



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December 2015

Town Centre

Great British High Street Competition

We entered St Giles Street in this competition, and it was in a shortlist of three. The Judges' visit was particularly successful, with a terrific variety of businesses taking part. I attended the Awards ceremony in London, when we won the City category against very stiff competition. The competition involved the original entry, shortlisting, judging, a public vote, and the final assessment. This win is a great tribute to the hard work put in by everyone involved.

Car Parking

The new pay on foot parking machines are fully operational in St Michaels & St Johns multi-storey car parks providing our parking customers with a better service and extending credit card payment options into all council multi-storey car parks.

The refurbishment works on the Grosvenor car park lifts (A-floors next to Primark) are fully operational and have improved the service to customers using the car parks.

The free parking on Saturdays in all council car parks is proving popular alongside the free parking after 3.00pm on Thursdays.

The programme to replace surface car park payment machines with newer machines to accommodate the new coinage is on target and will be completed in spring.

Planning

Planning permission has recently been granted for the development of 1198 beds of student accommodation, supporting ancillary facilities at the University of Northampton, Nunn Mills and a new Community Centre off St. Crispin Drive, Upton.

A planning application has also recently been received for development of 10 industrial/warehouse units, two class A3 units and a day care nursery at land west of Caswell Road and Gowerton Road.

Duston Neighbourhood Plan – The Referendum on the Duston Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday, 5th November. Residents were asked “Do you want Northampton Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Duston Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?” 85.6% of those voting supported the use of the Neighbourhood Plan to decide planning applications. The turnout was 16.6%. The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is to be considered at this Council meeting.

In the seven months April to October 100% of Major and Minor Planning Applications were decided within the appropriate time limits, and 99% of other Applications

In the same period there were five Appeal decisions, and only one Appeal succeeded, giving an 80% success rate for the Department.

Following the last meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, when it was decided to apply to the Secretary of State to cancel the joint planning regime, we have been working to bring this into force and to drafting the necessary arrangements for the future

Economic Development and Regeneration

Greyfriars – Additional information has now been submitted by all parties, who have made submissions. Following a selection over the next few weeks, the short listed bids will be working up final details, which have to be submitted by the end of February, ahead of Cabinet making a final decision in April 2016.

Four Waterside – Discussions continue with Kier with view to a planning application being submitted for the site early in the new year.

BIS (Business Incentive Scheme) - For April 2015 – December 2015, £170,249 has been committed, resulted in 74 jobs being created, supporting 26 businesses with an additional £1.34 million private sector investment. This includes six vacant shop units in the town centre.

Asset Management

The Council has recently agreed the sale of premises in Fish Street. The premises are likely to be used for residential, with a restaurant underneath.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning