

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 19 February 2009.

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr M Tebbutt (Chairman), Cllr P Goodman (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Coe, Cllr D Bindley, Cllr I Hollinshead, Cllr P Malin, Cllr M Dearing, Cllr D Soans

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: Cllr B Humfrey - County Councillor, PC Jim O’Hara 944, PCSO J Parish, PCSO S Strong, Mr J Kemp and Mr A Mould - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, Ms R Collins - Senior Development Officer KBC, Cllr R Roberts - Borough Councillor KBC, Ms P Bellamy - Infrastructure and Asset Development Manager KBC, Mr N Gray - Practice Manager and Dr P Aspinall – Senior Partner Desborough Surgery, Mr Howes, Ecklands Lodge Business Centre. There were many members of the public present at the meeting a number requested to speak: Mr G Reid, M Easton, Mr H Patel, R Wakelin, S Burthorpe, N, K & S Bapodora.

6555	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Dixon, Cllr G Durward and Cllr J Derbyshire</p>
6556	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Soans would not take part in any consideration of planning matters as he is on the Planning Committee at the Borough Council.</p>
6557	<p>Police report</p> <p>PC O’Hara talked through the monthly parish crime report for January. He confirmed that this did not include figures for anti-social behaviour. PC O’Hara asked whether any of the Councillors or members of the public had any questions he could take back to the Safer Community Team.</p> <p>Cllr Dearing raised the issue of HGV’s constantly coming through Rothwell and Desborough.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman stated that she had seen a lorry parked on the road opposite DASCO with its wheels on the pavement and the curtains in the cab closed.</p>

6558

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Mr J Kemp and Mr A Mould attended the meeting and gave comprehensive reports for their areas of responsibility:

Mr J Kemp co-ordinates a scheme 48 to 116 Harborough Road. The main issues that have been brought to his attention by members of the public in his area are:

- Street lights 38,39 & 40 along Harborough Road are still not working even though they have been reported on a number of occasions, most recently through the Response Centre at the Desborough Library
- Groups of youths in the town at night can make residents feel threatened
- More police on foot are needed in the Town Centre
- There has been an increase in thefts from vehicles and burglaries
- There is a continued problem of HGVs still coming through Desborough and not using the by-pass
- Speeding along the B576

It was noted that the Town Council have raised the issue of the HGVs on many occasions. It was agreed that there needs to be clear signage on the A14.

It was highlighted that during November and December the police caught 14 vehicles speeding along the B576 in Desborough. It was found that a number of these also had no insurance. The police are planning more campaigns as it is a priority issue for Desborough.

Mr Kemp also commented on the draft NCC ‘Concern About Crime and Anti Social Behaviour’ Strategy. He referred to the section on quality of life in respect of the state of the town centre identifying the lack of response from KBC’s Cleansing Department in March 2008 when litter was dumped immediately after the railway bridge. Mr Kemp stated that the section on reducing concern about crime needs to produce positive changes on the ground.

Mr Mould is the Co-ordinator for Dunkirk Avenue and oversees 13 schemes in the area. He is also on the Neighbourhood Watch Support Group for Kettering and the County Executive.

The main concern the members of the public he deals with have are their perception that they live in a crime ridden area. This is not the case. Many residents also feel threatened by youths in the Town Centre. He stated that we are sometimes short of ‘good news’ from the police in respect of arrests and prosecutions .

Mr Mould highlighted two ‘good news’ stories in respect of the recovery of a stolen vehicle and the police’s quick response to some aggressive/persistent door to door salespeople during the recent bad weather.

