# Stamford Mercury – Monthly Report from Ketton

The monthly Full Council Meeting of Ketton Parish Council was held remotely on Wednesday,

17th March, due to the current Corvid-19 situation. All parish council meeting will be held remotely for the foreseeable future, until we are advised by the government that physical meetings can resume. Provision has been made for members of the public to participate in virtual council meetings and they will be able to view and hear the meetings, but will be only be able to speak during Public Questions time.

The virtual meeting was attended by thirteen councillors, County Councillors Brown & Payne & the Clerk.

There were six members of the public present.

Cllrs welcomed to the meeting the following representatives from Anglian Water; Rose Shisler, Stakeholder Engagement Programme Lead, Simon Love, Head of Water Recycling Networks & Adam Shaw, Regional Water Recycling Network Manager, who were invited to address concerns previously raised by the parish council.

In December 2020 and January 2021, Ketton experienced both fluvial & pluvial flooding incidences. In December 2020 the Aldgate pumping station was flooded, which resulted in Anglian Water having to use tankers to remove sewage waste and. transport it through Aldgate to Water Recycling Centres (WRC - sewage treatment works). No information about these two incidents was given to neighbours. Given that the road access is very difficult and the tankers had to work for days both day and night, the parish council consider this to have been unacceptable. The Anglian Water representatives apologised for the inconvenience that the tankering operation caused residents and explained that it had been necessary to avoid pollution and the flooding of properties, & acknowledged that having tankers operating over this period was far from ideal.

In January there were further issues at the pumping station, and cllrs were provided with the following update; the pumped pipeline (rising main) that runs between the pumping station and the WRC (sewage treatment works) at Geeston became blocked. As a result, the pumping station was unable to pump sewage away until the blockage was removed. While works were undertaken to identify the location of blockage, tankers were deployed to prevent the pumping station becoming flooded with sewage and to maintain service. Locating the blockage proved difficult, however was eventually cleared and the pumping station is now operating normally and has more than enough capacity. AW are continuing to monitor the pumping station & pipeline to ensure that they are fully functional, & the root cause of why the blockage occurred is still being investigated.

The village is currently dealing with three planning applications that could lead to an additional 80 houses built on the north side of the High Street, (Home Farm, Chater Field & The Crescent.). In each case it is the formal, official view of Anglian Water that this increase in sewage can be managed within the existing assets of Anglian Water. The village is far less confident than Anglian Water that this is the case.

Both cllrs and members of the public raised questions, some of which will be discussed further at a future site visit with cllrs & AW’s operational team regarding the Aldgate pumping station & its future capacity serving Ketton & Tinwell.

Rose Shisler informed councils that residents can sign up for service updates on their website and will receive alerts of any service disruptions. <https://inyourarea.digdat.co.uk/AnglianWater>

Recently sewage was found overflowing from a manhole cover on The Crescent site. On investigation by the landowner, the system was found to be blocked by a quantity of ‘wipes’ that had been flushed down toilets in nearby properties. Please remember that, unlike toilet paper, wipes are not biodegradable & do not break down, they will cause blockages in the sewage system. Wet wipes not only block drains but can cause ‘fat burgs’ & sewage flooding, they need to be binned not flushed.

**Police report**

PC Peter Icke sent an area crime report for the past month, dated 15 March. During the last month there has been reported in the Rutland South Beat:

An insecure vehicle was entered into and a purse was stolen; a 3 foot metal sculpture of a sheep was stolen from an A47 roundabout; persons unknown entered into a yard in Ketton and broke the lock off a shed door, they then encountered the second metal door and failed to gain entry into a metal container; a theft of a recovery truck was reported; one theft of a sheep trailer and one incident of

damage to barrier/gates

March has been fairly quiet on the South beat with only one crime. The police would like to thank residents for continuing to observe the Covid-19 regulations, thankfully they continue to have very few breaches compared to some places around the force area. The police are looking into visitors travelling to the beauty spots around Rutland including Ketton Park (Hall Close) and are visiting these sites and advising and checking distances travelled, & will issue Covid-19 tickets where breaches are found.

