

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
**Scrutiny Panel 2 - Impact of the move of the University of
Northampton**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffery Room,
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on
31 January 2019 at 6pm

George Candler
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, 01604 837408 ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Scrutiny Panel 2 - Impact of the move of the University of Northampton** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Panel

Chair	Councillor Graham Walker
Panel Members	Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor Jane Birch Councillor Gareth Eales Councillor Penelope Flavell Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Danielle Stone
Co-opted Member	Jane Bunce, University of Northampton

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
21 March 2019 6:00 pm	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Scrutiny Panel 2 - Impact of the move of the University of Northampton Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1. 6:00pm	Apologies		The Chair to note any apologies for absence.
2.	Declarations of Interest		Members to state any interests. Declarations will be for the life of this Scrutiny Review.
3.	Deputations/Public Address		The Chair to note public address requests. The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.
4.	Minutes	1 - 5	The Scrutiny Panel to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018.
5.	Witness Evidence		The Scrutiny Panel to receive a response to its core questions from a number of Expert Advisors:
5 (a) 6:05pm	Executive Director, Town Centre BID	6 - 8	
5 (b) 6:25pm	Director, PubWatch		
5 (c) 6:45pm	Various Community Groups	9 - 13	
6. 7:25pm	Background Information	14	The Scrutiny Panel to receive information regarding the consultation process and other details regarding parking in the nearby area to the University

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - IMPACT OF THE MOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Thursday, 22 November 2018

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Sam Kilby Shaw (Deputy Chair – In the Chair) ,
Councillors Jane Birch, Gareth Eales, Dennis Meredith and Danielle Stone

Witnesses PS Lorna Clarke and PS Rod Williams, Northants Police
Owen Morris, Becky Bradshaw and Raf Garcia,
University of Northampton

Officer Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Members of the Public

Emma Roberts, Daniel Soan, Heather Bryant, Jill Harvey, Morcea Walker, Poppy Patterson, Millie Harley, Charlotte Millen, Gemma Thompson, Rose Taylor, Richard King, Chris Banks, Michael Harris and three other members of the public. Councillor Julie Davenport was also present

Press James Averill, Democracy Reporter

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Graham Walker (Chair) and Jane Bunce (co optee.)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS

Emma Roberts, Labour Party candidate for Delapre and Briar Hill, addressed the Panel on agenda item 5(b).

Daniel Soan, Conservative candidate for Delapre and Briar Hill, addressed the Panel on agenda item 5(b).

Heather Bryant, local resident, addressed the Panel on agenda item 5(b).

Councillor Julie Davenport addressed the Panel on agenda item 5(b).

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. WITNESS EVIDENCE

(A) NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM, NORTHANTS POLICE

PS Lorna Clarke and PS Rod Williams addressed the Scrutiny Panel, presenting their written responses to the core questions.

The Scrutiny Panel made comment, asked questions and heard:

- An incident with fireworks being discharged on University premises did happen on 5 November 2018. The Police are working to identify the offenders and have been supporting the University with taking disciplinary action (how to support the University). Searches were carried out on site to investigate this incident and also to prevent (and it was) further planned firework incidents (had been stopped.)
- Ongoing parking and anti-social behaviour issues will take time to resolve. There is a need for a satisfactory solution for parking issues. Neighbourhood Policing Team are supporting this ongoing work.
- Students are encouraged not to drive to the University.
- In respect of a concern regarding traffic congestion, it was suggested that contact is made with Highways, NCC.
- The students are welcomed into to the town and it is hoped that they will stay on in the town.
- In response to a concern about crime on the campus, PS Clarke commented that the five designated Police Officers are there to deal with crime and investigate it. Students are primarily 18-21 years old and are vulnerable by their age and mainly being away from home for the first time. They have regular contact with the policing team, almost (are) “over policed” to give them guidance and support. There are no issues with the majority of students.
- Regarding the night-time economy in the town, there is not a high demand for Police assistance in respect of students causing issues. Monday and Wednesday are student nights and they tend to congregate safely in the Students Union Bar.
- Students are looking to organise a number of community events such as “roots celebrations”
- Peer education is often effective.
- The University has a “Residential Life Team”, which involves students
- PS Clarke commented that the move of the University had generally gone well and had been overall positive. There had been some issues. It was highlighted that there are over 3000 to 5000 (1,000) students going through the site each day.

PS Clarke and PS Williams were thanked for their informative address, the contents of which will inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny review.

(B) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON AND THE STUDENT UNION, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Emma Roberts, Labour Party candidate for Delapre and Briar Hill, addressed the Scrutiny Panel. She commented that she had spoken to a number of local residents and was bringing their concerns to this meeting. There are problems, particularly with parking. Emma Roberts conveyed concern regarding the report of the University (agenda item 5 c) advising that in her opinion this did not include all the issues and concerns. There is a real need for there to be communication between residents and the University. It was acknowledged that promises had been made that this would take place. Emma Roberts suggested that there is a need to stop students parking in residential streets; the University needs to step in and assist.

