

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th October 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT:                    Councillor A C Pote                    Chairman  
                                   Councillor Mrs C M Brown  
                                   Councillor C W Cross  
                                   Councillor D W Jones  
                                   Councillor N A Matthew  
                                   Councillor Mrs C M Mullett  
                                   Councillor M W Spendlove (7.40 pm)  
                                   Councillor Mrs M E Talbot  
                                   Councillor P G Weston  
                                   Councillor D A Whyte (7.40 pm)

### 489 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers and included the members of the Armed Services and the young people in our town.

### 490 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Weston and Whitlam. Councillors Spendlove and Whyte would be obliged to join the Meeting late.

### 491 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

The Meeting was attended by CI Thompson, PC O'Hara and PCSO Kelman. CI Thompson was attending in place of Supt Windridge who was at an incident. He referred to the spate of house burglaries in August and September but was able to report that through DNA evidence and witnesses they have apprehended the person they suspected and this has cleared up seven burglaries in the town. The latest figures demonstrate that since then there have been only two burglary dwelling offences, compared with 14 in the previous month, and this is very low. Rothwell only has about 1.4% of all crime in the northern area. PC O'Hara said they managed to stop these offences early on because of the information they received from the community and the Safer Community Team, which is exactly how this should work. The Police Officers were thanked because since the Safer Community Team and the PCSOs have been present, this is a much safer town.

As to the camper, the Police believe they have identified him. PC O'Hara understood that the person responsible for the thefts at the Hotel had not received a custodial sentence but a community one.

Councillor Jones referred to Spring Gardens and PC O'Hara said they had an action plan with the PCSOs and the residents, and believed matters had gone much quieter. However, Nos. 13 and 14 had two forced entrances and the fence is very low there which makes these properties vulnerable. PC O'Hara will ask PCSO Gell to speak to the residents and if necessary he will bring this up at the Action Group. PCSO Kelman said that when they cut the trees down, they also exposed a lot of rubbish and rubble and he has asked the Borough to remove this. The Chairman will also pursue this with the Borough.

PC O'Hara asked if anyone had received complaints about vehicles racing on Harrington Road and Glendon Road because he has asked for checks to be made there. They know where the drivers congregate. A resident said some of these go down Wales Street as well. The surveys carried out in Kettering Road shows the traffic is usually within the speed limit. Councillor Jones had asked at the A6 Towns Forum about the public participation with the Safer Communities Team but they could not answer this. PC O'Hara said they have received information from the community, both on the streets and in the Library so they are getting feedback from members of the public. CI Thompson confirmed the Police have had a presentation from the SCT and there will be 96 PCSOs for this part of the County. They are measured on the bigger crimes but this is not necessarily what residents are most concerned about. In Rothwell parking represented 17% of the concerns raised.

#### 492 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

15 Wales Street: the neighbouring resident was present at the Meeting and asked whether the Town Council were in favour of development there. The Clerk had some sketch plans showing the Borough's preliminary proposals for repair and refurbishment of the burnt-out building and also new houses on the garden. These did come out onto the grass verge, but were angled so they did not obstruct visibility and the plans were passed round for Members to consider. Councillor Mrs Brown did not make any comment because she sits on the Borough Planning Committee. The neighbour has discussed the plans with the Property Manager and there will not be any parking on the road and the stone wall of the old barn will be retained. This development should make the area safer. There was concern about additional traffic in Wales Street. These are 2½ storeys high with Velux windows and the Borough had indicated that they would look at the materials to be used so that they were in keeping with the area. Councillor Spendlove, as Planning Referee, had already looked at the plans and could not see any objection.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Property Manager that, in principle, the Town Council would support development as shown on these preliminary plans but we would like to see further details in due course.

#### 493 MINUTES

The Chairman thanked Councillor Weston for taking the September Meeting. As to the development signs, most of these have been removed but there are still some for Sovereign Heritage in Market Hill, there are two for Avalon at the Bridge Street junction, and some new ones for Redrow in Desborough on the old A6. These signs should be within two miles of the development. It was AGREED to write to Mr Shields at the Borough Council and ask him to have these removed.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Brown, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September 2006 be confirmed and signed.