The joint Rutland North and Rutland South priority will remain as rural crime in relation to burglaries, car crime and theft from farms. The police want to remind residents that the usual Modus Operandi is entry by forcing rear garden doors or windows, as these areas are isolated and out of sight. Please make sure all doors are locked whether you’re in or not, windows are locked and secure and look at your security measures on any lockups, garages, sheds or outbuilding. If you can make it difficult for anyone to get into the rear garden, even better as this is the preferred point of entry for burglars. Preferred items for criminals to steal are jewellery and cash, so please keep these safe. Try and park your vehicle in a well-lit area, & manoeuvre your van to make it difficult to open any side or rear doors. The police are running a vehicle enforcement campaign throughout Rutland for speed and anti-social driving & will be out in villages and towns with the speed laser gun. They will update Twitter and Facebook with the results. The police will continue to work closely with the local residents and will alert residents as soon as a crime is reported. The police current operations are Op Vitality for rural crime with extra officers on patrol and Op Vulpine for proactive Covid-19 breaches and crime. If anything suspicious is seen, please report it through either 999 or 101.

Neighbourhood Link is a free email messaging service from Leicestershire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to residents.

Residents can sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in our local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. They will also have the opportunity to reply directly to our neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys.

<https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/#signup-section>

Cllr Karen Payne confirmed that enhancements to the cyclepath/footway on the A6121, near

Chater Lodge and the installation of a new footpath on Geeston road will be completed in the new financial year.

Cllr Gordon Brown confirmed that both the Cottesmore & North North Luffenham Recycling Centres are both currently closed, although the North Luffenham site will reopened very soon, after essential road marking at the site entrance has been completed.

RCC’s contractor is painting the yellow lines this week on the High Street, Empingham Road and

Church Road. RCC’s staff will be visiting Ketton weekly to enforce the restrictions & issue Penalty Charge Notices when appropriate.

The Highways & Open Space Committee met on 3 March & discussed grass cutting in both the churchyard & cemetery. It was agreed that the grass in the old part of the cemetery (both sides of the avenue of yew trees) will be left uncut until August, with meandering footpaths mown through the uncut areas, and signage erected, explaining why it has been left uncut. Building on the success of the trial unmown area in the cemetery last year, it was agreed that a small trial area of the churchyard will be left unmown until the end of August, with mown paths so people can be encouraged to walk through the area to admire the tombstones and meadow flowers.

Cllr Dave Phillips previously informed cllrs that in partnership with Openreach, Ketton is about to become one of the best-connected rural communities in the UK, partially funded by the Government Local Full Fibre initiative, RCC and Gigabit Vouchers scheme. Later in 2021, every home and business in the village of Ketton will have access to ultra-reliable, ultrafast Gigabit broadband, giving them all speeds from 100 Mbps up to 910 Mbps – a minimum of 5 times faster than the current average download speed in the village.

Following the laying of fibre late last year from the Stamford telephone exchange to KSCC and the Library as part of the Rutland County Council Local Full Fibre Network programme to connect public buildings, funded mainly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, it will be possible for homes in the village to be connected to ultrafast broadband. The fibre will follow the existing cable routings underground and overhead via telegraph poles.

An application has been made through the Parish Council to Openreach asking them to provide a cost for the installation to every postcode in the village. We expect that with a good take-up by individuals and businesses in the village, each installation should be at no cost to householders, other than the standard ISP charges. This will be achieved through the use of the Rural Government Gigabit Voucher scheme which will offset the costs by £1500 for each household and £3500 for each business that connects to fibre, where their existing speeds are below 100 Mbps (meaning that all households in Ketton would be eligible for these contributions.

Once we know the costs involved, Openreach will seek to obtain pledges from sufficient individuals and businesses to meet 130% of the proposed cost. This is to allow for up to 30% not following through on their pledge. Openreach will provide an online application form for this process.

Having achieved the 130% Openreach will then proceed with the installation to home and businesses.

The scheme's significant advantage is that residents are free to subscribe to Fibre services from a wide range of suppliers, including popular broadband providers like BT, Zen, TalkTalk, Sky and EE. Residents will need to commitment to subscribe to a service that delivers at least a doubling of speeds than the service currently being received. This is for 12 months, and subscribers are free to take any service with any speed after this.

FTTP services are very affordable, so residents do not need to worry that they are committing to an expensive service; they’ll likely pay less with FTTP than they do now, for a service that is faster and more reliable.

The parish council has formed a working group, led by Cllr Dave Phillips, which also includes residents & Cllr James Robinson, & will report monthly to the full council. Cllrs & the working group will shortly start circulating information about the project & are currently gathering names & addresses of residents & businesses who would like to express an interest in installing full fibre broadband into their properties.