6559	Representations from members of the public
6559.1	<p>Mr Graham Reid, member of the public, highlighted that the Harborough Road is very dark where the street lighting is not working and that the road surface has broken up in places onto the pavement. It was noted that the issue of the street lights has been reported.</p> <p>Mr Reid also raised the concern of dog fouling on the footpaths around Desborough. He explained that in some areas of Leicestershire that a stencil is sprayed on the footpath stating ‘Do not let your dog foul on the footpath’. Cllr Tebbutt stated that this issue comes up regularly with particular problems around the schools. Cllr Tebbutt has replaced stickers however new signs will be available from April as the law is changing. It was <u>AGREED</u> to write to Environmental Care at KBC highlighting the stencil idea.</p>
6559.2	<p>Cllr Tebbutt also explained that no more dog bins are to be installed. Dog waste can now be placed in normal bins. There are however not enough bins in Desborough and no bins on The Grange and Harborough Road. This issue has been highlighted to the Head of Environmental Care at KBC. The Planning Department at KBC have also been approached to ask the developers whether they will provide a number of bins on The Grange which will be maintained by KBC. A number of the Borough Councillors have provided bins out of their Ward Initiative Funds, however, they are very costly at approximately £500 each.</p> <p>Four members of the public (S Burthorpe, R Wakelin, M Easton and Mr H Patel) spoke about the Lawrence Factory site as it has been brought to their attention that there are plans for a Tesco store to be built on this site. There is concern that if this goes ahead it will put many of the small traders in Desborough out of business. It is felt that a key issue for Desborough is to maintain a ‘sense of place and civic pride’ and this will not necessarily be achieved by building a supermarket. Many people in Desborough wish their concerns and reservations to be heard and noted.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt advised that at present no specific planning applications have been received by KBC, therefore, it is not known which supermarkets may submit plans, for which area of the town and for what size of store.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman suggested that the small traders should consider joining the Business Club and make their views felt through this avenue. At the Town meeting in October 2008 organised by the Town Centre Partnership it was felt that one of the main issues for Desborough is to be able to increase the footfall in the Town Centre. Development on both the Lawrence Site and Key Site 1 could be interchangeable.</p> <p>Cllr Dearing expressed the view that the vast majority of people do want something to happen to regenerate the Town Centre. The introduction of a brand</p>

<p>6560</p>	<p>Ms Rebecca Collins, Senior Development Officer KBC - Desborough/Rothwell Urban Extension Area Action Plan – Position Statement</p> <p>Ms Collins explained that KBC would like to gain the public’s views on the Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Action Plan: Position Statement. This is a draft document which will form a key part of the Local Development Framework. She confirmed that the Position Statement makes reference to Desborough Town Centre.</p> <p>The original feasibility study undertaken by KBC on the Lawrence Factory site and Key Site 1 identified through public consultation a number of uses for these sites, however, the feasibility study undertaken at this time concluded that these options were not commercially viable. Ms Collins stated that KBC have been approached by a number of supermarkets and a further feasibility study led by Ms J Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive at KBC has been commissioned. Once this study has been completed the findings will be made public.</p> <p>Cllr Coe raised concern about the supporting road network for the additional 700 houses identified in the Action Plan.</p> <p>The position statement documents were available at the meeting or from Rothwell, Desborough, Kettering and Burton Latimer Libraries and Kettering Borough Council. Online at: http://consult.kettering.gov.uk/portal or by telephone: 01536 534316.</p> <p>Consultation commenced on 16th February 2009 and closes at 5.30pm on 30th March 2009. Comments can be made via the website as detailed above using the interactive consultation portal or by writing to Development Services – Planning Policy, Kettering Borough Council, Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 7QZ.</p> <p>Two consultation exhibitions have been organised by KBC. Council Officers will be available to discuss the Position Statement and policy directions, listen to views and answer questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 4 March, 3pm to 8pm at Rothwell Methodist Church, Market Square Rothwell;• Thursday 5 March, 3pm to 8pm at St Giles Community Centre, Off Lower Street, Desborough
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Mr Norman Gray – Practice Manager & Dr P Aspinall, Senior Partner, Desborough Surgery

Further to Dr Aspinall’s letter to the Desborough Town Council dated 15th December 2008 he explained in detail how blood tests are currently provided by the Desborough and Rothwell Surgeries and how this is funded. He raised concern that the Town Council had been misinformed as to the funding of this service. Cllr Soans confirmed that a representative from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) attends the A6 Towns Forum who had reported that the Rothwell & Desborough surgeries are fully funded for the provision of blood tests. Cllr Soans will ask the PCT representative why they have been misinformed.

Dr Aspinall stated that they receive less than £10 per hour (£9335 per annum) to provide a phlebotomy service which is to include labour, utilities, clinical waste etc. As a result patients who are able to travel are asked to attend Kettering General Hospital or Corby Diagnostic Centre for blood tests. The funding is directed to Kettering General Hospital to contribute towards the costs of the phlebotomist and the Desborough/Rothwell Surgeries provide the rooms etc. at no charge. Dr Aspinall highlighted that there is also an issue of space at the Desborough Surgery which is currently fully utilised. Cllr Humfrey asked how much it would cost to provide a full service at Desborough, for example, with an extension to the building. Dr Aspinall commented that this had not been calculated and would require a lot of work to cost.