#### 494 HIGHWAYS

##### York Stone Slabs and Bollards, Market Hill

The Members of the Town Council were stunned and delighted that at last the bollards had been erected in Market Hill to stop vehicles parking on the footway. We will write to Atkins and also ask when the missing and broken slabs will be replaced.

Councillors Spendlove and Whyte joined the Meeting at 7.40 pm.

As to parking on pavements, the Chairman said vehicles also do this outside the Lotus House in Market Hill. He felt it was a shame that the PCSOs could not give parking tickets out. It was AGREED to put this item on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

#### Traffic, Market Hill

The Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Council that they have had several complaints from members of the public about vehicles driving dangerously in Rothwell at the time of the Monday Market. He asked if we could look into this and if necessary ask the Police to intervene. They felt coning off some areas seem to be the answer but he did not have any contact details. It was AGREED to acknowledge the E-mail and we will monitor the situation. In the meantime, if they have any further information we would like to have details.

#### Street Furniture

The seat at the bottom of Desborough Road has now been repaired and painted, and the Borough is arranging for the seats to be cleaned in Squires Hill. We now have the name of the person who will be responsible for all the street furniture in the Borough.

As to litter bins, some of the older ones do not have tops. The litter bin outside the Rowell Fayre is very smelly and liquid is seeping out of this all the time. It was AGREED to report this and ask if the older bins could be replaced by those with tops.

#### White Lining

We had received a response from Atkins that they will inspect the areas and if it is thought that remedial action is required, arrangements will be made as soon as it is practical. The usual problem is with work carried out on hot days when the thermo-plastic material suffers from delays in setting time. If traffic is allowed to run over this, it can disturb the material and track it along the road. In urban situations it is difficult to keep traffic off the new lines when subject to long setting periods.

Councillor Weston said on the A6003 the white lines are nearly a foot in width. The Chairman said the contract with Atkins is up for renewal next year and the standard of work will be discussed. However, because of the small amount of profit involved not many firms wish to bid. In addition, if sub-contractors carry out the work we are liable to get the same people doing this. It was felt a lot of money is wasted on the County roads, with rural ones getting a lot of attention. It was AGREED to ask what the inspection revealed and if any action is to be taken.

#### Traffic, Kettering Road

The Chairman had received a letter from a resident of Hobbs Hill, complaining about the amount of traffic in Kettering Road starting at 4.00 to 5.00 am and going on until after midnight, and she wondered why they were not using the bypass and where they were going to. She also has one of the vehicle actuated signs outside her cottage that is constantly flashing a slow and junction message that no-one takes any notice of. She also felt it is not healthy for residents to be breathing in all these exhaust fumes.

It was AGREED to respond to the resident that we are fully aware of the traffic on the old A6 and before the bypass came the traffic was so congested vehicles only crawled through the town. We will also mention the following points:-

- we have checked about air pollution and are assured this is well within the Government guideline level for health

- the weight limit has taken most of the lorries away
- the bypass does take quite a lot of traffic out of Rothwell although the Town Council did originally point out that that route would not be the best option for local traffic
- there is a proposal that with the Urban Extension Area there will be a link road on the northern side of the town from the old A6 to the bypass
- we are monitoring the situation, have raised this with our local Police Officer and will consider asking if we could have suitable forms of traffic calming here
- the surveys show most vehicles are within the speed limit in Kettering Road and are also local to the area
- the older satellite navigation systems which have not yet been updated send vehicles along this route.

It was FURTHER AGREED we will ask the County Community Engineer about traffic calming in Kettering Road as well as Glendon Road.

#### Tenbury Way

Atkins had written about vegetation growing from a piece of waste ground and obstructing the footway in Tenbury Road and sent a plan showing the area in question. This is part of the land which has been earmarked for an Open Space and the last Planning Application in 2005 showed that Charles Church (North London) was the owner at that time. It was AGREED to give this information to Atkins and to ask the Borough Council when this area will be landscaped as an Open Space and handed to them.

#### Highways Representatives

Copies of the September edition of Rep's Review had been circulated for information.

