

**Minutes of the meeting of Desborough Town Council
held on Thursday 16 January 2020**

Councillors present: J Read, (Chair), C Archer, S Draycott, J French, G Holmes, I James, B Keys, P Sawford, and J Watson.

Also present: G Thomson (Town Clerk), and 20 members of the community.

136./19 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and made safety, welfare, and procedural announcements. She wished all present a happy New Year and welcomed newly elected Borough Councillor Jim French.

137./19 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Burnham, Stroud, and Taylor.

**RESOLVED that:-
the apologies be noted.**

138./19 TO NOTE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS.

139./19 TO NOTE OR CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION.

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

To note any requests for dispensation for Councillors with an interest to be allowed to speak which have been considered by the Town Clerk in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Scheme of Delegation, and to consider any such applications not yet determined.

The Town Clerk reported that no requests for dispensation had been received.

**RESOLVED that:-
the report be noted.**

140./19 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2019 had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED that:-
the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

141./19 TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No representations were made by members of the public.

142./19 POLICE REPORT / CRIME FIGURES

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been informed that PS Offord is no longer the Kettering Rural Neighbourhood Sergeant (for the next few months) and PS 1242 Ken Brown has taken over in the interim. PS Brown has been invited to the meeting.

The latest crime figures for the Loatland area and St. Giles area are set out at Annexe 1.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

143./19 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ABOUT SPEEDING IN DESBOROUGH AND TO NOTE THE DATA FROM THE TVAS SPEED SIGNS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Details of the most up-to-date data relating to traffic speeds are set out at Appendix A.

Some headline trends are now becoming apparent from the ongoing analysis of the data:-

- *more vehicles use Rothwell Road as an entrance / exit than Harborough Road;*
- *about 86% of vehicles leaving Desborough by Rothwell Road exceed the speed limit of 30mph;*
- *almost 50% of the vehicles heading out of town are speeding by the time they are adjacent to the Wacoal factory;*
- *over 40% of vehicles entering Desborough by Rothwell Road exceed the speed limit;*
- *almost 18% of drivers coming into town are speeding / still speeding at the Wacoal Factory;*
- *about a third of drivers speed when passing the Harborough Road sign in either direction (which is close to the roundabout).*

This snapshot shows that drivers on Rothwell Road are twice as likely to speed when leaving Desborough than when coming in. It might be that there is a greater perception of speed driving uphill towards town but it does suggest that the Police might be requested to check speeds of vehicles leaving rather than entering the town.

It should be pointed out that the large black signs which flash "30mph" are not the Town Council's and it has no control over these.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

It was noted that there appeared to be a perception of motorists' safety at the Rothwell Road entrance to the town but that speeds were excessive.

RESOLVED that:-

the Police and the Highways Authority be approached to request a reduction in the speed limit on the A5676 between Rothwell and Desborough.

144./19

TO CONSIDER A DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2020/21 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

As Members will know, the Council traditionally meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm (excluding August). In 2019, the December meeting was scheduled to be held a week earlier (but was then affected by the Parliamentary General Election). In addition, an Annual Town Meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June. In many cases it can be convenient to hold this meeting on the same evening as an ordinary Council meeting (often the ordinary meeting of the Council). In 2020 it is expected that a full Council election will also take place, on 7 May 2020. In the year of an election, the annual Council meeting must be held on the day when the Councillors take office (the fourth day after the election), or within 14 days thereafter. In practice this means the Council meeting may take place on the third Thursday of May.

The Schedule of meetings in accordance with this practice is as follows:-

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
21	18	16	-	17	15	19	10	21	18	18	15

Members might also wish to consider fixing a date for a consultation session / meeting for the budget for 2021/22.

The Council is REQUESTED to determine the schedule of meetings for the 2020/21 municipal year.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) **two, ninety minute consultation meetings be fixed for Autumn 2020 on Thursday 1 October 2020, and Saturday 3 October 2020;**
- (ii) **the dates set out in the schedule be approved.**

145./19

TO RECEIVE AND COMMENT ON THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE "Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan"

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has received the Borough Council's Site Specific Proposals LDD, now entitled the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2), which when adopted will form part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The Plan will cover the whole of Kettering Borough with the exception of issues addressed in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and the Area Action Plan for Kettering Town Centre. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy is being progressed outside of the main Part 2 Local Plan.

The SSP2 will allocate land for housing, employment, retail, leisure and community facilities and will contain policies relating to specific areas such as Rothwell, Desborough and Burton Latimer towns centres and topics such as Local Green Space, Green Infrastructure and Settlement Boundaries.

The Publication version of the SSP2 has now been released for public consultation prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. The consultation opened on 18 December 2019 and ends on 12 February 2020.

The SSP2 – Publication Plan is available to view on the Borough Council's consultation portal here <https://kettering.objective.co.uk/portal/ssp2>

Hard copies of the document are available to view during normal opening hours at the Kettering Borough Council Municipal Offices, and the Libraries in Kettering, Desborough, Rothwell, and Burton Latimer. Events allowing people to see the documents and speak with Borough Council Officers will also be held including one at Marlow House from 17:00 to 19:00 on 21 January 2020. The consultation is in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It focuses on legal compliance, the Duty to Co-operate, and the Tests of Soundness, which are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Representations seeking a modification to the SSP2 - Publication Plan or part of the SSP2 must make it clear in what way the SSP2 or part of the SSP2 is not sound having regard to the legal compliance, duty to cooperate, and Test of Soundness.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

It was noted that there was a public event in Marlow House on 21 January 2020. In reviewing the proposals it was noted that the proposals included:-

1. **regeneration of the town centre;**

2. A mixed use scheme at Havelock Square / Station Road to improve a sense of enclosure, which might involve the removal of the tin tabernacle;
3. little in the way of environment and play.

