

2. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Progress Report on the Development of Hednesford Health Centre

The Chairman welcomed Mary Harper, District Nurse representing Cannock Chase Primary Care Trust.

Mrs. Harper reported that the opening day for the Hednesford Health Centre was proposed for July 2005 and the centre was currently 90 percent complete.

It was proposed that members of the public be invited to look around the centre before the opening day in order to gain a preview of the facilities that are available.

Mrs. Harper reported that the opening date of the centre would be confirmed on Friday 22 April 2005 and would be published in the local newspaper.

Stafford Lane – Speeding Traffic

The Chairman welcomed Mr. J. Debens, representative of Staffordshire County Council to the meeting.

Mr. Debens explained that no action had been taken at present, however this issue was being dealt with under the Hednesford Town Centre Re-development, along with all roads within the area.

Forum members discussed the issue of speed cameras and signs showing appropriate speed limits.

Some concern was raised regarding congestion with vehicles parked on the land adjacent to shops along Sharon Way, Hednesford. Mr. Debens explained that this was a local issue rather than one for Highways.

Councillor R.C. Turville explained to the Forum that he had forwarded a questionnaire to all houses along Sharon Way with regard to additional parking facilities and would forward to Mr. Debens once all the forms had been received.

Fortnightly Refuse Collection

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Shilvock, the Council's Head of Environmental Health and Public Protection to the meeting.

Members of the public expressed concern that no information had been received in respect of the new fortnightly collections and extra refuse bin.

Mr. Shilvock reported that Council had recently approved the fortnightly collections of normal waste and green waste. He explained that the green bin would continue to be used for domestic waste and a new brown bin would be

provided for green garden waste. A leaflet and calendar would be distributed explaining this in advance of the service commencing.

Mr. Shilvock advised the Forum that the Council was looking at an alternative way of advising the public rather than the conventional method of leaflets. It was suggested that sticky labels on both bins be used advising what waste goes in what bin. The Council was currently liasing with a supplier regarding labels that are attached to the hinge of the bin.

A representative of Hednesford Town Council was concerned that a large family would require more than a fortnightly collection and feared waste could end up being left on pavements.

Mr. Shilvock explained that existing Council policy allows for a family of 7 or more to be entitled to a second waste bin. He also explained that any waste left on footpaths and not removed, was the responsibility of the household for it to be collected and disposed of. However if waste was left the household could be guilty of depositing rubbish on the footway and the Council would have to take action.

Mr. Shilvock also explained that those members of the public with special medical needs who generate a large amount of waste would receive a weekly collection. A facility was already available for residents who are physically unable to put their waste out to receive a back door collection service. This is available for both domestic waste and recycling collections.

Councillor Mrs. D. Grice asked Mr. Shilvock to confirm the policy on hiring another green waste bin for £25, and if the scheme was still in place.

Mr. Shilvock explained that there was a scheme in place where households could hire another green bin. However at the present time the scheme was under review and no additional bins were being hired.

It was reported that there had been a number of missed collections and local residents were concerned that the amount of waste could build up. Mr. Shilvock assured the Forum that the present difficulties would shortly be resolved, if not, a press release would be issued.

Mr. Shilvock further commented that there would be a period of flexibility whilst the new service was being rolled out.

3. UPDATE ON PYE GREEN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT

The following update was distributed to all local residents at the Forum, which had been received from the Council's Local Plans and Policy Manager, Mr. Price.

"It was reported at the last Community Forum that the second part of the Wildlife Survey carried out by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust had just been received.

Consideration is still being given to this and other responses in order to revise the draft Development Brief.

Discussions are continuing between the District Council and County Council on aspects of the Brief raised during the public consultations, in particular the nature and position of the proposed distributor road.

Once these matters have been resolved there will be a further meeting when the responses to the consultation will be explained.”

No comments were received from the Forum.

4. ITEMS REQUESTED BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Pye Green Road – Noise and Nuisance caused by Scrambling Bikes

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Singleton, a local resident to the Forum.

Mr. Singleton explained to the Forum that there was concern with the excessive noise nuisance in the vicinity of the Pye Green Road area with scrambling bike events being held on a nearby field, and asked what the Council was doing to tackle this situation.

Mr. Shilvock explained that the Council was aware of events held on 11 and 12 September and 18 and 19 December and that the events were being held without the permission of the landowner.

It was explained that 3 of the Council’s Environmental Health Officers separately monitored the situation during the weekend of 18 and 19 December 2004. The Officers’ opinion was that the noise was not excessive enough to take action.

Mr. Shilvock requested that local residents take vehicle registration numbers of the vehicles at the events and report to the Council, and he also explained that he had contacted the local Police to request assistance with regard to access at the events, as this was a public safety issue.

5. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Rugeley Road Pelican Crossing

Councillor Mrs. D. Grice raised concern that more local children were crossing the Rugeley Road due to a new housing estate that had been built and also felt that additional traffic calming measures were required around the area.

Mr. Debens explained that no action had been taken at present, however this issue was being dealt with under the Hednesford Town Centre Re-development.

A local resident reported that approximately 12 months ago a cycle track had been planned for the Rugeley Road and as part of this, a pelican crossing would be installed.

Mr. Debens would report back to the next Forum regarding the installation of the cycle track.

6. LEISURE ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Walsh, the Council's Leisure Services Manager to the meeting.