#### Weed Killing

A reply had been received from the Head of Asset Management at Atkins that the current specification for the treatment of weeds is for three applications of a non-residual weed killer per year. This has been deemed to be the requirement since 1999/2000 and follows the County policy to cease using residual weed killers. He is raising the matter of additional treatment with the County and will get back to us as soon as possible. It was AGREED to await a response.

#### Overgrown Vegetation

It was reported that the bushes are overhanging the pavement again in Glendon Road from Coronation Avenue to opposite Kipton Field. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council to cut these back again, and to include this area on the schedule to be trimmed annually.

The ivy is also going over the footpath in Glendon Road by Coronation Avenue and people are walking into the road to avoid this. The junction of Meadow Road and Harrington Road also has an overgrown hedge which makes people walk into the road. It was AGREED to report these matters to the Street Doctor.

#### Well Lane Recreation Ground

It was reported that the entrance is becoming dangerous because vehicles are able to go in too quickly as the entrance is so wide. Councillor Jones thought this needed separate vehicular and pedestrian access and it was AGREED to report this to the Borough Council.

#### A14 Junction 4 Roundabouts

The Chairman reported that a Meeting has been arranged for 2.30 the following day to discuss these with Mr Grindley from the County Council. We need to know if we could landscape these ourselves or leave them until April 2007 when the contract for looking after roundabouts in this area will come up for renewal. This would be too late for another planting season.

#### Red Lion Square/Market Hill Study

The Chairman had received an E-mail from Mr Thomas of the Borough Council that the funding has been withdrawn for this scheme because the residents did not seem to want the work. Councillor Pote has managed to keep the money available for Rothwell until after this Meeting when we can let them know what we want. He understood there was £50,000 for the first phase.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council that we do not want to lose the finance available for Rothwell and we would like the following items carried out: if all these are too expensive for the first phase of the Vision, then some could be carried over to the second phase:-

- One way in and one way out of the parking area in Market Hill for safety reasons
- Four disabled parking spaces in Market Hill Square
- All the trees in the town centre to be trimmed appropriately by a specialist tree firm, to include the trees in Market Hill, Hospital Hill, Castle Hill and Squires Hill. The crowns of these are all now too big which means that the roots will also grow and raise the surface of the footways and roads, and possibly also start to damage the foundations of adjoining properties.
- The garden in front of the Library needs to be landscaped, after agreement with the County Council which owns this. This could either entail planting or a hard landscape around the existing tree which we would not want to lose.
- A small bus shelter in front of the Library.
- Some smoother York stone slabs to replace the existing uneven ones, and also the re-alignment of the footway at the top of Market Hill so that delivery lorries do not completely block the roadway.
- There is an urgent need for re-surfacing, particularly of the footways, in various sections of the town centre.

#### 495 PLANNING

##### Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that the following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2006/0594      Land at 2 John Smith Avenue – New dwelling

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0675      3 Market Hill – Basement to approved extensions.

KET/2006/0711      North Kettering Business Area – Vehicle maintenance building.

KET/2006/0722      42 Kettering Road – New detached stone garage.

KET/2006/0750      Land to rear of 5 Fox Street – Change of Use from barn to dwelling.

The following Applications had been received and dealt with by the Planning Referee:-

KET/2006/0810      4 Lancaster Road – Extension.

	No objection.
KET/2006/0814	19 Nelson Drive – Extension and tiled canopy across front. No objection.
KET/2006/0858	1 Chichester Close – Conservatory. No objection.
KET/2006/0871	16 Balfour Drive – Extension. No objection.
KET/2006/0885	89 Connolly Drive – Extension and internal modifications for disabled assistance. No objection.

The following Applications had recently been received and the Planning Referee wished to consult with other Members of the Town Council. It was confirmed that the Clerk no longer had any Interest in the first of these Applications. The observations were agreed as stated:-

KET/2006/0788	23 High Street – Six apartments and studio. No objection, provided the access is considered safe and adequate for pedestrians and vehicles.
KET/2006/0867	Woodfield Farm, Glendon Road – Timber framed outbuilding to provide a woodstore, storage areas and workshop. No objection.

#### Kettering Town Centre & Urban Extension Area

The Clerk had several copies of this Action Plan if Members wanted one.