Dr Aspinall suggested that the Town Council may wish to write to the PCT to request an increase in funding for the phlebotomy service; however, he felt that monies available from the PCT would not be able to sustain a full phlebotomy service in both the Desborough and Rothwell Towns for 19,000 patients. The way forward would be to put the phlebotomy service for both Rothwell and Desborough out to tender to get a realistic point of view of how much it would cost to provide a comprehensive service.

Mr Gray stated that there had been rumours that the Desborough Surgery will be closed down and moved to the new surgery at Rothwell. This is not the case. Mr Gray also confirmed that a new nurse practitioner service is to be introduced at Desborough Surgery and they are recruiting another GP. They have also recently introduced an extended hours service predominately aimed at commuters; however, the surgeries are open to everybody as they cannot discriminate between patients.

Cllr Coe asked whether it is the Rothwell Health Centre that is sinking. Mr Gray confirmed that this issue relates to the Rothwell Community Centre and not the Health Centre.

Cllr Tebbutt thanked both Mr Gray and Dr Aspinall for attending the meeting.

<p>6562</p>	<p>Cllr R Roberts, Borough Councillor, KBC</p> <p>Cllr Roberts thanked the Chairman for letting him attend the meeting. He confirmed that following a period of consultation in respect of the existing Leisure Centre in Desborough there will be no change to the opening times for the Centre.</p>
<p>6563</p>	<p>Ms Pia Bellamy, Infrastructure & Asset Development Manager, KBC</p> <p>Ms Bellamy showed Town Councillors the up-dated plans for the new Leisure Centre for Desborough which is to be built at The Grange. It is hoped that the planning application when submitted by CJC Developers will include both Phase 1 and 2 which will then show the complete layout for the internal and external space and the mix of activities to be provided. It is hoped that the planning application will be submitted in the March/April planning cycle. Under Section 106 CJC have to provide the Leisure Centre building, car parking, landscaping, under 13's play are, the neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) and the multi-use generic area (MUGA).</p> <p>Cllr Coe highlighted that the new Centre will not be like for like in respect of facilities as there is no bar/social room, skate park, football pitches or cricket pitch. Cllr Dearing commented that the s.106 agreement for the new facility had to be like for like in respect of size. This does not allow for the replication of facilities due to changes in Sport for England requirements.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt asked Ms Bellamy to investigate making monies available to enable the squash courts to be added at the same time as the new facility is built by arrangement with the developers.</p> <p>Cllr Bindley highlighted that the soil in the area where the Leisure Centre is to be built is mainly clay and appropriate drainage will therefore need to be considered.</p> <p>Mr Reid, member of the public, commented that an astro-turf surface should be considered on the two junior football pitches.</p> <p>Cllr Bindley asked what will happen with the existing Leisure Centre. Ms Bellamy stated that no decision has been made in respect of this.</p> <p>Ms Bellamy said that a Sports Facility Strategy is currently being developed and will soon be out for consultation. At this time an appropriate manager from KBC will be invited to attend a Town Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt thanked Ms Bellamy for attending the meeting.</p>

6565

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Humfrey expressed her appreciation for all of the work undertaken in Desborough on the roads and Safe Routes for Schools by NCC over the past 3 years.

Cllr Humfrey reported that following the snow NCC have started to clear the drains. All drains/gullies are to be cleared by the end of April by the new NCC contractor.

Cllr Humfrey reported that her Empowering Councillors and Communities Fund has now been spent. She recently agreed to pay just under £3,000 for drainage works to be undertaken at the Desborough Pocket Park and the final £300 has been given to the Desborough Town Football Club.

Cllr Humfrey congratulated the Desborough Pocket Park Volunteer Group on organising an excellent volunteer day with the support of Ruth Rolls, Pocket Parks Officer, NCC.

Cllr Humfrey explained that she is on a number of committees at NCC including the Child and Young Peoples' Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Humfrey has been visiting schools recently to look at how well they have done following Ofsted visits. This has involved an interview with the Head Teacher.

Cllr Humfrey told the Town Council about a school in Northampton which has been in special measures and how this has been dealt with.

Cllr Tebbutt stated that after January's Town Council meeting a letter had been sent to Cllr Seery, Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways, NCC with regard to the current service level agreements for the treatment of potholes, the cleaning of highways drains and the maintenance of trees. The Clerk has received an acknowledgement to the letter sent and awaits a full response.