Councillor French undertook to try to get an explanation for the comments about the “sense of enclosure” and it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Desborough’s Borough Councillors be requested to attend a Town Council meeting to talk about the proposed town centre regeneration and consultation; and,
- (ii) the Town Clerk collate any comments received from Councillors and submit them in response to the consultation.

146./19

TO CONSIDER THE NEED TO AND HOW TO PROMOTE CANDIDACY AT THE MAY 2020 ELECTIONS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Assuming that local Government Reorganisation takes place in Northamptonshire as planned, the next whole Town Council election will take place on 7 May 2020. The Council might consider actively seeking candidates both within and outside the traditional sources. This might be supported by the Council publishing guides for potential candidates (online), advertising on noticeboards and the Council’s website, and possibly by delivering paper leaflets to all residential properties. The estimated cost of the proposals would be £450 (printing £200 and delivery £250).

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

It was suggested that delivering leaflets to residences would be wasteful and not received well. It was also suggested that it might be possible to share costs of advertising and recruiting with other Councils.

RESOLVED that:-

the Town Clerk be requested to investigate possibilities and report to a future meeting.

147./19

TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been requested to consider supporting the Local Electricity Bill. The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so. A link to the Bill online is here https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0262/cbill_2017-20190262_en_1.htm The Bill was a Private Members Bill which failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the last Parliamentary session. This means the Bill will make no further progress. However, it is understood that attempts are being made to resurrect the Bill.

The ultimate results of this would be that local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company, and building more local renewable energy would be financially viable. Communities should also benefit from the revenues that new local energy supply companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes, and investment in local facilities.

If made law, the provisions would make the financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation and therefore empower Councils, together with their communities, to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and would result in Councils or community organisations that set up local renewable electricity companies receiving revenues that could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities. The Bill was supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs during the 2017-19 Parliamentary session, and by a number of Town and Parish Councils throughout the country. There would be no financial implication from supporting the Bill nor any commitment to taking any practical action in the future.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

RESOLVED that:-

the Bill be supported.

148./19

TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A REVISED MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

Extracted From the Report of the Town Clerk:-

As Members will recall, the Council considered adopting the revised Members’ Code of Conduct of Kettering Borough Council. The Town Council’s current Code was adopted in 2012. Since then, there have been only minor textual changes, all adopted by the Town Council. It is up to each Council to approve its own Code but there is a convention in many areas of adopting the Code of the Monitoring Officer’s own Council, thus making investigations and recommendations easier and clearer.

At the last meeting, a view was expressed that the proposed Code (available on the Council’s website here <https://desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DRAFT-Code-of->

[Conduct-Reviewed-20191121.pdf](#)) was too subjective, had no real meaning, and was otherwise unenforceable especially owing to elements relating to social media. The matter was referred back to Kettering Borough Council for clarification on the legal basis of the elements particularly with regard to social media. The Borough Council has stated that:-

“The (national) Committee for Standards in Public Life produced a report on Local Government Ethical Standards in 2019 and made a series of recommendations in January 2019, as per the link below. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777315/6.4896_CO_CSPL_Command_Paper_on_Local_Government_Standards_v4_WEB.PDF

“The Committee’s Best Practice Recommendations 1 and 2 proposed making local codes more specific in relation to bullying and harassment and requiring members to comply with and co-operate with standards investigations. The Borough Council’s Standards Advisory Committee were supportive of implementing these two recommendations at their meeting in May 2019, and approved the wording changes at their meeting in July 2019, which was then approved by KBC’s full Council in September 2019.

“Most of the wording comes from the ACAS guide on bullying and harassment at work and the CIPD factsheet on the same subject. I do not recall any one in the process above challenging the enforceability or subjectivity of the new provisions.”

The Committee for Standards in Public Life’s report states:

“The widespread use of social media presents a particular challenge to determining whether a code of conduct applies to instances of behaviour. In line with the guidance provided in Wales, it is clear to us that when a social media account identifies the individual as a councillor or an individual makes comments related to their role as a councillor, then the code of conduct applies. This would be the case even if the individual posts a ‘disclaimer’ to suggest that the account is a personal one.”

The relevant recommendation from the Committee states:

“Councillors should be presumed to be acting in an official capacity in their public conduct, including statements on publicly accessible social media. Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 should be amended to permit local authorities to presume so when deciding upon code of conduct breaches.”

The Council is REQUESTED to reconsider the matter.

RESOLVED that:-

the revised Code of Conduct be accepted and adopted.

149./19

TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL’S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE ROAD CHANGES

149.1./19 Gladstone Street / Nichols Street Suggested One-Way System

149.2./19 NCC Highways Previous Feasibility Study on Roads

It was noted that the question of changing streets to one-way traffic had been discussed over a number of years and had been supported and subsequently rejected by the Council. It was also noted that the previous proposals had been consulted upon and not been universally supported, and the Council’s own recent consultation had produced 28 responses in favour and 4 against a Gladstone Street / Nichols Street one-way system. It was added that the same number of respondents had expressed an opinion in favour of one-way or works to the High Street / Station Road junction. Comment was also made about the Gold Street / Rothwell Road junction referred to in the feasibility study.