Emma Roberts submitted a petition which was received and would be fed through the appropriate channels. She requested that this petition is actioned urgently. She forwarded photographs of parked cars and asked that this is circulated to the Panel.

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions and heard:

In response to a query, Emma Roberts commented that residents want to welcome the students and work together but they are concerned regarding parking and anti-social behaviour. There is a need for regular communication with residents. Liaison with the University, students and residents is important.

It was commented that residents from Thomas Chapman Grove were supportive of residents parking permits and are aware there would be a cost involved. Ms Roberts made reference to the University making a contribution towards such a parking scheme.

Emma Roberts was thanked for her address.

Daniel Soan, Conservative Party candidate for Delapre and Briar Hill, addressed the Scrutiny Panel commenting that he was speaking on behalf of both residents that he had spoken with and students. In his opinion the move of the University had created problems. He was aware that a meeting had been held with residents and the University; he advised that he had spoken with Highways at NCC and that consultation is forthcoming. Residents also have issues with anti-social behaviour and parking on footpaths. He commented on the need for the consultation to start.

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions and heard:

In response to a query regarding potential solutions, Daniel Soan suggested that it is now time for the University and community to work together and public events held on the University campus would be useful. Multi Agency events should be held.

Daniel Soan was thanked for his address.

Heather Bryant, local resident, addressed the Scrutiny Panel. She concurred with the comments raised by Emma Roberts. She informed the Panel of an incident that had occurred in her street and she had called 999. Heather Bryant had also made complaints to the University and submitted a number of photos of parked cars. Anti-social behaviour also takes place. She suggested there is a need for double yellow lines in Malthouse

Close. The University had made a number of commitments but these had not been actioned.

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions and heard:

The University had provided residents with the contact details of Security Staff on site but the Officers are unable to leave site

In response to a query regarding anti-social behaviour, Heather Bryant advised that she had found a number of canisters and had handed these into the University. CCTV cameras had been installed in Malthouse Close but students now move further into the Close away from the cameras.

Heather Bryant was thanked for her address.

Councillor Julie Davenport addressed the Scrutiny Panel as both a Borough and County Councillor. She suggested that there was a need for the Panel to have sight of the Planning application and any S106 agreement. She referred to HMOs and a resident that had been assaulted over parking. Anti-Social Behaviour takes place in Malthouse Close.

The Scrutiny Panel suggested that the planning application is revisited at a future meeting, with a particular focus on the S106 agreement.

Councillor Julie Davenport was thanked for her address.

Owen Morris, Head of PR and Communications, Becky Bradshaw, Head of Health and Safety and Raf Garcia (Students Union) of the University of Northampton presented their written response to the core questions to the Scrutiny Panel. It was highlighted that a recent meeting with residents had been held and the comments raised by the public speakers at this meeting of the Scrutiny Panel had been answered at the public meeting. Contact had been made with those who had raised concerns. The planning application was referred to and it was noted that it had been intended that the move of the University would not impact negatively on emissions. It had therefore been decided that there would be no student parking on campus; this is in line with most Universities. A park and ride facility has been implemented. Owen Morris advised that he is aware of a petition that had been submitted to Highways, NCC, and commented that the University had offered to pay for the consultation regarding parking solutions.

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query regarding collating a register of students' vehicles, Becky Bradshaw advised that this might be possible but it would need to be investigated regarding data protection. Students vehicles are not permitted on site therefore it would be difficult to identify student vehicles.
- Raf Garcia advised that from this year there has been a "blanket ban" regarding student vehicles on site.
- In answer to a question regarding anti-social behaviour, Becky Bradshaw confirmed that where the offending individual can be identified they are then taken through the discipline process. All students sign up to the Code of Conduct.

- The Scrutiny Panel referred to the recent fireworks incident and was advised that 15 students were involved and were going through the discipline process. The majority of students were very upset about this incident taking place.
- Becky Bradshaw advised that the University could look into providing a contribution towards any residents' parking scheme.
- Staff can park on the University site.
- Raf Garcia advised that the Students' Union works with the community regarding projects and heritage work. The issues with parking are overshadowing this good work.

The Scrutiny Panel suggested that the Chair contacts the relevant bodies and asks that the parking solutions are expedited and an update is provided to the next meeting.

Owen Morris, Becky Bradshaw and Raf Garcia were thanked for their informative address; the contents of which would inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

(C) MANAGER, STUDENT HOMES, NORTHAMPTON

A representative from Student Homes was not present.