It was noted that many areas of the Harborough Road above the railway bridge as far as the crossing have broken up in the recent bad weather. Cllr Humfrey stated that this section of road was resurfaced 7 years ago which should last for 25 years. At the roundabout where the A6 joins the Harborough Road the road surface has been broken up by HGVs.

Cllr Bindley reported that the recently resurfaced Mansefield Close car park has held up well during the recent bad weather.

6566	<p>Borough Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Cllr Soans reported that the workload of the Planning Department at KBC had reduced recently which will enable them to concentrate on other areas of work, such as, The Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Area Action Plan, the Feasibility Study for the Town Centre and the new Leisure Centre.</p> <p>A meeting of the A6 Towns Forum was held on 11th February 2009. The Police were in attendance at the meeting reporting a drop in crime. They are however aiming to continue to improve crime figures and not become complacent. Also presented to the meeting was a budget proposal report and information on the Local Development Framework. The Town & Parish Council Funding Timeline for introducing a new system was issued. A copy of this was provided to Councillors. Mark Churcher and John Smith from Town Centre Partnerships were invited to the A6 Towns Forum. They asked whether they could attend all future meetings. The next meeting of the A6 Towns Forum is on 24th June 2009.</p> <p>Cllr Dearing reported that he had attended the recent meeting with Ms J Beckett in respect of a Desborough Regeneration update.</p> <p>Cllr Dearing stated that £1 in every £4 of all KBC council house rent goes to this Government which is approximately £3million for the Borough.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman expressed concern that there does not appear to be a huge amount of effort put into collecting Council Tax from non-payers. This would increase the money spent in the Borough. Cllr Tebbutt stated that this issue is looked at in the Monitoring & Audit Committee and a copy of a document on how much has been collected will be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>Chesham House, Kettering will be officially re-opened in April. They are working in partnership with Northampton University.</p>
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6567	Clerk's report
	The Clerk's report had been circulated and gave details of:
6567.1	The Clerk had sent all correspondence required after the last Council meeting.
6567.2	Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (CALC): It was <u>AGREED</u> to discuss at March's meeting whether the Town Council wishes to join CALC with effect from 1 st April 2009.
6567.3	Campaign to Protect Rural England CPRE (Minute 6551.15): It was <u>AGREED</u> to hold a litter pick on Saturday 21 st March 2009 between 10.00am and 12 midday. The areas primarily to be targeted are Rushton Road (the high banking), the Town Centre and Buckwell Street. Other organisations to be contacted were identified.
6567.4	Parish Emergency Planning: The NCC Emergency Planning Team is holding two parish emergency planning seminars in 2009. It was <u>AGREED</u> to consider whether the Town Council wishes to send a representative at March's meeting.
6567.5	Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Locations for Waste Development DPD Proposed Submission / Locations for Minerals Development DPD Proposed Submission: It was <u>AGREED</u> to adopt KBC's comments on the framework.
6567.6	Pocket Park (Minute 6551.2): The Volunteer Day held on 14 th February 2009 was very successful with over 50 volunteers both adults and children enjoying a very productive morning. The Grassroots funding bid has been submitted for consideration by Northamptonshire Community Foundation on 27 th February 2009.
6567.7	Higham Ferrers Town Council – Charity Concert: The R.A.F. Wyton Area Voluntary Band will present a concert on Saturday 9 th May 2009 at Bede House, Higham Ferrers. The Clerk has further details.
6567.8	MGWSP Rights of Way Officer: Mr Conor Garvey has been recently appointed as a Rights of Way Officer responsible for ROW area 5 which includes Desborough. Details of how to contact Mr Garvey were provided in the Clerk's report.
6567.9	Desborough Town Football Club have organised a fundraising event 'A night at the dogs' to be held on Tuesday 24 th February 2009 at Desborough Services Club.
6567.10	A14 Junction 3 (Rothwell Bypass) to Junction 7 (Kettering): Resurfacing: A letter has been received from Carillion WSP on behalf of the Highways Agency

