, how these were being met and where funding came from. Demand had been relentlessly rising over recent times.c) Karen Hayes, Citizens Advice Kettering and Corby Karen also described their workload and patterns of demand and similarly described a huge increase in demand, with some successes in securing income, as well as the sums generated by new benefit claims and through debt management advice. She referenced the STEP project to help people into employment.d) Debbie Cox, Kettering Arts Centre. Debbie described the works to update the main building at St Andrews, to make it a more useable, safe and accessible venue for events, meetings and entertainment and how the costs were to be met. Sponsorship for new chairs was still being sought.e) Michelle Shaw, Kettering Womens Centre/C2C Michelle described the reach and purpose of C2C, their success rate in preventing people re-accessing the criminal justice system, and work to expand their operation in Kettering.f) Jonathan Smith, Kettering MIND Jonathan described the project to convert property in Beatrice Rd to provide five flats, to add to MIND's current

Kettering Town Council

property portfolio and to become a registered social housing provider. He was also seeking people with construction or housing expertise to become a trustee of MIND.

g) Martin Toms, Natural Ise

Martin described projects which rewilded land at Valley Walk, created a new mini-forest at Grantown Close, and improved bio-diversity on land near Christ the King Church, all in collaboration with NNC, and at Hazel Coppice on Wicksteed Park land.

h) Giles Coleman Royal British Legion

Giles described how money raised by the annual poppy appeal went into providing services for veterans nationally and locally. He was willing to work with any organisation in Kettering which helped veterans with advice, benefits, employment, social interaction and setting up home.

i) Barbara Lewis Kettering Complementary Therapy Group

Barbara described her group's history and services, and their focus on people who were digitally excluded. They were still dealing with impact of the pandemic on how people interacted, found and secured advice and accessed services and hoped to be able to use events such as Kettfest to reach more people.

j) Kelvin Singh, North Northants Sports and Welfare Club

Kelvin described how his organisation had been providing advice and support, such as running women's' self defence courses, in areas where people faced numerous barriers to participation in society or employment. A recent survey had also highlighted the need for activities which reflected the diversity of the local community and sought to bridge the gap between groups. An initial event had flagged up the need for larger venues and for widening out planned events to embrace wider participation.

General discussion

All the material presented tonight would be shared with attendees as quickly as possible.

The availability of funding through NNC's member empowerment funding and KTC's ward initiatives funding streams was stressed to help organisations develop projects.

The need for a voluntary sector directory, both on line and on paper, we highlighted

Kettering Town Council

	Attendees asked how we could engage the wider public in some of the topics that had been aired tonight, including potentially recording the meeting for non attenders to see subsequently, and changing the format and venue.
6	Future meetings It was agreed that future themes for the meetings in September, and February could include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- “getting ready for winter” - September- Sports related – February – ahead of the half marathon in March
7	The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along and meeting closed 8.55pm.

Signed
Date

(chair)