(D) LETTING AGENCIES, NORTHAMPTON

Representatives from Letting Agencies, Northampton were not present.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review: The Move of the University of Northampton

The purpose of the Review is to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

- 1 Please provide information of the work being undertaken by:

The University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners to support the relocation of the University (*specific organisation to be put to the specific expert advisor e.g NBC to the Cabinet Member*).

The Northampton Town Centre BID (Business Improvement District), with other key stakeholders, has been involved in the final planning stages of the UoN move to Waterside from late 2017 through 2018, Throughout this period we worked closely with colleagues, including the University, to understand the potential opportunities and challenges that may be presented by the new Campus and a large cohort of students and staff. In particular, the Town Centre Task Force group acted as a liaison point to discuss progress and issues as they developed culminating in the opening of the Campus and the first freshers week which, unusually, took place in the Town Centre on Market Square providing a clear example to traders of the potential of this new and significant target market. Also, we have established a close working relationship with the Students Union base at the Platform in Georges Row.

- 2 Please provide your opinion on the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University. *Please can*

you aim to keep your response to this question to a maximum of 250 words

It is still very early to try and establish specific opinions as the students (and staff) have needed time to “bed down” in the new facility and for students in particular to find their way around the town and discover what it has to offer.

From a social and cultural perspective having a younger and diverse cohort of this size in the town can add to the vibrancy of the area. A major initiative should be to get as many students as possible to connect into local community and cultural events so that “town & gown” is seamless.

The Campus as a physical entity is impressive and gives a nice balance of contemporary and modern architecture set against the history and heritage of a Market town. It is important that there is a metaphorical “bridge” between the Campus and town so that both can feed from one another. Better signposting and access between the two area’s would help enormously.

Economically footfall seems to have strengthened from the south entrance to the town but needs to be better monitored. Freshers showed the potential power of the student group. Anecdotally staff seem less inclined to visit the town centre. Traders need to be more relevant to these groups as there is money to be spent.

Environmentally there seems to have been little impact apart from around St.Johns Hall of Residence.

- 3 Please provide your views on the positive impact and challenges, across the various areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University. (NB the various areas such as town centre, Bedford Road, Far Cotton, Beckett’s Park, Avenue Campus, Park Campus, Kingsthorpe village will be included in this core question to the relevant expert advisor)

Positive Impacts: For the town centre it is is the sheer number of people engaged in the University within close proximity to the town who could be spending with our local traders. The Campus in its self can be an attractor for the town and we need to recognise the need to present a welcoming and functional centre that is attractive to this audience (and their parents/sponsors) so that both can be successful. Other major positives are building closer working relationships with both the Academic and Management groups at UoN as we share similar goals and there is a vast reservoir of talent and knowledge that we can utilise to help with our re-generation/event/community idea’s -not least in capturing the enthusiasm and energy of young, talented and committed students with direction from highly qualified

academics. The opportunity to use the University to re-focus the town's activities to the South/west rather than North/East is something worth more considered attention.

Challenges: Overcoming a perception that our offer isn't strong enough to attract spend into town -particularly from staff. Getting traders to understand that students do have significant spending power and are an attractive alternative at a time when consumer purchase behaviour is changing and impacting bricks and mortar traders.

The area around St Johns Halls of residence does give rise to some concern as there have been a number of "incidents" and there are growing concerns of a drug culture gaining a foothold. To nip this in the bud there needs to be a more visible Police presence to support the UoN Policing group and the Community Safety teams.

- 4 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?

We are already well connected and are focussed on working more closely with UoN to provide a town that will help them attract higher qualified intakes and that in turn will spend in the local centre rather than on-line or out of town.

It is important that this purchasing capability is underpinned by a genuine team approach to engaging the students and staff of the UoN into the daily fabric of life in the town and creating events and initiatives that build real strong ties between the traders and businesses located close to the campus and the students and staff.



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Whilst I understand the need for security, the amount of light pollution coming from this site has dramatically increased. This will be further increased when the planned housing development takes place. Delapre park has a lot of wildlife, such as bats, owls, foxes, monk jack deer, much of which is nocturnal and some of which is also protected. I would suggest that advice needs to be sought as to long term impact from light pollution on the wildlife.

3

- 4 Please provide your views on the positive impact and challenges, across the various areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University. (NB the various areas such as town centre, Bedford Road, Far Cotton, Beckett's Park, Avenue Campus, Park Campus,

Kingsthorpe village will be included in this core question to the relevant expert advisor)

I can comment here as follows

As a resident of Delapre Park, we have seen an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour, examples of this have been what appear to have been using the university grounds and Ramsome road as a circuit for motor cycle riding, the last instance was week commencing 31st December 2018.

We also had fireworks being let off at the lake end of the park, not on the 5th November 2018, this is illegal in a NBC park. As the chair of Delapre PMC we have asked that students be made aware of the Park rules that exist not only for their own safety, but also to protect the parkland. Has this been done ?

