

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 8 MAY, 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT HEATH HAYES LIBRARY, HEDNESFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members

Councillors:

Butler, R.D. (Chairman)
Ansell, Mrs. P.A. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Holder, M. J.
Carr, I.R. Mawle, D.L.
Collis, C.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health
Mrs. C. Bowker, Committee Officer
Mr. M. Drayton, Community Engagement Officer

Also Present:-

County Councillor J. Toth
County Councillor S. Woodward
Mr. G. Hunt, Partnership District Officer, Staffordshire County Council
Sergeant Judy Browning, Staffordshire Police
Representatives from the Press
Local Residents (approximately 12)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. W. Bullock, K. L. Bennett, Mrs. D. M. Todd
County Councillor J. O'Leary and P.C. Warren Saunders, P.C. Dean Cooper and PCSOs D. Hickman
and I. Griffiths.

1. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 5 February 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from item 3 of the Notes it was requested that an update be provided on the position concerning the grass verges alongside the Cannock Road. Concern was expressed that items had been stored on the verges causing damage and that grass seed had just been thrown onto the area and that it had not been reinstated properly.

It was also reported that a serious road accident had occurred recently on the Cannock Road and that some form of pedestrian crossings were desperately needed near to the Five Ways Island and near to the junction with Chapel Street.

Mr. G. Hunt informed the Forum that he would relate the concerns of the Forum to the County Council and provide an update.

2. Speed of Lorries along Littleworth Road

Mr. Pape a local resident explained that he had been expressing concern for some years regarding 30/40 tonne lorries being driven at excessive speed along the Littleworth Road. Sergeant Browning said that she understood that PC Luke Norman had spoken to Mr. Pape regarding this issue. Numerous checks had been carried out and fines issued and further monitoring would be carried out.

Residents considered that the side roads over the Chase were being used, rather than using the main roads, to get to Rugeley. Councillor P. Ansell informed the Forum that it may be that some of the lorries were going to the Power Station and she was taking this matter up at a meeting with representatives from the Power Station to try and alleviate this problem as far as they were able to.

Mr. G. Hunt explained that he had spoken to the Highways Department regarding a weight restriction order but had been informed that as there was an industrial estate in the vicinity, the lorries had a right to access the premises.

Councillor S. Woodward considered that it may be possible to place weight restrictions orders on roads in the AONB across the Chase. Mr. Hunt agreed to investigate this matter with the Highways Department.

County Councillor S. Woodward informed the Forum that as part of the Local Members Initiative, speed cameras were purchased for use by residents in Hazel Slade and on the Littleworth Road areas. However, it appeared that there were not enough people trained in their use.

Sergeant Browning undertook to compile a list of those that were trained to use the speed cameras.

Concern was also raised with the 30 mph speed limit being on only part of the Cannock Road and the Forum considered that this should be extended.

Sergeant Browning explained that some towns had speed signs that flashed when motorists exceeded the speed limit and these acted as a visual deterrent. The signs not only informed the motorists that they were speeding, but other people were aware of those speeding.

3. Resurfacing the Littleworth Road from Beaudesert View to Wimblebury Road

Mr. G. Hunt informed the Forum that following the last meeting he had referred the matter to the Highways Department and written to Mr. Pape confirming where the scheme lay within the current year's programme and undertook to keep him updated as due to other constraints the position could change. The scheme in total would cost £750,000 and funding of £40,000 had been allocated in the current programme to start in January 2008 for investigation and design

work only.

The Capital Programme was determined on a District wide basis and there were more pressing schemes at present. However, should funding become available then it may be feasible to bring the Littleworth Road scheme forward.

The Forum were concerned that the work had commenced some years ago and then had stopped and considered that it was important that minor repair work should be carried out as soon as possible. It was also requested that Mr. Hunt investigate whether traffic calming measures were included in the scheme and to endeavour to progress the scheme, which he undertook to do on behalf of the Forum.

4. Monitoring of Noise Levels at Hednesford Hills Raceway and the results of the dialogue between the Estate Manager and the Environmental Health Department regarding this issue.

The Head of Environmental Health informed the Forum that when some monitoring had taken place at Hednesford Hills Raceway adverse weather conditions had been experienced and it had not been possible to obtain accurate readings of noise levels. However, on 22 April 2007 the weather had been fine and a good set of results had been obtained, with noise levels being monitored at several locations.

Officers from the Environmental Health division would be undertaking further investigations to ensure that noise levels within the raceway were being adequately controlled. In particular, that scrutineering checks of vehicles were being properly undertaken.

A meeting was taking place on Friday, 11 May 2007 between Council Officers and representatives from the Raceway to discuss the terms of the lease which was due for renewal in January 2008.

The Forum were concerned that when practice sessions were taking place on Saturdays, informal races were actually taking place. Although the parking was well stewarded at the Raceway, people were using the side streets to park in order to avoid the queues that formed when the meetings finished.

The Head of Environmental Health informed the Forum that the concerns raised would be borne in mind when negotiations regarding the renewal of the lease were taking place.

5. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework

The Chairman informed the Forum that Cannock Chase District Council was producing a new type of development plan for its area called the Local Development Framework, (LDF). The LDF was made up of a number of different documents.

A series of exhibitions were being held across the District in June 2007 and information would be published in a local newspaper. Staff from the Planning Policy Office would be available at the exhibitions to discuss the LDF and answer questions. A leaflet on this matter was available to those wanting to take a copy.

6. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available for completion for items to be

included on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Date of Future Meeting

The Chairman advised that a Forum meeting has been arranged for Monday, 9 July, 2007 (venue to be arranged).