#### Rothwell/Desborough Urban Extension Area

Copies of the Action Plan were circulated to each Member. The Chairman had had a Meeting with the Planners and felt the Borough had chosen the option which we did not want. There is also the industry going next to the bypass but Site 8 to the south of the A14 has been rejected at the present time. Some Members were disappointed at the holistic approach to look at Rothwell and Desborough as a single entity. They have taken into account how quickly land can be brought in for industry, rather than long term planning. However, there is someone interested in developing Site 8 now. The Chairman thought the Borough was rejecting B8 warehousing. However, they are likely to give permission for development on the Perkins site which is also on the other side of the A14, so they will then no longer be able to use this as a reason to turn down Site 8. It was pointed out there are already developments on the other side of the A14 in the Kettering area but these are not employment sites.

The Planners now want smaller units for industry here. They have allocated 11 hectares (about 28 acres) for industry and this would be a not insignificant area and could take a lot of businesses. The Borough state this could provide 1800 to 2000 jobs although some Members were doubtful about this number. There are an equal number of houses for Rothwell and Desborough so we did not know why there could not also be equal employment land. Rothwell needs to catch up because we lost out on employment land in the Local Plan. It was AGREED to arrange a Meeting to discuss our response after the Workshops.

There is about 20% affordable housing with this being split 60% rented and 40% low-cost home ownership. It was felt there was a significant number of people in Rothwell who do not earn enough to even get in a shared ownership scheme. Councillor Spendlove said this is a one-off

opportunity to improve the roads in the town. It is likely we will get one from the old A6 to the bypass but this was shown as being through the residential and shopping area. We need to make sure there is an opportunity for a link between the old A6 and Rushton Road. It was reported that the residential area as shown on the Action Plan would be over the ridge line of the hill between Rothwell and Desborough and would therefore be visible from that town which is bad planning policy although the Planners said they need an area for planting. The Action Plan was discussed at the A6 Towns Forum and it was reported that Lichfield and Stafford have had their plans thrown out because they prevaricated on the various issues.

### Community Planning

Copies of the Update from the Community Planning Network and letter from the Joint Planning Unit had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

## 496 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Rothwell Community Centre

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Ms Bellamy that the Community Centre does need attention and the building does have some structural problems which are being monitored. They submitted a capital bid last year for the refurbishment next year (the second year of the current programme). The Borough works on a three-year programme but approved schemes in the second and third year do require to be re-submitted annually. These are then re-prioritised and will be subject to the normal budgetary process. She will be re-submitting the bid and, if it is successful, hopes to plan the refurbishment by 31st March 2008. She will let us know the outcome in due course.

It was AGREED to respond that we are not happy with the timescale because of the structural problems and we would like to know if they are monitoring this with a stress tester. In addition, the expansion of the Community Centre needs to keep pace with the developments being carried out here so this should be given priority because of the new houses.

### Greening Road Play Area

Ms Bellamy had also responded about this play area that a capital bid has been submitted for refurbishment in 2008/09. There is the same procedure as for the Community Centre. The play equipment is checked weekly and she will pass on our report about the graffiti and the poor state of the fence to Grounds Maintenance.

One of our PCSOs has said that it is very dark in this area and we need to improve the lighting on the footpath across the park. It was AGREED to ask if this could be done.

### Continental Market

The Clerk confirmed that we have written to the Desborough Town Centre Partnership confirming that we would welcome a continental market in principle, and that Saturday would be an ideal day for this.

### Well Lane Football Pitch

The Chairman was pleased to see this being used by the ladies' football teams on Saturday mornings. However, afterwards there is often some litter especially drinks bottles. The Chairman has discussed this with the Borough who are to ask the users if they could take the litter home or put this in the bin. Councillor Mrs Mullett said that often the rubbish is already there, and the teams have to clear the pitch before they can play on it.

#### Puppy Farm

It was reported that there is puppy breeding at 56 Littlewood Street. This is a bungalow and there are kennels in a 'U' shape but this is a small garden. It was AGREED to contact the Head of Environmental Services and ask if someone could look at this.

