**Ketton**

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

21st October, 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 councils 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 nine councillors, County Councillors Brown & Payne & the Clerk.

There was one member of the public present.

Councillors voted & unanimously co-opted Dave Phillips as a new councillor & approved his allocation to the Planning Committee. Councillors welcomed Dave to the parish council.

**Police report**

No police were present at the meeting, but PC Peter Icke sent an area crime report for the past month, dated 21 October. During the last month there has been reported in the Rutland South Beat;

one attempted break in to a storage container overnight; one overnight theft from a vehicle; one theft of a farmer’s electric fencing; the overnight theft of a wood chipper from a farm in Ketton was reported; one incident of theft from a vehicle, where tools are stolen; one lorry reported stolen; one reported theft of plant machinery from a building site; one incident reported of damage to farmer’s gates and fields being driven on; an overnight theft from a van and tools stolen, after locks where drilled; one theft of car number plates; 2 persons found in possession of cannabis; attempt theft of used cooking oil from premises in Ketton & South Luffenham – vehicle stopped later that day and seized by police & one attempt burglary whilst occupant was out - 2 males disturbed by neighbour and made off .

Although there were no burglaries to report in the South of Rutland this month, 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. Please continue to remove all property from your vehicle – remember’ if you leave it on show it will go’. 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 Clerk informed councillors that the police had been active in Ketton on

15 & 19 October & have been carrying out vehicle speed checks.

The police will continue to work closely with the local residents and will alert residents as soon as a crime is reported. 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>

C.Cllr Karen Payne confirmed that RCC’s Parking Review Consultation on a parking ban near

Ketton School has been completed and RCC has now signed it off. Parking restrictions should be implemented in the New Year.

Concerns have been expressed by residents and the parish council regarding the new bridge on Empingham Road, due to the size of the gap between the spars on the bridge, which a child or adult could potentially climb through. The drop from the bridge to the quarry road below is 16 metres.

C.Cllrs Brown & Payne are continuing to liaise with RCC on this matter. Cllr Andrew reported that residents have also expressed concern that drivers were speeding into Ketton on the new section of road.

The parish council’s Highways & Open Spaces Committee is reviewing the height of the new flood sign recently installed on Geeston Road, to give drivers advance warning if Collyweston Road is closed due to the river Welland flooding. It has been reported that the sign was too tall. C.Cllr Payne confirmed that RCC’s view is that the sign is designed to be read by drivers of all vehicles, including lorries, and the parish council will have to bear the cost of lowering the sign, if they decide on this course of action.

C.Cllrs Brown confirmed that Empingham Road is a secondary winter gritting route, even though it is a bus route. Cllr S.Rogers stated that the new bridge could be liable to icing during the winter, therefore needs to be gritted.

Cllrs Wright & S.Rogers are drafting a proposal to stop vehicles parking next to the post box in Aldgate, at the T junction, as this is causing access issues for residents in Aldgate.

Cllr Cade gave an update on the Ketton & Tinwell Neighbourhood Plan steering group, which met last week The steering group has started the process of tendering for consultants to help get the plan ‘into shape’ and legally secure & will be making responses to public consultations for RCC’s Local Plan and the Government’s proposed changes to the planning system.

Due to delays caused by the pandemic and with the new Local Plan, the steering group has revised their completion timetable, and now aims to present the public referendum in 2022.

Cllrs have formed a working group to explore the potential options for the Ketton Library site.

Cllrs & RCC will continue to discuss the options for the Library building & the estimated running & maintenance costs of the building. Cllrs Lyons & Forster will draft a survey to be circulated to residents with the next Chatterbox issue, to canvass opinions regarding the future use & management of the Library building.

St Mary's Church is open for prayer or quiet time Tuesday and Saturday, 2pm to 4pm.

Ketton Library is open one day a week on Thursdays, 9.30am to 2.00pm. The opening hours are currently reduced due to Covid-19.

C.Cllr Brown confirmed that the consultation concerns the reorganisation of the hospitals in Leicester. Rutland is only affected by the proposed closure of the maternity unit in Melton Mowbray.

Rutland Memorial Hospital is not included in this consultation. Stamford Hospital Minor Injuries Unit has temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Alternative Minor Injuries Units are located at Rutland Memorial Hospital, Oakham, as well as the Urgent Treatment Centre in Peterborough.

Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding the proposed closure of the St Mary's Surgery, Stamford and its effects upon Ketton residents, as Stamford is the most used small town by Ketton residents, providing most of the services they require. The parish council agreed that the decision to close St Mary's Surgery is not in the best interest of patients. There has been little consultation. Ketton residents who have no access by car to Stamford use public transport that stops at Stamford bus station. From there to St Mary's is a short walk; the walk to the Sheepmarket Surgery is considerably further and will be very difficult for older or less agile patients. The provision of primary health care in Stamford has already been adversely affected by the closure of the minor injuries unit (MIU) at Stamford Hospital. Cllrs urge residents should write to their MP & Lakeside Healthcare to express their objections to the proposed closure.

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/>

Ketton Green Spaces Group https://kettongreen.wixsite.com/kett/projects are planning some tree and green space maintenance, and tree planting sessions over the next few months and are keen to have some more volunteers.

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

C.Cllrs Karen Payne & Gordon Brown would like to remind residents that they hold a monthly surgery. This was previously held in Ketton Library but is currently being held remotely. The public can come and talk to Karen & Gordon on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00 -11.00 am, via Zoom. Councillor Sinclair Rogers from Ketton Parish Council will also be available to answer questions and provide assistance. The next surgery will be on Saturday November 7th.

The Community Hub is meeting once again at Ketton Sports & Community Centre, offering coffee, biscuits and a chance to meet up with old and new friends, every Thursday, 10am to 12 noon. Everybody welcome. Covid-19 safety measures are in place.