Hednesford War Memorial

Mr. Walsh explained that following the last Hednesford Forum he had been invited to a meeting with Friends of Hednesford War Memorial at which the Council was presented with a plan on what the 'Friends' wanted to achieve.

It was explained that there was a requirement to check and consult with the Countryside Service, who manage Hednesford Hills, but there were no real issues in particular with the area apart from Gaskins Wood, which may contain some uncommon insect species in the area. However a full ecological survey would be undertaken in the summer to establish the importance of the existing habitat on their life cycle.

Mr. Walsh explained that work had been proposed regarding lighting within the area and problems had been highlighted regarding anti-social behaviour.

Mr. Ellis, Chairman of Hednesford War Memorial, raised concern regarding the insect survey interfering with the work of the memorial site, however Mr. Walsh assured Mr. Ellis that very often with sensitive management, sites can co-exist.

Forum members were concerned that the War Memorial was currently overgrown, and although a pleasant place to visit, it could not be seen from the Town.

Lack of Youth Facilities in Hednesford

Mr. Walsh provided the Forum with the following information in relation to youth facilities in Hednesford.

	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Total 0-19</u>	<u>%</u>
Hednesford Green Heath	4380	1275	26.3
Hednesford North	7041	1842	26.3
Hednesford South	5807	1271	25.0
TOTALS	17678	4388	(1 in 4 under 19 yrs)

Given the population one would expect to see 42.5 ha of Parks and Open Spaces in such a ward, using the National Playing Field Association recommendations.

(17678 people x 2.4 ha/1000 = 42.5 ha (70 full size football pitches))

However, the actual picture is somewhat different.

Formal Parks

Hednesford Green Heath	1.33 ha	(Bond Way)
Hednesford North	19.56 ha	(Bracken Close, Cotswold Road, Howards Crescent, Hednesford Park)
Hednesford South	0	
TOTAL	20.89 ha	

Therefore, overall a 50% deficiency but this does represent 20% of the total District's Public Open Space in these 3 wards leaving 80% over the remaining 12 wards.

Youth Provision (0-19)

Looking specifically at youth provision, 4388 youths require 7.3 full size pitches split into areas/play areas 1.8 ha + 0.8 ha.

So 0.8 ha equipped play areas/parks = (x 4388) = 3.5 ha.

In other words, 6 pitches areas out of the 35 available is recommended for youth provision. It is recommended that the provision is based on fenced off areas (i.e. dog free) in the following way:-

All areas to be fenced:

LAP	> 6 yrs old 100m ² unequipped 1 min from home	Howards Crescent
LEAP	4-8 yrs old 5 mins from home 400m ²	Bracken Close Cotswold Road
NEAP	8-18 yrs old 15 mins from home 1000m ² (split 50/50 hard surface, grass or safety surface)	Hednesford Park.

	<u>Hednesford North:</u>	Bond Way
WARD SPLIT:	<u>Hednesford Green Heath:</u>	Bracken Close, Cotswold Road, Hednesford Park, Howards Crescent
	<u>Hednesford South:</u>	Nothing.

Mr. Walsh reported that there were no national guidelines regarding the amount of space to be used for youth facilities, however the 6 acre rule for every 1,000 people is aimed for in most instances.

It was explained that although Hednesford contained 20 per cent of the District's parks and open spaces the Council was looking at ideas such as skate parks/teen zones in most areas.

Councillor Mrs. Jones agreed that these ideas were good, however she was concerned with the lack of youth facilities in the Hednesford area for youths in the evening.

Mr. Walsh explained that consultation was taking place with youths, who themselves appeared concerned with the lack of facilities and with issues such as anti-social behaviour in the area, and furthermore the Council is working jointly with Staffordshire County Council to tackle particular issues.

Councillor Collis explained that he is a Member of the Young People Fundamental Steering Group. The aim of the group is to discuss various issues surrounding young people and ultimately try to tackle these issues.

He explained that a register is currently being compiled for young people to use providing information on various organisations, which will be distributed across the District shortly.

He further explained that at a meeting held this week the group discussed the 'Chase It' programme; a leaflet would shortly be produced which provides various activities for young people to participate in during school holidays.

7. VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Sandra Richards, the Council's Programme and Marketing Officer for Leisure Services.

Mrs. Richards reported that the official VE day celebrations would take place on 10 July 2005 and the Council was proposing to hold celebrations in Hednesford Town Centre on 9 July 2005.

Mrs. Richards explained that she would welcome any ideas and contributions from the local people of Hednesford towards the VE day celebrations.

8. FORWARD AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Suggestions of issues to be discussed at future meetings of the Forum were sought. It was explained that appropriate representatives would be invited to attend and debate the issues and answer any questions.

It was agreed that the following items be included on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Forum and that appropriate representatives be requested to attend to respond to these issues.

- Update on Hednesford Town Centre Re-Development
- Stafford Lane – Speeding Traffic (Councillor G. Ball)
- Fortnightly Refuse Collection (Councillor G. Ball)
- Sharon Way – Parking (Councillor R.C. Turville)
- Rugeley Road Pelican Crossing (Councillor D. Grice)
- Development of Community Forums
- Pye Green Road – Noise and Nuisance caused by Scrambling Bikes (Councillor Mrs D. Grice)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted the date of the next meeting:-

- Tuesday 5 July 2005