

Minutes of Okehampton Town Annual Assembly
held at 7pm on Monday 26th March 2018 in the Charter Hall, Okehampton

The Assembly was chaired by Councillor Goffey, Town Mayor.

In Attendance: Town Council Members; Cllr's Tolley, Leech, Goffey, Ireland, Carpenter, Marsh, Holt, Rush, Yelland, Cushing, Parkins and Vachon
10 members of the public
Mrs E James, Town Clerk

Action

2018.1 Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Town Council Members Cllr's Weekes and Cummings, DCC Member Cllr Ball and WDBC Member Cllr Davies

2018.2 Welcome and Introduction – The Mayor, Cllr Jan Goffey, welcomed those present to the Annual Assembly and presented a summary of the business to be transacted, drawing attention to copies of the agenda, minutes, and annual report that were available on tables.

2018.3 Presentation by OkePads – Mr Stevens and Mr Goodwin talked about the work and aims of OkePads which was to install public access defibrillators, initially five, within the town and to provide free training. They had successfully applied to various places for grant funding, including Okehampton Town Council, and had raised enough to be able to place an order for the 5 defibrillators from South West Ambulance Trust. In addition there were already 2 public access defibrillators in the town, previously purchased by Lions, and these would be managed by OkePads in conjunction with the new ones. Promotion of all of the public access defibrillators and the training, which would include basic life support, would be carried out in the near future.

2018.4 Minutes of Previous Assembly – The Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 10th April 2017 were agreed as correct on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Ireland, and signed by Cllr Goffey.

2018.5 Council Committees – The Chairman or Vice-Chairman, as present, of each of the Council's four Committees was introduced; Cllr Yelland – Policy & Resources, Cllr Marsh - Parks & Open Spaces, Cllr Leech – Planning, Cllr Carpenter – Property.

Reports from most of the Committees were included within the Annual Report and Councillors were available to answer any questions relating to the individual committees.

2018.6 Questions from the Public - There was one written question submitted in advance which was addressed at the Assembly:

Q. Where have our litter bins gone? The one by the phone shop, West Bridge, and the one by the Church opposite Peacocks have both disappeared.

Councillors advised that WDBC had removed them for refurbishment and they would be returned in due course.

Questions were invited from the floor:

Q. In De Brioney Heights white lines had been painted along the road creating even more problems with parking in the area. Who polices parking and why have the lines been instated there? More houses are being built along Crediton Road; parking lines need to be considered before more houses are built to plan for issues in advance.

Cllr's responded that the Town Council and DCC had looked together at road lining approximately two years ago, and some of the Councils suggestions had been taken forward, as always one of the problems was funding. The suggestions had gone out for public consultation and the final decisions had been made by DCC, not the Town Council. Enforcement was an issue and would be referred to Cllr Ball, a DCC Member.

Clerk

Q. Traffic flow issues, a comment was read from a planning application regarding the adverse impact more development would have on the town. The application quoted had just been passed and approved and more problems were on the horizon.

A traffic survey had very recently been undertaken by DCC, however this was immediately after the last lot of snow when the town was quiet.

Members of the public made the following comments:

An Okehampton Hamlets resident asked to speak and commented that the Town Council would not benefit from the precept of development just outside of the town boundary, but would be impacted by the new residents in and out of the town using the facilities.

A suggestion that Okehampton could have a one way system to help with traffic flow was made.

A Councillor explained the situation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, Joint Local Plan Consultation and Core Strategy document, which was out of date, and the problems that were being faced, including a five year housing supply loophole.

2018.7 Conclusion and Thanks – The Mayor, Cllr Goffey, thanked everybody for taking the time to attend.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Signed as a true record of the Assembly