

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM

TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 2014 AT 7.00PM

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors:

Rowley, J (In the Chair)

Holder, M.J.	Todd, D
Spicer, A	Todd, R
Sutherland, M	

Other Councillors present:

Bottomer, B.	Toth, J
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Officers:

T. McGovern, Corporate Director
D. Cook, Senior Committee Officer

Also present:

Staffordshire Police	Insp. P. Cook Chief Insp. S. Morrey
Heath Hayes P.C. Norton Canes P.C. Approximately 3 local residents	L, Bullock, J. Preece

Apologies had been received from both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and therefore nominations were sought for Chairman for this meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor Rowley would be Chairman for the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.D. Bernard, and Mrs. A.F. Bernard.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 12 September, 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

The following update was provided by the Corporate Director relating to the request for information regarding comparative pothole repair data:

Expenditure on reactive carriageway repairs is not allocated on a geographical basis it is driven by Highway Safety Inspections and investigatory criteria.

In terms of the cost to carry out a repair this is hugely variable dependant on numerous factors, for example; travel in relation to time, fuel cost, traffic management, size and depth of repair, equipment type utilised to carry out the work etc.

We are repairing around 1,500 potholes a month following the very wet winter we have had.

In addition to our own inspections we would encourage Residents, Councillors, Parish Councils to report Potholes directly to Highways on 0300 111 8000 or via email highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

In terms of structural maintenance over a million pounds has been spent this last financial year in the Cannock area including the sites below:

Carriageway and footway resurfacing at Hednesford Road/Cannock Road Completed 12 February 2014. Estimated cost £600,000
Carriageway and footway resurfacing at U5043 Poplar Street, Norton Canes. Completed May 2013, estimated cost £70,000
Footway resurfacing at U5043 School Road and School Close, Norton Canes Completed April 2013, estimated cost £105,000
Carriageway and footway resurfacing at A460 Eastern Way Island, Cannock. Completed March 2013, estimated cost £130,000
Footpath improvements for [John Street](#)], Chadsmoor February 2014. Estimated cost £191,000.

Further information and comparative data can be found on the website – www.staffordshire.gov.uk

4. Questions for Staffordshire Police

A discussion took place regarding a public right of way; and who had jurisdiction over moving vehicles and how they could be prevented from

parking there. It was agreed that the Police would attend a meeting on site with the relevant Councillors and the Highways Department. A response would be sent with an explanation of what could be done and by whom.

The Chief Inspector explained that he would be in this position for the next two years and was keen to learn the area as was getting the balance right for neighbourhood policing.

Safety within Cannock Town Centre was discussed following recent incidents. The police reassured the forum that Cannock Town Centre was safe and the incidents referred to were specific and not usual to the area. There had been more police presence in the town following this and would continue for the short term. There is still the 'safer nights' patrol in operation where police officers work in the town centre till 4am, checking door staff, speaking to owners and revellers. Where the police are aware of any trends and patterns then these will be assessed and addressed.

Drinking within Cannock Town Centre was raised as an issue. The police explained that they were reliant on CCTV to monitor the situation along with two police officers who were responsible for policing the town centre. Due to absence and shift patterns this had been difficult. However, where there is shown to be a need the local policing team regularly patrol the town centre. If anyone is caught drinking on the streets the alcohol is removed from them and they can be served with a notice. It was explained that the CCTV cameras in Cannock Town Centre were linked to the Council and where anti-social behaviour (including drinking in the street) was seen Officers of the Council would talk to the people through the speaker system advising them of their unacceptable behaviour. If the people do not move on then the police will be called. In addition, through the licensing unit work had been undertaken with off licences within the town centre where they had been issued with photos of known individuals who were drinking and causing a nuisance in the town. The off licences had then refused to serve these individuals and this had proven to have a positive effect on the town centre.

An explanation was requested regarding the 'displacement order' that had been granted to the police to move 'boy racers' on from areas around Cannock. The police explained that the dispersement notice meant that a warning had been published in the area giving them the power then to issue a warning and move the vehicles on. If they then returned they could potentially seize the vehicle. The injunction is there as a visible deterrent.

Reference was made to the speed of traffic travelling along Devon Road in excess of 30mph. The police explained that they had a Road Safety Plan which target hot spots and they would put Devon Road on there.

A discussion regarding the quality of images used from CCTV to assist in convictions ensued. It had been reported that some of the CCTV images were of too poor quality for the police to use when going to court. The Officer responded that the quality of the CCTV within the town centre was good and extensive footage regarding the recent incidents in the town centre had been given to the police to assist with their enquiries. There are times where the CCTV may be obscured which could mean that the images were not as clear as they could be. However, on the most recent occasion the footage was of a high quality.

5. Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

A response had been received and put on the agenda following the consultation and the outcome.

The forum was concerned about what would be happening to Cannock Hospital and the services that it provides. They were also concerned about A&E and if a crisis in the district meant that the surrounding hospitals were full and could not take anymore patients.

6. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for the Fire and Rescue Services.

7. Questions for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)

No questions had been submitted. Discussion took place regarding areas of concern which were to be raised with Highways.

Potholes in various locations within the District including John Street. Some repairs had been made to John Street and the forum was informed that these repairs would continue.

Resurfacing of Wimblebury Road would be undertaken next financial year.

A question was raised regarding the number of highways inspectors that they County had to inspect the work carried out on the highways by contractors.

It was reported that at the height of the bad weather over 400 potholes were being reported a day and the County had not recovered from this.

A comparative analysis was requested regarding monies spent on potholes/highways against the surrounding boroughs and districts.

Assurances were sought on the quality of repairs on the highways carried out by the inspectors.

It was requested that a Highways Officer be present at each forum meeting. In addition it was requested that questions be sent in prior to the meetings regarding any issues that the forum may have.

8. Dates of future Meetings

The Chairman confirmed the upcoming date of the next meeting of the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawnsley Community Forum:-

30 June, 2014

9. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The following questions would form part of the next Agenda:

Confirmation had been sought as to how the system for recording complaints was handled by the Council's Contact Centre. This followed a complaint being made in respect of fly tipping, which resulted in no report number being issued and as a consequence, the matter had taken 3 weeks to resolve.

A question was put forward regarding the amount of expenditure for each of the district/boroughs within the County regarding spending on the highway for the last financial year 2013/2014.

A proposal was put forward that Prospect Village Hall, Rawnsley be considered as a possible venue for the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.)