#### Sale of Fireworks

Councillor Weston asked if we could write to the retail outlets and ask them not to stock fireworks, but if they are doing this, then to be careful who they sell them to.

#### Bovis Housing Estate

It was reported that during the heavy rain recently, the manhole covers on the drains here were blown off. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Building Control Department to report this and explain that there was a problem of flooding further along the Slade Brook some years ago and this area is deceptive so it needs to be investigated carefully.

#### Operation Kleen Sweep

This is to take place on 27th and 28th October in Rothwell and it is unfortunate that this is half term so the schools will not be able to take part. It was AGREED to write to the Scout and Guide Councils and the Army Cadets to ask if they would like to participate.

It was FURTHER AGREED to write to the Borough Council with the following areas which need attention during this operation:-

- Well Lane Recreation Ground
- Manor Park
- Greening Road Park and Coopers Lane leading to this Park from Desborough Road
- Graffiti needs to be cleaned off the play equipment in Greening Road Park and the surrounding buildings
- The footpath between Leys Avenue and Fanny Joyce's Lane off Desborough Road
- The footpath from Littlewood Street (by Buswell Rise) past the water tower to Rushton Road
- The footpath from Rushton Road to Cross Street.

#### Columbus Crescent Open Space

The Clerk had received from the Borough Council the proof for an information sign here, as a result of problems this past summer. This forms part of their vision to put these signs at appropriate parks and open spaces.

It was AGREED that we did not want this sign by Blythe Close as it bans pastimes such as football and riding bicycles. We would agree to the information section and the restrictions on activities such as golf, motor vehicles and lighting fires.

A6 Towns Forum

Copies of the Clerk's Notes from the Meeting of the Forum held on 28th September 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that these be noted.

Borough Children's Play Strategy/Youth Committee

We have now also received a letter from the organisation set up by the former Youth Workers, Youth Works C.I.C., and a copy of their Memorandum & Articles of Association and their business plan summary. They have set up this Community Interest Company with the aim of securing funding to continue to deliver youth work in the Kettering and Corby Area. They are also preparing a brochure. They sent an invitation to their launch which had taken place on 6th October 2006.

It was AGREED to arrange a Meeting with the representatives from Youth Works C.I.C., if possible on 24th or 25th October.

The Borough had sent us copy of their Children's Play Strategy and Councillor Mrs Brown had responded to the questionnaire on our behalf and asked them to bear in mind the expansion plans for Rothwell so we expect a suitable level of service in the near future.

Councillor Pote said he might be able to donate part of his County Councillor's grant to the youth strategy. He wants to improve the lighting in Squires Hill and perhaps have some more litter bins and seats in the town. If he gets another £10,000 next year he will be able to do more.

Licensing Application

We had received notification of an Application for Rothwell House Hotel and because of the time limit, the Clerk had consulted some Members and responded that we would not want the hours any later than 1.00 am on any day.

There is now an Application for the Red Lion Inn. It was AGREED to again state that we would not want the hours any later than 1.00 am. If permission is given for outside sale of alcohol and entertainment this should not be any later than 11.00 pm and after that time any entertainment should be inside the building with the doors and windows shut so that excessive noise does not disturb local people.

Town Centre Partnership

An E-mail had been received from Howard Fillingham that according to his records the Rothwell Town Website 12 month period expires on 1st December and suggesting that the next Meeting might be a good opportunity for the Members to discuss this and the future of the site.

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be held at 6.00 pm on Monday, 30th October 2006 in the Market House.

Rothwell Post Office

The Clerk had received copy of the letter from Philip Hollobone MP to one of our residents about his visit to the Post Office. He will accommodate Mr Patel and his party on their visit to Parliament and will present his petition to the House of Commons. The resident had agreed to act as a lead citizen so that this can be formally handed in.

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Weston and **RESOLVED** that the report be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Service or Goods</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£436.10
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£87.33
NRG Group UK Ltd	Photocopier Maintenance	£22.96
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

The Clerk had received a quotation for re-covering the Council Chamber chairs, and also had a catalogue for new chairs for comparison. It was **AGREED** that the Finance Committee would consider this.

#### 499 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed, it was **AGREED** that the Press and Public be asked to withdraw.