<p>6568</p> <p>6568.1</p> <p>6568.2</p> <p>6568.3</p> <p>6568.4</p>	<p>Community reports</p> <p>Town Centre Partnership: Cllr Goodman reported that the TCP have been waiting to hear from KBC in respect of possible future developments within Desborough Town Centre before organising a meeting.</p> <p>Civic Society: Cllr Hollinshead reported that a lecture is being held on Monday 23rd February 2009 by Ken Day entitled ‘Panic in the Streets’.</p> <p>Twining: A copy of the Twining Newsletter was circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Youth: No report had been received.</p>																								
<p>6569</p> <p>6569.1</p> <p>6569.2</p>	<p>Financial report</p> <p><u>Northants CALC New Clerk’s Training Day:</u></p> <p>It was <u>APPROVED</u> that the Clerk should attend the Northants CALC training day on the role of the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to be held on Saturday 28th March 2009 at the cost of £100 for the course fees. Cllr Soans raised the issue of paying the Clerk for her time to attend the course, this was <u>unanimously agreed</u>.</p> <p><u>Accounts for Payment:</u></p> <p>The following payments were <u>APPROVED</u>:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No.</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Reason for Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100995</td> <td>441.51</td> <td>Mrs L Parkin</td> <td>Salary (Feb 09) & Expenses (Jan 09)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100996</td> <td>£108.60</td> <td>HM Revenue & Customs</td> <td>PAYE & NI (Feb 09)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100997</td> <td>£35.00</td> <td>Vine Community Trust</td> <td>Hall Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100998</td> <td>£100.00</td> <td>Northants CALC</td> <td>New Clerk’s Training Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100999</td> <td>£120.00</td> <td>Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd</td> <td>6 x Christmas Trees approved (Minute: 6526.6)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was noted that the Town Council have received and paid into the Community Account a cheque for £650 from NCC in respect of Cllr Humfrey’s Empowering Councillors and Communities Fund for repairs to the Desborough Cemetery Chapel. The money is to be paid to Kettering Borough Council who has carried out the repairs. A cheque will be raised by Desborough Town Council for £650 on receipt of confirmation from Cllr Humfrey as to who the cheque should be addressed to and provision of the supporting documentation.</p> <p>Cllr Soans requested the Clerk to provide a report to March’s meeting identifying what the estimated surplus of funds will be over budget at 31st March 2009.</p>	Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for Payment	100995	441.51	Mrs L Parkin	Salary (Feb 09) & Expenses (Jan 09)	100996	£108.60	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (Feb 09)	100997	£35.00	Vine Community Trust	Hall Hire	100998	£100.00	Northants CALC	New Clerk’s Training Day	100999	£120.00	Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd	6 x Christmas Trees approved (Minute: 6526.6)
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6570	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>The following applications have been received and comments made under delegated procedures or to be made at the meeting:</p>
6570.1	<p>KET/2008/0971 – 25 – 29 Station Road (land between), Desborough – Full Application: A3 restaurant with 4 no. one bed flats above</p> <p>This development is generally supported, tidying up a somewhat unkempt area. Believed to meet DUDF objectives. Circular balcony concept good but materials may not be in keeping? Item 18 on planning application incorrect. Item 21 - hours of opening need to be clarified. Bin store for restaurant needs covered shelter, does not appear to be a recycling facility. Flats refuse/recycling area unclear.</p>
6570.2	<p>KET/2008/0982 – 10 Meissen Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey front extension and conversion of garage to habitable room</p> <p>No information is provided on how vehicular parking is to be accommodated on loss of garage.</p>
6570.3	<p>KET/2008/1042 – 7 Chelmorton Vale, Desborough - Retrospective Application S73A: Single storey rear extension.</p> <p>No objection - would have preferred to have been consulted before the event. Builders should know when planning permission is required.</p>
6570.4	<p>KET/2009/0053 – Millar Homes Limited (East Midlands) – 77 & 79 Burdock Way (rear of), 21, 23 & 25 Violet Close (land adj), Desborough - s.73 Application: Variation of condition 7 of KE/04/0363 relating to vehicular access/parking.</p> <p>No objection.</p>
6570.5	<p><u>Notices of Approval received:</u></p> <p>KET/2008/0834 (Minute 6554.1) – Mr & Mrs Po Yee, 79 High Street, Desborough – Advertisement Application: Illuminated shop front sign</p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above application.</p>
6570.6	<p><u>Notices of Appeal received:</u></p> <p>KET/2008/0697 (Minute 6500/6527.9) – Ecklands Lodge Business Centre, Desborough Road, Braybrooke – Full Application: Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of B1 office buildings, new vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and associated landscaping</p> <p>Eckland Lodge Business Park has appealed to the Secretary of State regarding KBC's decision about their planning application. This type of appeal is to be decided using Public procedure.</p>

<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.45 PM</p> <p>..... CHAIRMAN</p>
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Chairman

Date