

Heath Hayes, Norton Canes & Rawnsley Community Forum

Time and Date

7:00 p.m. on Monday 30 June, 2014

Venue

Prospect Village Hall, Williamson Avenue, Rawnsley

You are invited to attend this meeting to consider the matters listed below.



S.G. Brown
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

To appoint Ward Members as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Community Forum for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

2. **Apologies**

3. **Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**



To declare any personal, pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct and any possible contraventions under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

4. **Notes**

To receive the Notes of the meeting held on 24 March, 2014 (Enclosed).

Civic Centre, PO Box 28, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1BG

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5. Question(s) for Staffordshire Police

Members of the public are invited to ask questions of the representative(s) from Staffordshire Police in relation to local policing matters.

6. Question(s) for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

No questions have been submitted in advance of the meeting.

7. Questions received for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)

The following questions were submitted by Mr. Gibbs, Local Resident

When will John street Wimblebury be properly resurfaced?

John Street Wimblebury – Surfacing – the Highways Department acknowledges the current condition of John Street in Wimblebury. They cannot provide dates of reconstruction at this time until further budgetary information is available in order to form future programmes. In the meantime their maintenance teams will monitor and make the necessary repairs to identified defects.

It has been said that to cover Staffs between Kinver and Stoke there is only one Highways Inspector. Is this true?

There are approximately 15 Highway Inspector's across the County divided up within given areas; these include the re-active inspectors who will deal with enquiries from the public and urgent defects.

Is there any inspection of highway repair or surfacing, and if so are their reports available for public scrutiny?

All recorded defects are recorded on a system (IHMS) and a list of all defects in the area was provided at the previous forum (2 December 2013). However, printing lists is of little value as issues change hourly as defects are repaired and reported. A list of recently repaired defects are available on the website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/abouthighways/Potholes2.aspx

Why when Forum Minutes clearly identify a need for a response is none made?

Staffordshire County Council always provides a response for public forums when required. At this particular forum no questions were submitted in advance therefore, no officers were required to attend. The demand on officer's time for evening meetings is extensive and the Council does not have the resources to attend them all. Staffordshire County Council covers as many of the Cannock Chase forums as possible where required.

When unable to do so, and a question has been submitted in advance a written response may be provided for inclusion in the agenda and/or read out by the Chair of the forum. Staffordshire County Council Officers are available for the public to speak to during office hours five days a week. If members of the public

wish to raise any questions or speak to Highways officers directly then this can be done by calling 0300 111 8000 or via email - highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

The following question was raised at the last Community Forum

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

It would be difficult to give specifics based on the extensive amount of maintenance activities that are undertaken across the 3,500 miles of road in Staffordshire. Over a £million was spent in surfacing alone within the Cannock Chase District areas last year. However, there are many other maintenance activities that are undertaken such as drainage, signals, streetlights, winter maintenance, signs, lines etc. Information on expenditure is published on the Staffordshire website

8. Question raised at the last Community Forum

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.

The following response has been provided by Mr. Mike Walker, Environmental Protection Manager:-

Reports of fly tipping are received in the Council's Contact Centre where they are initially logged and then referred to Environmental Services (Waste and Engineering Services) for removal. Removal is carried out as soon as practicable, generally within three working days. However, in the case of larger deposits of waste the need to engage a private Waste Disposal Contractor may extend this period. Delays in the removal of waste may also arise when the waste is dumped on private land.

Where evidence of the fly tipper or producer of the waste is available, the Environmental Health (Environmental Protection Team) will be involved in relation to any enforcement action.

9. Question received by Member of the Public

The following question has been submitted by Mr. G. Burnett, local resident.

Are the current Council Community Forums format the most effect means of communicating with the residents of the district on matters that concern them.

"What do they cost the Council to host and are they an effective use of Police and Council officer's time, and other resources, in answering questions that appear often to be raised only by Councillors for their own benefit when they have

access to information from Council Officers through their normal duties

Could the expense and resource spent on Community Forums be used more effectively elsewhere for better value to the local community

Can the Council prove forums are effective given that only Councillors and other official are recorded as attending in the minutes .How can the all-important levels of local resident participation and attendance b be monitored effectively as there is no apparent means of recording these beyond a vague head count

Has this Council done any work in assessing the Forums effectiveness and considering other any means of engaging with a wider audience of residents on the issues discussed at Forums

The election of Forum Chair and Vice Chair is restricted to only Councillors from the local wards and voting is restricted to themselves How can this process be justified as a democratic one when the Forums claim to represent the local residents and yet they allow no permanent representation on them?

Can we be assured that these forums are an effective means of influencing Council policy by residents and not simply a box tick exercise to fulfil a criteria set simply to impress external auditors or verifiers of the Councils own processes”.

The following response has been provided by Mr. Steve Partridge, Democratic Services Manager:-

The Council would like to thank Mr. Burnett for raising concerns about the effectiveness of its four Community Forums as a means of communicating and engaging with local residents. The Council itself has identified the need to review the Community Forums, and has included it in the Transformation Priority Delivery Plan for 2014-15, and will be undertaking a consultation / review exercise later in the year. The issues raised will be included as part of this consultation.

The forums, which were initially set up a number of years ago, meet on a quarterly basis in each of the four main population areas within the district, i.e. Cannock; Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley; Hednesford; and Rugeley and Brereton, and form part of the Council’s annual Calendar of Meetings. They are intended as a means of discussion on any matters of local concern, i.e. relating to the relevant Wards therein, which may be raised by members of the public or the relevant Ward Members; they are also intended as a means of consultation on, for example, planning or budgetary matters.

In order to ensure that appropriate Officers can be in attendance, if required, i.e. as opposed to having a number of representatives present ‘just in case’, we ask that questions be submitted in advance. This is particularly the case if questions are of a technical nature or relate to an area that is not the Council’s responsibility, such as highways or Police matters; or any other potential invitees, such as the Fire and Rescue Service or local Health Trust.

The Police; relevant County Councillors; and local Parish / Town Councillors, plus

representatives from local Health Authority / Trust; local Voluntary Organisations; local Residents' Associations; and local business organisations, where known, are all invited to attend, as is the local MP, and members all are given advance notice of the meetings and asked to publicise them on notice boards etc to encourage public attendance. However, it is recognised that public attendance / participation is limited. This could be for a number of reasons, including those referred to.

Finally, the Council would like to give an assurance that the forums are not simply a tick box exercise; however, as previously mentioned, it shares the concerns about their ongoing effectiveness and plans to undertake a consultation / review exercise later in the year.

If members of the public would like to participate in the proposed review, any ideas or suggestions on how they could be improved should be emailed to membersservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk using the title 'Review of Community Forums'. Any ideas or suggestions made will be considered as part of the proposed review.

10. Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mandi Dunbar, Personal Assistant to Jeff Crawshaw, Deputy Chief Executive, Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has provided the following update:-

"Our Directors have concluded that, as the Trust continues to be going through the Trust Special Administration (TSA) process, it would not be appropriate for them to attend the Community Forums at this time. The Directors would like to assure local people that services at both Cannock Chase and Stafford Hospitals continue as usual and would encourage people to continue to use them as appropriate.

If there are any specific questions on the day-to-day business of the hospitals, we would be very pleased to email you answers/updates from the Directors.

If you have any questions around the TSA process and future of services, these would need to be addressed to the TSA. Please let me know if you'd like me to put you in touch with them.

The TSA can be contacted at: www.tsa-msft.org.uk/contact-us or for confidential matters at: TSApublic@MidStaffs.nhs.uk"

11. Forward Agenda for Future Meeting

Questions are invited from members of the public and will be included on the next Agenda for the Forum which is scheduled for Monday 8 September, 2014. Any questions from members of the public should be submitted on the form supplied.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

Please note the following dates of forthcoming meetings:-

Monday, 8 September, 2014
Monday, 1 December, 2014
Tuesday, 10 March, 2015

To: Councillors

(Chairman)
(Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Bernard, J.D.	Preece, J.
Buttery, M.S.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Dean, A.	Stretton, Mrs. Z.
Hardman, B.	Todd, Mrs. D.
Holder, M.J.	

Other Invitees:

Mr. A. Burley	Member of Parliament (Cannock Chase Constituency)
Miss. N. Somani	Clerk to Cannock Wood Parish Council
Mr. R. Smythe	Clerk to Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council
County Councillor G. Adamson	Hednesford & Rawnsley Division
County Councillor C. Mitchell	Hednesford & Rawnsley Division
County Councillor D. Todd	Cannock Villages Division
Ms. A. Ames	Chairperson, Chase Tenants and Residents Federation
Ms. T. Gould	Blake Community Work, Chase CVS
Mrs. B. Hall	Norton Canes Community Partnership
Ms. L. Florence	Norton Canes Parish Council
Ms. A. Ames	Rumer Hill Residents Association
M. Keeling	Staffordshire County Council (Highways)
Ms. A. Schulp	District Lead Commissioner, Staffordshire County Council
Insp. P. Cooke	Staffordshire Police
Mr. N. Pedersen	Staffordshire Fire & Rescue
Ms. S. Green	Policy Team CCDC
Ms. V. Singleton	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Ms. T. Hunt	Chase CVS
Ms. C. Matthews	Chase CVS
Mr. K. Parson	Chase Council for Voluntary Services
	Heath Hayes Library
	Norton Canes Library
	Chase Citizens Advice Bureau
Mr. J. Beddows	Norton Canes Parish Councillor

Mr. L. Bullock

Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Councillor

* Would Town / Parish Clerks please ensure that copies of the papers are forwarded to their respective Councillors.

NB: The person to contact regarding the agenda and documents for this meeting is Mrs. J. Hunt, Senior Committee Officer:

Tel: 01543 464623

E-mail: joannahunt@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Date of despatch: Wednesday 18 June, 2014