Flooding recently occurred on Steadfold Lane/Stamford Road, which was alleviated by the quick actions of our Flood Warden Ronnie Burt, who personally cut grips into the Steadfold Road grass verges to help drain water. RCC Highways will carry out further work on the grips all the way up Steadfold Lane to minimise the water coming down the road. This will have a twofold impact in that less water will end up at the bottom, but also less silt as well, which has been causing the problem with the drain in the lay-by. C.Cllr Brown confirmed that the grip cutting will be scheduled to take place late summer, early autumn 2021, & RCC Environmental Services has confirmed that the ditch has been cleared of debris.

C.Cllr Brown will inspect the ditch before contacting the landowner to request that they schedule the ditch digging, although consideration will need to be given to the bird nesting season. The parish council will be kept updated on progress accordingly.

During 2020 Rutland County Council agreed a raft of new targets, initiatives and actions to help in the global fight against climate change. In December 2020 Cllr Cade attended, on behalf of Ketton Parish Council, the Virtual Climate Emergency Action Day for Local Councils, organised by the Leics & Rutland Association of Local Councils. Cllr Cade gave a brief presentation to cllrs at the February Full Council Meeting, emphasising what we, as a parish council, could do to support RCCs pledge to achieve net-zero Carbon. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Cade should set up a small working group to look at the parish council's activities and influence with respect to reducing our carbon footprint. Cllrs Cade & Lyons will

lead this project for the parish council & continue to update cllrs on progress.

Rutland Covid 19 Testing - Community Collect Scheme launches on March 22nd, & will support the expansion of asymptomatic testing by allowing for the distribution of self-test kits to individual households to test at home. Community collect is currently only available for use by adults of households of children at nursery, primary, secondary schools and colleges, members of child care support bubbles, as well as those in related occupations e.g. child minders, school bus drivers. One adult from a household can collect tests from the following locations and times. There is no need to book but you must follow social distancing requirements: Uppingham Library - Tuesday 12.30 – 17.00; Ketton Library - Tuesday12.30 – 17.00 & Ryhall Library – Thursday 12.30 – 17.00.

The NHS offers an online service which includes ordering repeat prescriptions, contacting a GP or emergency dentist, managing long term conditions and monitoring physical and mental well being <https://www.nhs.uk/health-at-home/>

https://ket2tin.wixsite.com/kettinnpKetton Green Spaces Group <https://kettongreen.wixsite.com/kett/projects> has received permission from landowners Hanson, and from Trustees KSCC for tree planting, coppicing and other tree management activities at KSCC. So, if you want some winter outdoor activity, do contact the group via its website.

You can sign up for a monthly 'Your Rutland' e newsletter by registering on Rutland County Council's website [**www.rutland.gov.uk**](http://www.rutland.gov.uk)

The Whitebread Trust is a charity for the support of individuals and organisations within the parish of Ketton. Applications for support should be addressed to the Chairman of the trust, Glenis Southern, via the Parish Clerk kettonpc@btinternet.com

It is time to renew the subscription for your Green Waste bin. Current subscriptions end on March 31st. You can renew by phoning 01572 758488 or visiting www.rutland.gov.uk/greenwaste and the cost is £40/Year bin.

Finally, if you would like to advertise any village/local online events or initiatives, then Ketton Parish Council has 5 noticeboards (refreshed weekly), a Facebook page and a website on which we may be able to display promotion. Any posters should be A5 and portrait and can be dropped into or emailed to the Parish Office (details below).

Useful contacts:

Ketton Good Neighbours Scheme: for help or support, call Rachel on 07517793397, between 9am and 6pm.

RCC’s Covid 19 Crisis helpline: 01572 722577, and information at www.rutland.gov.uk/coronavirus

Winter Grant Applications for those on benefits and affected by Covid 19 www.rutland.gov.uk/wintergrants

Carer’s Passport Information: 01572 722577

and for free PPE for informal carers email adixon@rutland.gov.uk

**Dates for your diary:**

C.Cllrs Karen Payne & Gordon Brown would like to remind residents that they hold a monthly surgery. This is currently being held remotely. The next surgery will be on Saturday April 10th, 10am to 11am: by Zoom – please contact Gordon, Gbrown@rutland.gov.uk or Karen, Kpayne@rutland.gov.uk to book a slot. Councillor Michael Wright from Ketton Parish Council will also be available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Ketton Parish Office is in Stocks Hill (Tel 01780722451), email (kettonpc@btinternet.com) and is open

Wed and Thurs 9am to 4pm.