During a full discussion it was noted that it would be unfair and unreasonable for the Council to fund all the highway works associated with the proposals but that it could make a contribution.

RESOLVED that:-

the County Council’s engineers be requested to prepare a feasibility scheme with estimated costs for changing priorities on the Gladstone Street / Nichols Street, Station Road / High Street and Gold Street / Rothwell Road loop (or parts), and the Council indicate a preparedness to fund the resultant consultation if requested.

- 150./19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON ACTIVITY FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS, THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR, LOCAL GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS**
- 150.1./19 County Councillor Matthews**
 Extracted From the Report of the Town Clerk:-
Any report received from the County Councillor will be circulated.
Councillor Matthews reported on the history of the Birchfield Springs (fish farm) application leading to the recent Court action. He reported that the flooding of the road had led to a dispute about the drainage design and construction.
- 150.2./19 Borough Councillors**
 The vacancy for a Borough Councillor in the St Giles ward was filled following the poll on 12 December 2019 and the newly elected Councillor is Jim French.
 Cllr Tebbut: is unable to attend the meeting but wished to draw attention to attention to the "Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan - Publication Plan Consultation" document and to note that a public event has been organised for 21 January 2020 at Marlow House, from 5 pm to 7pm.
 Cllr French: has no report to make yet.
 Any report from other Borough Councillors will be circulated.
- 150.3./19 Rothwell North Working Party**
 The Council has been advised that Persimmon Homes intends to construct a new junction for the development off the B576 Desborough Road in Rothwell. To undertake this work safely will require that there is a temporary speed restriction of 30mph between Glebe Farm and Greening Road roundabout. The works are due to take up to twenty weeks and is expected commence on 27 January 2020. The extent of the restriction can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=115852254>.
It was noted that there was no further news about the approval of the Construction Management Plan.
- 150.4./19 Desborough Town Welfare Charity**
 The Vice-Chair of the Charity outlined the history and activity of the charity which, she said, existed to help individuals and families with financial help immediately in response to applications for help, all on a confidential basis. She added that the charity was working with Accommodation Concern.
- RESOLVED that:-
 the information contained in the reports be noted.**
- 151./19 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PLANNING REPORT**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
In accordance with the views expressed by Councillors, any comments which were uncontentious and uncontested were submitted to the relevant planning authority as set out in the report attached at Appendix B.
**RESOLVED that:-
 the report be accepted.**
- 152./19 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE FINANCE REPORT**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the report at Appendix C.
**RESOLVED that:-
 the report be accepted.**
- 153./19 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND TO NOTE THOSE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
The report set out at Appendix D details those invoices and payments for payment, those authorised in accordance with the scheme of delegation, and those where payment is by continuous authority; and the Council is RECOMMENDED to approve payment. Details in the report will be updated before the meeting as information is received.
**RESOLVED that:-
 the recommendation be accepted.**

154./19 TO NOTE INFORMATION ITEMS**154.1./19 Kettering Borough Council's Budget Consultation**

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been invited to attend Kettering Borough Councils budget consultation meeting in its Kettering Offices on 23 January 2020 at 19:00. The meeting will give an opportunity to be briefed on the Borough Council's budget position, key issues, timescales, and the challenges facing the Borough Council after April 2020. If the Council wishes to raise any questions or issues it is asked to give five working day's notice.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

154.2./19 To Note Changes to Parking Enforcement in the Borough

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Kettering Borough Council will be taking over responsibility for enforcing parking in the Borough of Kettering and will have powers to issue fines to motorists from 3 February 2020.

The introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) means that Kettering Borough Council will be responsible for enforcing on-street parking controls instead of the Police. Under the new powers the Council is able to retain the income from penalties and plans to employ more staff to enforce the existing rules. This means there will be more Environment and Parking Wardens patrolling the borough's streets and tackling anti-social behaviour, illegal parking, and environmental crime. The additional resources enable officers to patrol areas across the Borough where there are problems with unsafe and inconsiderate parking. The new service is being developed with Northamptonshire County Council.

A website has been created to show the restrictions and rules on every street in the Borough www.northamptonshiretraffweb.co.uk.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

154.3./19 Changes to Bus Timetables

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Stagecoach proposes to make changes to its commercially-operated bus services from 22/23 February 2020.

The summary of changes in the Corby, Kettering and East Northants areas is set out in Appendix E. The changes most affecting Desborough are:-

17 *Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial and Kettering Hospital.*

Poorly used evening journeys withdrawn i.e.:

- *The 1839 Ise Lodge to Desborough journey will only run to Kettering Town Centre on Monday to Friday*
- *The 1918 journey Desborough to Kettering will be withdrawn*

18 *Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial / Columbus Crescent and Kettering Hospital. Journeys withdrawn between Market Harborough Station & Market Harborough Market Hall.*

19 *Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial and Kettering Hospital.*

Stagecoach has asked that any comments be sent by email to midlands.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com but has clarified that suggestions / comments may not be considered or acted upon in the February changes but would be taken into account in later Network Reviews.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

154.4./19 Memorial Gardens Landscaping Works

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been informed by the Borough Council that it proposes to remove the very large conifer trees along with the Hawthorne hedging, ivy, and shrubs, at the site's eastern boundary, and extending along the northern and southern boundaries too. The gravel will be removed and the area will be laid to lawn. The two conifers and the bench in the grassed area will be retained. A narrow bed

along the eastern boundary will be established and once the surfacing has settled the Borough Council will look at reintroducing further planting.

The works will be carried out by private contractors and Borough Council employees and are provisionally scheduled for February but this is entirely weather and ground conditions dependant. Information and warning signs will be installed prior to the works. A sketch plan is attached at Appendix F.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

154.5./19

To Receive and Note a Report About the Council's Budget Consultation Exercise

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The consultation exercise undertaken by the Council has now concluded. A drop-in session was held in the Council's offices on Saturday 4 January 2020 to listen to people's ideas for the coming year and beyond. The Council would like to thank all those who engaged with the process in whatever form: by returning the paper leaflet, by completing the online survey, by speaking with us directly, by email, and by letter.

Responses were received from approximately 65 different streets covering both wards. We received 141 comments by the closing date, broken down as follows:-

Respondent out of area	1
Respondent commented twice	7
No information to identify respondent	6

Over thirty suggestions were made by more than five people (similar suggestions were amalgamated). Twenty-three suggestions had more than ten supporters. Those comments / suggestion receiving support from more than twenty respondents are shown below.

Combined suggestions gaining support of over 10 respondents

	Suggestion	In favour	Against
Transport	Pot holes / road maintenance / drainage	69	
Traffic	Speed signs (smiley face)	53	10
Trees	Tree planting: Greenspace/The Plens/Dunkirk Ave Rec	50	5
Policing	PCSO / Police officers	42	
Transport	Parking	39	
Transport	Parking enforcement (inc at schools)	36	
Transport	Electric vehicle charging points	29	7
Transport	One way system (Gladstone / Nic)	28	4
Transport	One way system (Town centre / High St)	28	3
Business / retail	Retail mix improved	27	
Policing	CCTV	26	
Transport	Cycle path / footpath improvements	24	

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

154.6./19

To Receive an Update on the Reorganisation of Councils in Northamptonshire

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The legislation (Structural Change Order - SCO) that formalises the creation of two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire was laid before the General Election was called in 2019. It was considered by the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee and was noted as an 'instrument of interest' before purdah started. Then the SCO lay dormant whilst there was no Government in place.

It is expected that the SCO will be advanced quickly although the process usually takes 6-8 weeks. If approved, it would mean that the term of office of Councillors elected in May 2020 would continue until May 2025.

The next meeting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee was scheduled to take place on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 18:30 at Corby Borough Council

https://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1805/north_northamptonshire_joint_committee

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

155./19

TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21 AND FUNDS TO BE EARMARKED FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has a statutory duty to set a budget each year which should cover the cost of all its duties and any discretionary expenditure it might wish to make. Under normal circumstances, it would be expected that proper estimates (although not quotations or tenders) would be available to inform the Council in determining the budget. However, the short period of time between the consultation and the date by which any precept must be submitted to Kettering Borough Council means that not all budgetary processes have been completed.

The views expressed in both the consultation process and the consultation session have been taken into account in preparing the DRAFT items for 2020/21. These are based on the best estimate of costs. Clearly, it has not been possible to cost all of the suggestions and comments made during the consultation, however, many of the matters raised were not financial or were the clear responsibility of the Borough or County Council, or third parties.

As last year, the draft figures cover the main cost centres:-

- *Democratic Services (including all staff costs direct and indirect, training, audit, Data Protection, Information Commissioner, publicity, elections/polls)*
- *Memberships and subscriptions (county and national societies)*
- *Town Council Office (including rent, rates, connectivity, services)*
- *Administration (including office expenses, equipment, software, website, emails, insurance, Christmas lights, speed signs, pocket park, legal costs)*
- *Projects (including many of the suggestions made before and during the consultation)*

The DRAFT figures contain a number of contingency sums, provisional items, and some which may not occur in the coming financial year. Further details of these items will be available as identified if approved for priority.

As last year, it is impossible to accurately gauge the impact of local government cuts and Local Government Reorganisation. Councillors are advised to make their own judgements about what services might be lost or cut and whether or not they wish to make provision for them. A cursory glance at other Councils' budgets and cuts might produce items such as: grit bins; grass cutting of verges; and street lighting. Other highway service reductions are due to be considered by the County Council soon and the impact is currently unknown.

Subject to the Council's decisions on projects and expenditure for the coming year, the Responsible Financial Officer would urge the Council to aim to reduce the high level of balances within a three year period, and to earmark funds for items which it considers appropriate for the Town Council to fund (rather than another Local Authority). This would also allow the Council to manage the expenditure adequately, retain a buffer against the impact of the effects of the impending reorganisation of local government in the County, and current national uncertainties.

The Council is REQUESTED to identify those items on which it wishes to proceed from reserves and earmarked amounts; to authorise the Town Clerk to clarify estimates for those items to be considered further and funded from earmarked funds or reserves notwithstanding Financial Regulations; and to approve the budget for 2019/20.

It was noted that Councillors had not had time to fully consider the report and it was

RESOLVED that:-

the matter be deferred to a meeting of the Council on Thursday 23 February 2020.

156./19

TO CONSIDER LEVYING A COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT IN 2020/21 AND IF SO TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT.