I have attended several meetings of local residents both in my capacity as a resident and as Chair of Northampton Neighbourhood Watch. I have listened to many concerns expressed by residents over issues such as

- parking in the wider area in general, and more specifically in the streets surrounding the university. Parking is already a problem with many town centre workers and station users parking in the local streets. How this facility could have been allowed to have been developed with no parking facility for students or allowing buses to turn around on site, needs to be addressed.*
- Anti-Social Behaviour, including verbal abuse and excessive noise, from students returning from the town centre.*
- If the main entrance was to have been from Bedford Road, why is so much vehicular traffic being directed to use the entrance off New South Bridge Road. ?*

- 5 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?*



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Buddies of Becketts (BOB), the non-profit group of volunteers that formed in 2016 and that aims to improve Becketts Park and encourage greater community usage, has been liaising with the University of Northampton from since it was formed. In particular, we have worked very closely with Nick Allen, Executive Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor.

- 2 Please provide your opinion on the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University. *Please can you aim to keep your response to this question to a maximum of 250 words*

BOB believes the effects of the University move has been, in the main, very positive. Physically the University fits in very well with its surroundings. Its design is attractive and complements the Avon building and the river. Although some people complain about the pedestrian bridge's colour/lack of paint, it is a lovely link between the park and University and I think blends into the environment. I am

aware the University has been monitoring the wildlife and have no concerns regarding that.

The profile of Becketts Park has been enhanced by the move with a lot more interest in the park and BOB being generated.

- 3 Please provide your views on the positive impact and challenges, across the various areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University. (NB the various areas such as town centre, Bedford Road, Far Cotton, Beckett's Park, Avenue Campus, Park Campus, Kingsthorpe village will be included in this core question to the relevant expert advisor)

There is a lot more footfall through Becketts Park. This is mostly along the path that leads from Victoria Promenade to the University pedestrian footbridge. This footpath has been enhanced with improved lighting and CCTV coverage. Other paths have seen an increase as well – from the North end near Cheyne Walk and by Nunn Mills entrance. The majority of students, staff and visitors entering Becketts Park use the pedestrian bridge. This location has an improved atmosphere to it as it is being regularly used and with the improvements to lighting and CCTV and also fencing supplied by NBC, it feels markedly safer than it was a couple of years ago.

BOB is currently working on recommendations for the whole park which will include improvements to the signage at this location and completion of some additional fencing.

Becketts Park has not experienced students using the park during the summer months yet. BOB however does not envisage any major issues with the students in the summer.

We will be recommending designated BBQ areas in Midsummer Meadow area. The location has been suggested partly because many park users want BBQ facilities close by and partly to keep Becketts Park an open space clear of clutter for community events and general enjoyment.

- 4 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?

For BOB, the move has helped raise the profile of Beckets Park and our own group. This has been positive.

There are also many opportunities for BOB to collaborate with the University students and staff on a whole host of activities and subjects. This includes providing students experience in event management and planning as BOB organises and supports many community events in the park, landscape and horticultural experience as well as general volunteering such as for charity events, litter picks, gardening etc.

The University has helped provide soil and some plants for our park planters. They have provided some funding and practical support for our community events. We have a good information flow.

The University has provided space and facilities for meetings. BOB has held a successful AGM last year there and a number of Beckets Park Management Meetings have also been held at the University. These meetings bring NBC, partners and interested parties together every few months to discuss Beckets Park and allocate tasks according to the Park's Action Plan.

Our only concern is that should Nick Allen ever leave the University, his replacement might not be as enthusiastic or supportive and, although we have other University staff contacts, his involvement with BOB and Beckets Park to date has been invaluable. His hard work should be acknowledged.

NICK STEPHENS
Chair
Buddies of Beckets



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2019

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - MOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY

BRIEFING NOTE: Update from NCC Highways regarding the proposed parking changes in Thomas Chapman Grove and Malthouse Close.

Preliminary consultation closed on the 4th January 2019.

Additional canvassing was undertaken with resident's w/c 7th January 2019.
(over 50% responses received)

Key outcomes from the consultations showed two different parking schemes was preferred within the two streets:

Thomas Chapman Grove Residents

68.4% permit holder parking
54.3% 7 day restrictions
60.6% 24 hour restrictions

Malthouse Close Residents

60.9% restricted parking (double yellows)
90.5% 7 day restrictions
85.7% 24 hour restrictions

The public notices for these proposals will be advertised from 24th January with a consultation period of 21 days.

The objection period for the public notices will expire 14th February 2019.

Should any objections be received the County Council will consider these through their internal highways processes and procedures 2019. . This could take up to 4 weeks so any final decisions will be made around the middle to late March

Any approved parking proposals will require a 'works order' to be raised with the highways construction team. The standard delivery time for these type of works are between 6-8 weeks. Therefore project completion would be expected to be sometime in May 2019.