



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

24 April 2017

Town Centre Operations

The council re-opened the fully refurbished Midsummer Meadow car park on the 1st April including credit card payment options.

The two hour free parking in the council's multi-storey car parks for the April 2016 to February 2017 period saw 931,089 customers taking advantage of the offer an increase of 88,775 (10.5) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

The free Saturday parking for the April 2016 to March 2017 period saw 438,727 customers taking advantage of the offer, an increase of 12,847 (3%) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

The annual footfall for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 was 15,648,303 a slight fall in comparison with 2015/16 of 0.48%. This is still an increase of 1,000,000 on 2014/2015.

Planning

Article 4 Direction Far Cotton / Delapre Area

This Article 4 Direction came into effect on 6th April 2017. It removes the permitted development right to convert Class C3 dwelling houses into Class C4 houses in multiple occupation. Public consultation on the Direction closes on 4th May.

Neighbourhood Plans

At the meeting of Full Council on 3rd April, the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan was made covering Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge.

N/2016/1649 – planning application for the development of 45no. flats for the elderly at Churchill Avenue (Council owned land) was approved by the Planning Committee on 14th March 2017.

The first Northampton South SUE (Collingtree) Stakeholder Group meeting took place on 28th March and attended by Officers, Developers, Parish Council and Local Representatives. The meeting was very well received by the Members of the Group and a positive public consultation exercise.

Building Control worked closely with the Errol Flynn Filmhouse to ensure that the Occupation Certificate was issued in time for it to opening on Friday, 7th April 2017. Building on the success of Errol Flynn One, this second screen is a welcome addition to the Cultural Quarter.

Developers' Forum

We held the first Developers' Forum on 10th March. It was a very useful session all round, and will become a regular feature of our engagement with the Development Industry.

Business Breakfasts

We held a very successful Business breakfast in Wellingborough Road, to support local businesses who wish to work more closely together and promote the area.

A follow-up breakfast is planned for the St James Mill Road area, to hear about progress on the issues raised at the previous meeting.

Castle Area Project

This is gathering momentum, and in the next few weeks will include a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the area, and an augmented Virtual Reality representation of the Castle

Delapre Abbey

The cafe was opened on 3rd April, in time for the school holidays. It has been very well received.

The team continues to work closely with DAPT and contractors to complete the final works prior to the full opening of the Abbey.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning