



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 13th March 2017

Town Centre Operations

The overall parking figures for the period April 16 – January 17 was 2,269,935, an increase of 64,268 (2.9%) in comparison with the same period in 2015.

The two hour free parking in the council's multi-storey car parks for the April to December 2016 period saw 856,849 customers taking advantage of the offer an increase of 89,598 (11.6) in comparison with the same period in 2015.

The free Saturday parking for the April 16 to January 17 period saw 371,006 customers take advantage of the free offer, an increase of 13,268 (3.7%) in comparison with the same period in 2015.

Footfall in the town centre for January 2017 was 1,026,618 a fall of 137,640 (11.8%) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

For the year to date, April 2016 – January 2017, footfall was 13,548,902 for the town centre, an increase of 20,256 (1.5%) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

Planning and Regeneration

Milton Ham – the appeal for the development of a distribution warehouse was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, following a public inquiry in December 2016.

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Referendum was held on Thursday, 23rd February 2017 and the result will be announced shortly

The Local Development Scheme has been updated and a copy will be made available on the Council's website. This update to the Local Development Scheme reflects more recent amendments to Planning Policy and Regulations. It also introduces an additional stage of public consultation in the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan. This will focus on the Emerging Sites proposed for development and represents an additional opportunity for engagement with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders. Cabinet approval was granted on 8th February 2017.

Following public consultation, the Northampton Statement of Community Involvement was adopted on 30th January 2017. The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the local community, business and other organisations with an interest in Northampton can engage with the planning system. This includes planning applications and planning policies, such as the Local Plan.

Following public consultation, the Kingsthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans for Kingsthorpe and Kingsthorpe High Street and Manor Road Conservation Areas were adopted at Cabinet on 8th February 2017.

Work has started on a new 66 Bed Care Home off Timken Way South in Duston

Building Control completed the checking and signing off of the Night-shelter under the Building Regulations.

Building Control was recently audited by Price Waterhouse Cooper.

The Building Controls Enforcement Policy and Unauthorised Work procedures/processes have been reviewed. All standard letters have been assessed and where necessary amended and new letters added to make the two processes more robust.

Delapre Abbey

The construction contract with Woodheads reached practical completion on 23rd February. The Abbey was duly handed over to the Council by the contractors, and we are now focussing on the opening of the Abbey, and working with DAPT on the preparatory work.

Greyfriars

The conclusion of the legal agreements, transport modelling and associated junction/road design, financial models and capital appraisals will lead to a Cabinet report later in the spring. Discussions with Legal and General remain positive. The Planning application is due in late summer.

Fingerposts and Wayfinding Blades for the Town Centre

The locations have been surveyed and costs for manufacture and implementation obtained. Discussions are ongoing regarding wording for signs and location and content for the Wayfinding Blades.

Castle Projects

We are in the process of commissioning a Penetrating Ground Survey of the Castle Mound land to ascertain what is below the surface.

We are working with the Friends of Northampton Castle to improve and widen the scope of the Virtual Reality App to make it more interactive.

Upton Country Park

Phase 2 moving forward.

Next stage is to commission surveys of the site prior to detailed design being undertaken.

Vulcan Works Project

Design work continues with the signing of RIBA 4 Delivery Agreement.

A Design review with the University of Northampton underway and a revised planning determination is due shortly.

Town Centre Lighting

The street lighting in the Town Centre is being replaced as part of the County Council's countywide contract. We have been working hard to ensure that the standard of fittings is appropriate to the centre of an historic County Town.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning