



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

9th December 2013

After many years of delays, on 26th November the Planning Committee approved the application for the proposed development at Sixfields. Supporting The Cobblers in their plans to expand their facilities was a key manifesto priority for this Administration. I am pleased that this manifesto pledge has been met, and that Northampton Town Football Club are now free to pursue the expansion they have been denied for many years.

There has also been progress with The Saints planning application to expand Franklins Gardens. Supporting this project is another of this Administration's key policies, which I am delighted to say is moving ahead quickly. The stadium plans are currently available to view online, and we expect the Planning Committee to meet to consider them early in the new year.

On 13th November Cabinet approved the demolition of the old Greyfriars Bus Station. This is yet another project that has been long overdue and could only be delivered by this Administration. Demolition will begin at the end of March 2014 and will free up a prime development site within the heart of our town.

Christmas festivities in the Town Centre began on 21st November with the lights switch on. There was a fantastic turnout from the public and the Town Centre has a real festive feel to help attract shoppers and enhance their experience.

To help support local businesses during the Christmas period we have once again introduced free parking in all Borough Council owned car parks from 3pm on Thursdays and all day on Saturdays in our pay on foot car parks until Christmas.

On Sunday 10th November councillors and dignitaries processed from The Guildhall to All Saints' Church as part of this year's Remembrance Day Parade and Service. In addition to our commitment to help support existing and ex-service personnel through schemes such as the Community Covenant, it is just as important that we never forget those who have served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

During November the Borough Council teamed up with the charity, Support Our Soldiers, to encourage the public to support members of the Armed Forces by taking part in their Christmas Parcel Appeal. People were asked to drop into the One Stop Shop and donate items including sweets, toiletries and Christmas gifts. All donated items will be sent over to our Armed Forces Personnel serving in Afghanistan.

Earlier this year it was agreed that any former Borough Councillor who had served on the Council for 12 years would be considered as a possible candidate for becoming an Honorary Alderman. The title recognises the time and dedication each individual has given to their community and the people of our town. On Thursday 28th November the

title of Honorary Alderman was awarded to former Borough Councillors Michael Boss, Tony Clarke, Keith Davies, Ulric Gravesande, Colin Lill, Judith Lill Malcolm Lloyd, Richard Matthews and Marianne Taylor.

Community Safety

Crime and Violence continue to fall below the annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) targets. To date there has been a 7.7% reduction in overall crime (1528 less crimes) and a 10.9% reduction in violence (384 less crimes).

Serious Acquisitive Crime is on a downward trend, showing an 8.9% reduction (363 less crimes) and is on track to meet the target. Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 2.1% to date, this is primarily nuisance behaviour, across all sectors of Northampton. Criminal damage however, has reduced by 8%, again exceeding the annual target.

The first Community Safety Partnership Weeks of Action have taken place in Blackthorn/Goldings and The Mounts/Wellingborough Road. There has been good engagement with the community through the Crime Prevention House established on each area with a high level of support provided by a variety of agencies. Some excellent environmental work has been undertaken by Enterprise and Community Payback, providing a visible improvement to the areas. The next Week of Action will take place in the Town Centre with a focus on street drinking and begging, linking in with pre-Christmas operations run by the Police.

Councillor David Mackintosh

Leader of the Council