



**Kettering**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 2024/040

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Town Clerk
Report Title:-	Appointments
Wards Affected:-	All

### 1. Purpose of Report

To ask Council to make two appointments:-

- a) Mr Lee Watkiss as a parish path warden
- b) Of a member to attend Pubwatch meetings on behalf of the Council

### 2. Recommendations

**Council is recommended** to appoint Mr Watkiss as a parish path warden and to identify a councillor to attend Pubwatch meetings

### 3. Information – parish path warden

- 3.1 The Council has appointed two people to be parish path wardens. Their role is to monitor and flag up, usually with the highways authority, but also other statutory bodies, issues with any public footpaths in the parish. They can also be a contact point for members of the public who wish to report matters.
- 3.2 one of our wardens resigned in April this year, but since then, a Mr Lee Watkiss, who lives in Thurston Drive, has volunteered to become a parish path warden. A personal statement by Mr Watkiss is attached as Appendix A.

#### **4. Information – pubwatch**

- 4.1. Pubwatch is a meeting of town centre pub and club licensees in Kettering and all but two pubs are members of it. It meets monthly for an hour in the afternoon and discusses current issues, events and how they can support each other, provides alerts about potentially nuisance customers, agrees bans for any individuals visiting any of its members' pubs, and receives updates from the police, licensing authority and street pastors about their work and activities. They have an intrinsic interest in the welfare of the town centre and its night time economy. The pubwatch chair is a member of the Kettering Cultural Consortium.
- 4.2. Pubwatch have invited the Town Council to appoint a member to attend their meetings, to provide updates on our work and to listen to their concerns and issues. This is an opportunity for the Council to communicate its plans and priorities and – more imminently – to help promote and get feedback on the anti-social behaviour reporting system which has recently gone live and to promote and secure views on town centre events and initiatives.
- 4.3. The last meeting was in early October and Cllr Mitchell volunteered, with the agreement of Cllr Skinner as chair of the Markets and Events Committee, to attend the meeting held then, pending this meeting determining who it's long term representative might be. Cllr Mitchell can report verbally on the meeting he attended.

#### **5. Consultation and Engagement**

Not applicable in either of these items.

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

None for the Town Council

#### **7. Climate change implications**

Maintaining footpaths contributes to pedestrian safety and the attractiveness of journeys by foot or cycle over other forms of transport

#### **8. Policy Implications**

The Council's relevant policies are:-

The Council will support the town centre - through encouraging and delivering facilities, through putting on events and markets, and will help to



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make the town centre safe, attractive, interesting and varied, with local businesses thriving alongside national retailers and service providers.

The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.

### Background Papers

Correspondence with Mr Watkiss and with Pubwatch and Cllr Mitchell and the Mayor

## APPENDIX A - PERSONAL STATEMENT BY Mr WATKISS

30th July 2024

I would like to put myself forward for the volunteer position of PARISH PATH WARDEN.

The position I believe will enable me to build on the community work I already do and hopefully improve the availability of safe walking/cycling/riding (depending on path type) etc for people to be able to get and out about in the area I live and work in. I currently litter pick on a regular basis and so use and view the local path network, in addition to which I am already used to reporting issues around the area like flytipping, vegetation growth etc and this role will hopefully enable me to make more and quicker improvements by building increased and stronger stake holder engagement. Although I am not a Kettering person since birth, I have now lived here for over 20 years and all my children were born in Kettering so have very close ties to the area and a love and passion for it.

In terms of my working career to date this has been varied and rewarding, giving me a background in income stream development, developing individuals/teams, working under pressure, problem-solving etc combining to exceed individual and team targets at each company and with each job role I have ever held. Having decided over 12 years ago to join Nationwide, changing sectors from retail to finance, using my adaptability, resilience and approach to learning to start all over again and deliver strong performance from the beginning, whilst working in a highly regulated sector with extensive guidelines/policies and the importance of this, ensuring that an important part of my role is keeping up to date with these. This change of sector has been extremely useful in allowing me to analyse, question and create conversations around the way things are done in the branch, locally and even on a national level – enabling me to improve many processes over time as well as build relationships across departments and sectors in working together. It was these relationships which initially allowed me to expand my passion for volunteering from the branch to the district to the region, bringing staff and members together to do good for common causes.

My time outside of work is spilt these days to spending time with my family and friends (wife and three children), visiting London to see our eldest at University, traveling, cooking as well as volunteering and I feel I have a really good balance in my life but always looking for more ways to give back and make a difference.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you,

Lee Watkiss



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