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

If the Council determines that the expenditure budgeted cannot or should not be funded entirely from reserves and income, then it must resolve to make a precept (a charge from one local authority to another) specifying the rate of tax to be charged on its behalf. Currently, the capacity of Town and Parish Councils to set precepts is uncapped unlike Borough and County Councils. However, it is imprudent to assume that this situation will remain. If the Council chose to set a very low or even zero precept and the following year a cap was introduced the Council would not be able to function once balances ran out. Even if no such cap was introduced, to have a low (or nil) precept then to impose a precept which is dramatically higher would be unwise. Having said that, it would be equally unwise to attempt to reduce the Council's reserves within a single financial year. With regard to reserves, the Good Councillor's Guide to Finance and Transparency (DCLG) states: "Local councils need to hold an amount in reserves to meet unexpected expenditure, otherwise they could run out of money before the end of the financial year. A council should typically hold between 3 and 12 months expenditure as a general reserve."

Kettering Borough Council requires the precept decision to be communicated to it by 24 January 2020. Following the setting of the budget, the Town Clerk will advise on the impact of the spending proposals and the possible precept.

Calculation of the precept is based on the tax base which is the number of Band D equivalent properties that are relevant for each area. For Desborough the 2019/20 tax base was 3,792 band D properties.

For indicative purposes, a £10,000 would produce the following charges:

Band	A 6/9ths	B 7/9ths	C 8/9ths	D 9/9ths	E 11/9ths	F 13/9ths	G 15/9ths	H 18/9ths
Annual charge	£1.76	£2.05	£2.35	£2.64	£3.23	£3.81	£4.40	£5.28

The Council has a statutory duty to set a budget each year which should cover the cost of all its duties and any discretionary expenditure it might wish to make. Under normal circumstances, it would be expected that proper estimates (although **not** quotations or tenders) would be available to inform the Council in determining the budget. However, the short period of time between the consultation and the date by which any precept must be submitted to Kettering Borough Council means that not all budgetary processes have been completed.

The views expressed in both the consultation process and the consultation session have been taken into account in preparing the DRAFT items for 2020/21. These are based on the best estimate of costs. Clearly, it has not been possible to cost all of the suggestions and comments made during the consultation, however, many of the matters raised were not financial or were the clear responsibility of the Borough or County Council, or third parties.

As last year, the draft figures cover the main cost centres:-

- Democratic Services (including all staff costs direct and indirect, training, audit, Data Protection, Information Commissioner, publicity, elections/polls)
- Memberships and subscriptions (county and national societies)
- Town Council Office (including rent, rates, connectivity, services)
- Administration (including office expenses, equipment, software, website, emails, insurance, Christmas lights, speed signs, pocket park, legal costs)
- Projects (including many of the suggestions made before and during the consultation)

The DRAFT figures contain a number of contingency sums, provisional items, and some which may not occur in the coming financial year. Further details of these items will be available as identified if approved for priority.

As last year, it is impossible to accurately gauge the impact of local government cuts and Local Government Reorganisation. Councillors are advised to make their own judgements about what services might be lost or cut and whether or not they wish to make provision for them. A cursory glance at other Councils' budgets and cuts might produce items such as: grit bins; grass cutting of verges; and street lighting. Other highway service reductions are due to be considered by the County Council soon and the impact is currently unknown.

Subject to the Council's decisions on projects and expenditure for the coming year, the Responsible Financial Officer would urge the Council to aim to reduce the high level of balances within a three year period, and to earmark funds for items which it considers appropriate for the Town Council to fund (rather than another Local Authority). This would also allow the Council to manage the expenditure adequately, retain a buffer against the impact of the effects of the impending reorganisation of local government in the County, and current national uncertainties.

The Council is REQUESTED to identify those items on which it wishes to proceed from reserves and earmarked amounts; to authorise the Town Clerk to clarify estimates for those items to be considered further and funded from earmarked funds or reserves notwithstanding Financial Regulations; and to approve the budget for 2019/20.

It was noted that it was not lawful to consider levying any Council tax precept until after the budget had been determined.

RESOLVED that:-

the matter be deferred to a meeting of the Council on Thursday 23 February 2020.

The meeting closed at 20:57

Signed by the Chair: _____

Date: _____

TVAS Speed Data (smiley face signs)

