

Brixworth Parish Council Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 17th November 2015

Clerk's Report

Correspondence/ Actions

1. The issue relating to the Freedom of Information request has still been on going during this month. Following further advice from the Information Commissioners Office, the resident was contacted and informed that the request for a copy of the recording, from the September meeting, would be fulfilled but there would be a fee for the cost of the memory stick of £3.97. The fee would need to be paid before the request could be carried out. (Section 9 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act). The fees notice was sent on 22nd October to the resident, who has three months to pay the fee. The fee has not been paid as of 11th November. The ICO have now closed the case as they are happy that correct procedure has been carried out.

An updated version of the Publication scheme and guidelines has been circulated to the Councillors for approval at the November meeting to bring our policy up to date.

2. The response received from the Co-op regarding concerns after the robbery

Dear Ms Baker,

I am writing further to your email concerning the safety of Co-operative Group staff in our Brixworth store after an armed robbery there. I passed your safety concerns and your suggestion of employing a security guard in our Brixworth store on to the store's Operations Manager for attention. Due to the very serious nature of your complaint, he forwarded it to our Security and Leakage team so that they could provide me with our corporate response. Please find below our corporate response to your concerns which I have just received from our Security and Leakage team. I apologise for the delay in obtaining this:

Yours sincerely,
John Robinson
Customer Careline

"As a community focussed retailer the Co-operative Food is proud of its links to the local communities we serve. At the heart of our business is our colleagues and customers, and the safety and security of them when they are on our premises is of paramount importance. It is unfortunate that on occasion our business can be targeted by criminals and whilst these types of incident are thankfully rare we have a response process in place for just such occurrences.

This response includes focussing on the immediate needs of those involved and thereafter completing a thorough investigation of the incident and an associated review of the premises to understand what we could have done better. I can confirm that this review has been completed and that the business is acting upon its findings. I am sure you will appreciate that it would be inappropriate to disclose in the public arena the security counter measures we deploy across our estate to mitigate the risk of further incidents.

I would however like to take the opportunity to highlight that the suggested deployment of a security guard would not mitigate the risk of a repeat incident of this type. Robberies by their nature are a pre-meditated crime. It is our experience, and that of our peers across the retail industry, that guarding is not an effective security counter measure for this type of crime. As a business we continue to explore innovative ways to mitigate risk and work closely with

Police authorities across the country to support an intelligence led approach to reducing crime in our local communities."

3. On Thursday 5th November I attended the Local Government Pension Forum at Knuston Hall, Irchester.

The forum is a chance for the Northamptonshire LGPS to give an update on how they have performed during the year. During the morning a series of presentations were on the results of the Administration report, employers' survey and investments. There were workshops in the afternoon explaining the year end reports and Calculating pensionable pay.