

Council
Monday 23rd July 2007

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement & Safety

Improve our town centre

Car Parks

Following the conversion of a number of Northampton's car parks from pay-and-display to pay-on-foot, we will be spending £450,000 this year on bringing St Michaels and St Johns car parks into line with the new system.

Make Northampton people proud of their parks, open spaces, leisure and cultural heritage

Balloon Festival

After consideration I took a delegated decision to introduce an entrance fee for the Balloon Festival this year. In previous years the Festival has come at considerable cost to Northampton tax payers, regardless of whether they attend or not. By introducing a small charge we will be able to offer a far wider range of events on a continuous rolling programme during the course of the day, such as displays and workshops from the David Beckham Football Academy and the Motorcycle Stunt Trials Display Team, and negate the losses previously experienced by this council. The charge will be £4 per adult, with children under 16 going free. There will no longer be a Hospitality Tent for councillors, saving the council £20,000.

Safe, clean neighbourhoods for people to live in/Enforcement and engagement

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

I have attended a two-day meeting of the Northampton Safer Stronger Community Partnership, at which I met key partners from around the town. At this meeting I discovered that 43% of all Northamptonshire crime happens in Northampton, highlighting why this council must drive forward initiatives to help reduce crime & disorder. A number of Home Office recommendations have been made in the past but not acted upon, which we will be reviewing. Neighbourhood Managed Areas will also be key to reducing crime & disorder in Northampton and I will be looking to drive these forward in the near future.

Brendan Glynane
10th July 2007.