2 January 2020 to 9 January 2020

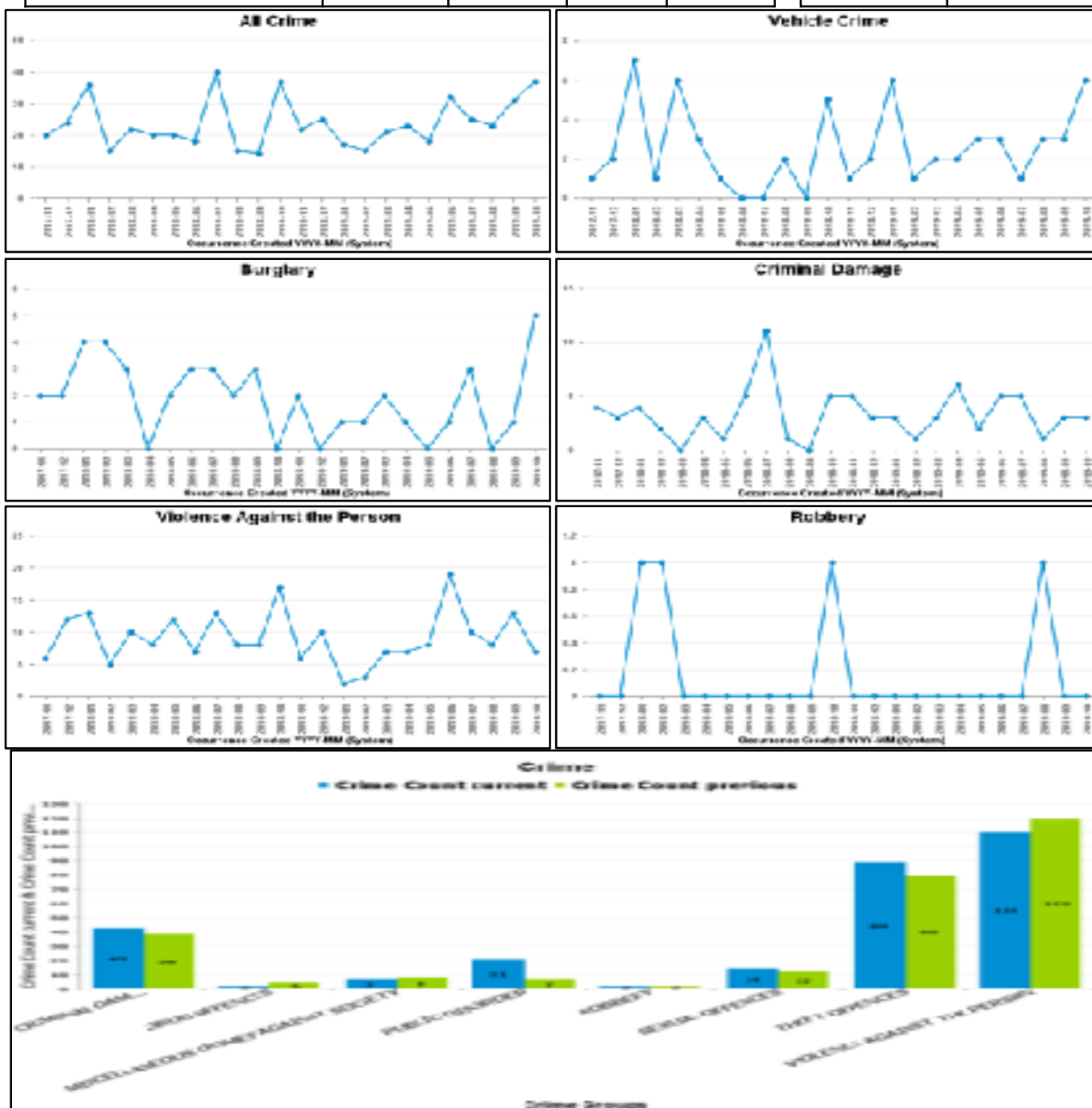
Speed	Rothwell Road (boundary)	Rothwell Road (Wacoal)	Harborough Road
Exceeding ACPO/NPCC	36,587	8,906	4,172
40 to 49 mph	16,884	2,390	680
50 to 59 mph	5,096	153	28
60 to 69 mph	755	16	1
70 to 79 mph	73	1	1
80 to 89 mph	10	0	0
90 to 99 mph	1	0	0
Average Speed	36	29	28
85% Speed	45	34	33
Maximum Speed	99	75	70
No of Records	74,993	64,363	42,313
Speed violations % into Desborough	40.7	17.9	32.0
Speed violations % out of Desborough	85.7	49.8	33.8
Daily Vehicles	Rothwell Road (boundary)	Rothwell Road (Wacoal)	Harborough Road
Monday	11,009	9,723	7,825
Tuesday	11,425	9,901	7,755
Wednesday	10,764	9,709	2,809
Thursday	11,822	9,811	3,220
Friday	11,165	9,356	7,723
Saturday	10,097	8,537	6,921
Sunday	8,711	7,326	6,060

DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020

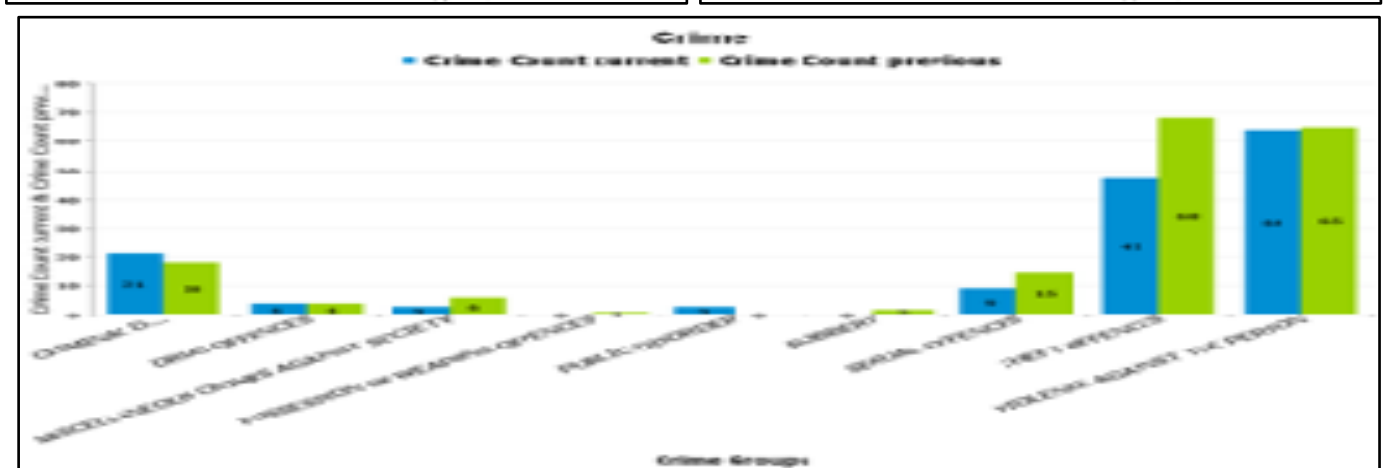
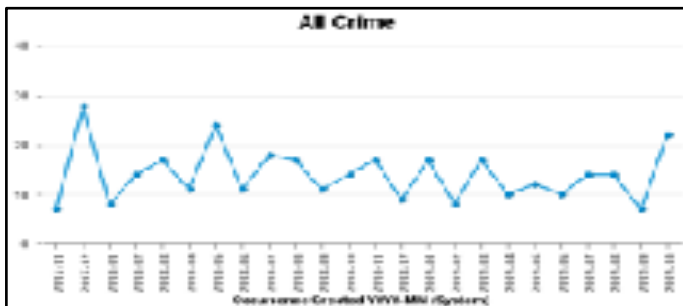
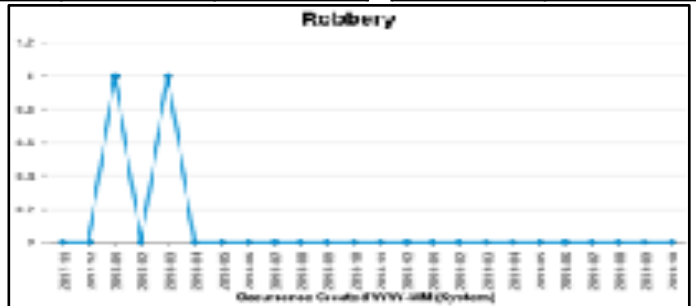
ANNEXE 1

Crime Data

Crime Group	Current 12 Months	Previous 12 Months	+/- Crime	% Change	Number of Resolved Crimes	Resolution Rate (12 Months)
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON	41	40	1	2.50%	3	7.32%
DRUG OFFENCES	2	4	-2	-50.00%	4	200.00%
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	9	8	1	12.50%	0	0.00%
PUBLIC DISORDER	21	9	12	133.33%	5	23.81%
ROBBERY	1	3	-2	-66.67%	0	0.00%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	12	14	-2	-14.29%	1	8.33%
THEFT OFFENCES	103	84	19	22.62%	0	0.00%
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	100	119	-19	-15.97%	25	25.00%
Sum:	289	281	8	2.85%	38	13.15%



Crime Group	Current 12 Months	Previous 12 Months	+/- Crime	% Change	Number of Resolved Crimes	Resolution Rate (12 Months)
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON	21	18	3	16.67%	1	4.76%
DRUG OFFENCES	4	4	0	0.00%	4	100.00%
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	3	6	-3	-50.00%	1	33.33%
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	0	1	-1	-100.00%	0	#DIV/0
PUBLIC DISORDER	3	0	3	#DIV/0	0	0.00%
ROBBERY	0	2	-2	-100.00%	1	#DIV/0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	9	15	-6	-40.00%	6	66.67%
THEFT OFFENCES	47	68	-21	-30.88%	0	0.00%
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	64	65	-1	-1.54%	10	15.63%
Sum:	151	179	-28	-15.64%	23	15.23%



DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020

APPENDIX B

Planning and Licensing Matters

[KET/2019/0815](#)

52 Burdock Way, Desborough
 KET/2017/0859 (Two storey side extension): Alterations to door and window to front elevation

[KET/2019/0799](#)

16 Pioneer Avenue, Desborough
 Single storey rear extension

[KET/2019/0777](#)

Mr & Mrs Williams
 52 Braybrooke Road, Desborough
 1 no. dwelling and associated works including creation of vehicular access and parking to new dwelling and to No. 52 Braybrooke Road

[KET/2019/0884](#)

149 Dunkirk Avenue, Desborough
 Demolish conservatory. Construction of single storey side extension and decking to rear

[KET/2019/0823](#)

Unit 3c, Woodside, Stoke Albany Road, Desborough
 Proposed development: Change of use from storage (B8) to mixed use of storage (B8), car repairs and car sales

[KET/2019/0892](#)

44 Rowan Close, Desborough
 Garage conversion to personal gym/store

[KET/2020/0009](#)

17 Rothwell Road, Desborough
 Single storey extension to extend beyond the rear wall of the original property by 6.15m with a maximum height of 2.70m and an eaves height of 2.50m

DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020

APPENDIX C

Finance Report
Monthly Bank Reconciliation

Bank reconciliation	31/12/2010
Barclays Current	£100.00
Barclays business saver	£117,318.12
Unity Current T2	£7,123.26
Unity Deposit	£127,128.73
CCLA	£300,000.00
Reconciled Balance	£551,670.11

Income:

Room hire fees £31.00
 CCLA interest (Dec) £170.21
 CCLA interest (Jan) £188.78
 Unity Bank interest £138.73
 Barclay's Bank Interest £150.49

Charges:

Unity Bank £21.45

DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020

APPENDIX D

Accounts for payment

	Cost centre	Supplier	Reason	VAT	Total
+	Administration	SLCC	Postage for reference book	£0.80	£4.80
+	Administration	Autela Payroll Services	Payroll	£0.00	£47.08
	Administration	Netwise uk	Website and emails	£0.00	£300.00
+	Town Council Office	TalkTalk business	Internet and telephone (Dec, Jan)	£8.97	£53.80
+	Administration	Rural Trader	Consultation meeting advert	£15.04	£90.24
	Administration	Local Leaflet Drop	Delivery of consultation leaflets	£36.21	£217.26
	Administration	Quantum Print	Printing of consultation leaflets	£0.00	£185.00
+	Administration	SurveyMonkey	Online survey	£6.34	£38.00
+	Town Council Office	NCC	Office rent 010120 - 310320	£0.00	£2,000.00
+	Administration	Initial Washroom Services	Hygiene disposal	£16.33	£97.97
	Administration	Pino Plant Hire	Pocket Park drainage	£67.60	£399.60
+	Democratic Services	Mr G Thomson	Salary (December, January) Overtime (November, December) Salary adjustment	£0.00	£4,805.34
+	Democratic Services	LGSS Pensions	Pension (employee's and employer's contributions)	£0.00	£2,189.61

+ Paid in accordance with delegated or continuous authority

Changes to bus timetables - Corby/Kettering (inc. East Northants)

- 1 Additional running time introduced in peaks. Evening frequency reduced to every 20 minutes on Mondays to Fridays
Early morning and afternoon times adjusted to improve reliability
The following journeys will be withdrawn:-
 - 0627 Corby to Farmsted Road – Monday to Friday
 The 0636 Beanfield to Willowbrook Road journey will start from George Street at 0657 – Monday to Friday
- 2 Early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn – minimal usage. Additional running time introduced – up to 7 minutes from CBA to Kettering Town Centre
The following journeys will be withdrawn:-
 - 0546 Corby to Kettering – Saturday
 - 2026 Kettering to Corby - Monday to Saturday
 - 1924 Kettering to Corby Saturday
 The 1931 Stephenson Way to Kettering will only run to George Street – Monday to Friday
- 3 Additional running time introduced in peaks. Evening frequency reduced to every 20 minutes on Mondays to Fridays
- 3C Service withdrawn – minimal usage on 1620 Wicksteed Park to Corby journey
- 10 The 0705 Mawsley to Kettering journey withdrawn along with 1810 Kettering to Mawsley Saturday journey. Additional running time introduced particularly in the peak + 8 minutes 0633 from Northampton and +11 minutes 1645 from Northampton
- 17 Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial and Kettering Hospital. Poorly used evening journeys withdrawn i.e.:
 - The 1839 Ise Lodge to Desborough journey will only run to Kettering Town Centre on Monday to Friday
 - The 1918 journey Desborough to Kettering will be withdrawn
- 18 Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial / Columbus Crescent and Kettering Hospital. Journeys withdrawn between Market Harborough Station & Market Harborough Market Hall.
- 19 Additional running time introduced to improve reliability particularly between Kettering Hospital and Town Centre and between Rothwell Memorial and Kettering Hospital.
- 47 Early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn – minimal usage. Additional running time introduced at least 5 minutes in off peak (round trip).
The following journeys will be withdrawn:-
 - 0549 Kettering to Burton Latimer – Monday to Friday
 - 1953 Kettering to Finedon – Monday to Friday
 - 1921 Burton Latimer to Kettering – Monday to Saturday
 - 2027 Finedon to Kettering – Monday to Saturday
 - 0454 Kettering to Burton Latimer – Saturday
 - 0515 Burton Latimer to Kettering – Saturday
 - 0615 Altendiez Way to Kettering – Saturday
 The 1828 Bonham Court (Almond Road) to Burton Latimer would only run to Kettering and not continue to Burton Latimer – Monday to Saturday.
The 0615 Burton Latimer (Altendiez Way) to Kettering combined with 0615 Churchill Way to Kettering journey - Monday to Friday
Service rerouted via Margaret Road rather than Jean Road to avoid parked cars issue
- 48 Early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn – minimal usage. Additional running time introduced
 - The 1858 Bonham Court (Almond Road) to Wellingborough will only run to Kettering Horsemarket and not continue to Wellingborough
 - Service rerouted via Margaret Road rather than Jean Road to avoid parked cars issue

- 49 - Early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn i.e.:-
 - 0645 Burton Latimer to Kettering – Monday to Friday
 - 2018 Rushden to Kettering – Monday to Friday
 - 0650 Burton Latimer to Kettering – Saturday
 - 2023 Rushden to Kettering – Saturday
 - 0600 & 0640 Rushden to Wellingborough – Saturday
 - 1908 Kettering to Rushden – Saturday
- 50 Early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn i.e.:-
- 0633 Kettering to Irthlingborough (College Days)
- The 1838 Kettering to Bedford will only run to Rushden Monday to Friday and not continue to Bedford
The 2019 Bedford to Kettering will no longer start from Bedford but will continue to run from Rushden to Kettering, Monday to Friday.
- X4 Early morning Corby to Peterborough journeys withdrawn on Saturday. Poorly used evening journeys withdrawn. Additional running time introduced.
The following journeys will be withdrawn:-
- 0508 Kettering to Peterborough – Saturdays
 - 1848 Peterborough Rail Station to Corby – Saturday
 - In addition the 1318 Northampton to Oundle will only run to Corby and not continue onto Oundle on Mondays to Fridays, the 1840 Peterborough to Kettering journey will only run to Corby Monday to Friday
 - The 0652 Peterborough to Northampton journey will now start from Oundle at 0729 (not Peterborough), Saturdays.
 - The 1603 Northampton to Peterborough Saturday journey will only run to Corby and will no longer continue to Peterborough.
- X10 0735 Northampton to Kettering Saturday journey withdrawn. Additional running time introduced and times redistributed to match AVL data.

DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
16 JANUARY 2020

APPENDIX F

Desborough Memorial Gardens

