

Cannock Community Forum

Time and Date

7.00pm on Tuesday 9 December, 2014

Venue

Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

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



S.G. Brown
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **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.

3. **Notes**

To receive the Notes of the meeting held on 16 September, 2014 (Enclosed).

4. **Questions for Staffordshire Police**

No questions have been submitted in advance of the meeting.

5. **Questions for Cannock Chase District Council**

- (i) ***“Why aren’t the pathways for the public around the perimeter of the Golf Course being maintained?”***

(submitted by Mrs. M. Heaton, a local resident)

Mike Edmonds, Head of Commissioning has spoken directly to Mrs. Heaton in order to clarify which particular pathways on the golf course she is referring to. It has been explained to Mrs. Heaton that not all pathways on the golf course are maintained but now the particular pathways in question have been identified it has been agreed that he will look into this matter and respond directly to her in due course.

- (ii) ***“Early morning on Tuesday 4 November 2014, spraying to control worm casts took place on the golf course, which is part of the public open space of Cannock Park and is used extensively by the public.***

- 1. What is the Trade and Chemical name of the substance used?***
- 2. Why were there no warning signs posted at the entrances?***
- 3. What consideration has been given to the environmental consequences of using chemicals to suppress the activity of worms, which are an important part of the wildlife food chain?”***

(submitted by Mrs. C. Salmon, a local resident)

Mike Edmonds, Head of Commissioning has responded to Mrs. Salmon directly in advance of the Forum meeting answering the questions she has raised. An extract of the letter is outlined below:

“I write in response to the following questions which you have requested be included on the Agenda for the next Community Forum on 9th December 2014. However, as they are purely operational matters and relate solely to the recent spraying undertaken on the golf course to manage and control worm casts I have set out below my response in advance of the meeting and in the order raised.

As you are aware, this same exercise was carried out last year and at the Friends of Cannock Park Meeting held on 25th January 2013 the Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Manager provided an explanation as to the impact the chemicals might have on particular worms. I enclose a copy of these minutes which were agreed as a true and accurate record at the following meeting held on 7th June 2013, for your information.

Reply to Question 1 - The spraying of the golf course was undertaken by a contractor and the name of the chemical used is Caste Off. This is a systemic benzimidazole fungicide which has a wide application and is used on fruit, vegetables, cereals, ornamental garden plants, forestry as well as for worm cast suppression on turf. It is approved for outdoor amenity grassland use but is also used as fruit dips and seed treatments post harvest

and pre-storage, to control rotting.

Reply to Question 2 - Signage was erected at the main entrance to the golf course and staff within the golf shop were also made aware before spraying commenced. However, on investigation it has been established that the signage did not include all of the relevant dates when the spraying was undertaken. In future the signs will advise when spraying is taking place but will not indicate a specific date, so as to avoid this problem again.

Reply to Question 3 - It is acknowledged that earthworms are beneficial to soil formation, aeration, drainage and organic matter breakdown but in the autumn through to the spring months the casts of the 2 to 3 species that feed on grass litter known as thatch cause a really big problem on golf course surfaces encouraging weed growth and making them muddy, bumpy, wet and uneven. If left untreated up to 60 -70 tonnes of casts could be deposited on the golf course surfaces. It is for this reason and following a request from the Council's golf course operator, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) that the spraying was undertaken so that the problem could be suitably and appropriately managed, with minimal impact on the course and local environment.

As explained to you at the Friends meeting held on 25th January 2013 the chemicals only affect the 2 -3 species of earthworms that come to the surface, leaving the worm species deeper under the surface to flourish in greater numbers”.

- (iii) ***Last year members of the local ex-servicemen's groups asked that consideration be given to find a system whereby the wreaths and other tributes could be maintained on the memorial for as long as possible and hopefully all year. While I am not part of these groups I wish to make the following comments:-***

I have noted the small modification to the memorial and have seen the majority of wreaths and tributes survive throughout the year. I would therefore like to thank the officer concerned for his efforts in this matter and hope that he will in due course extend my appreciation to his staff, in particular the town centre cleansing staff who look after this area.

(submitted by Mr. A. Haywood, a local resident)

The Council's Corporate Director, Mr. Tony McGovern has provided the following statement in response to Mr. Haywood's comments:-

“Thank you for the positive feedback about the Council's street cleansing operatives.

In agreement with Royal British Legion, the Council's practice over many years has been to collect the wreaths by the middle of January every year following the Remembrance services of the previous November. It is correct that a local branch group did ask whether wreaths and other tributes could

be maintained on the Cannock memorial all year round. The Council agreed to explore this request and whilst this was being explored, to leave wreaths on the Cannock memorial for longer during 2014. However, in this process, it became clear that the advice of the Staffordshire Royal British Legion to the Council (who have the legal responsibility for war memorials) is that removal of the wreaths in mid- January every year is the appropriate timing. The Council will therefore follow this policy across all war memorials in the District, as it has done for many years. Should the Royal British Legion at national or County level provide different advice in the future, the Council will consider this very carefully”.

- (iv) ***“We walk our dog on a lead and clean up after him on the land behind the old "Moon Under the Water", Huntington Terrace Road and on Hednesford Park.***

In both situations more and more people have their dogs loose which can lead to aggression together with lack of control where their dogs foul; leading to lack of cleaning up by owners. Can more be done with signing and enforcement of rules to prevent this happening, as it can be particularly dangerous to children?”

(submitted by B. Grainger, a local resident)

Mike Walker, Environmental Protection Manager, has provided the following response:-

"At present the Dog Control Order made by the Council in 2009 to control dogs off leads only applies where the dog is off lead within 3 metres of a highway. In considering this Order the Council was obliged to be mindful of the dog owning communities desire to exercise their dogs off lead and determined not to restrict this activity in parks. Hence the Order does not require owners to keep their dog(s) on a lead in Parks and other Open land away from the highway.

It is acknowledged that some dogs will be aggressive towards other animals and people. In the latter case when a dog is dangerously out of control in a public place and there is a fear that it will bite a person, or actually does bite a person it would be a matter for the police to investigate. Dog-on-dog attacks may be addressed by new powers introduced in October. Action can be taken against the dog's owner where the lack of control of its aggressive behaviour is detrimental to the quality of life of the local community, is persistent or continuous and is unreasonable. Action may be taken by the Police or the Council who must initially issue appropriate warning to the owner before issuing a Community Protection Order. Failure to comply could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution. It should be appreciated that in determining the appropriate action each case would be considered on it's own merits.

In terms of fouling the second of the Council's Dog Control Orders requires dog owners to pick up dog waste left by their dog(s). Sadly, some dog owners continue to ignore this requirement. Enforcement officers routinely

conduct covert patrol of parks and other areas of the district in an effort to identify those responsible for dog fouling and littering. In addition high visibility patrols are also carried out where officers engage with dog owners offering advice on responsible dog ownership and providing promotional material such as leaflets and dog poo bags. Furthermore, officers also put up signs in areas where reports of fouling occur and at the public's request. These may be either fixed to lamp standards, sprayed on the pavement or a banner sign fastened to railings outside parks or schools.

Unfortunately however there are a limited number of officers and much of this antisocial behaviour occurs when the officers are not in the area. In this respect, if members of the public have specific information regarding a particular problem dog or dog owner and are willing to provide evidence in the form of a statement, enforcement officers will be able to pursue the matter with the owner concerned. This may include the issue of warnings, Fixed Penalty Notices and ultimately prosecution in cases where the evidence is sufficient and other options have been unsuccessful in achieving the desired change in behaviour. "

- (v) ***“Is there any consideration for the provision of Athletics in the new stadium layout considering the recent success in the Olympic Games and European (Commonwealth?) in Glasgow”***

(submitted by B. Grainger, a local resident)

Mike Edmonds, Head of Commissioning has provided the following response:-

“The Council has undertaken a rigorous process in order to determine the mix of facilities to be included in the proposed community sport and recreation hub at the former stadium site. This has included consultation with local residents, key stakeholders and National Sporting Governing bodies in order to identify the type of possible facilities to be included on the site. This work has been underpinned by a detailed feasibility study which looked at the majority of sports including athletics before the proposed mix of facilities to be included was determined.

The results of which do not include for the re-provision of an athletics track on the site but do cater for a number of individual athletic activities such as running (jogging) and cycling within the new facilities to be provided”.

6. Questions for Staffordshire County Council Highways – submitted in advance

“What plans are in place to repair the potholes on roads within the District?”

(submitted by Councillor G. Alcott)

Mark Keeling, the Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council has provided the following information:-

“In terms of the general condition of the footways and carriageways in the area, the County Council’s Asset Management Plan develops carriageway and footway lifecycle plans to optimise the use of available funding.

For those sites that have not yet been prioritized for renewal through the Asset Management Plan the County Council operates a risk management approach to reactive repairs which include a regular inspection regime.

This basically means various potholes are actioned dependant on the category (risk) with each hazard being rated on size, depth, location and status of the route.

When there are a number of higher categories’ then temporary repairs may be required in order to “make safe” until such time a permanent repair takes place.

In addition to the reactive work we have ongoing programmes of highway maintenance which include re-surfacing and preventive maintenance on both footways and carriageways, it is intended that these programmes of work will be available to view via the website in the near future.

If anyone has any specific concerns in regards the highway network then please contact the County Council on 0300 111 8000 or via e-mail: highways@staffordshire.gov.uk. “

7. Questions for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

No questions have been submitted in advance of the meeting.

8. Resident Champions

Resident Champions are a group of volunteers who help to tackle issues in the local community; they can support members of the public with problems such as: Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Public Transport, Environmental Health, Highways and Housing.

Two volunteers, Laurie Bernard and Janice Pratt, will be in attendance to explain how they might be able to help.

9. Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust - Update

Management of the Cannock Chase and Stafford Hospitals transferred with effect from 1 November, 2014 to, respectively, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Foundation Trust (“RWT”) and University Hospitals North Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (“UHNS”).

An approach was made to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), as the managing body responsible for Cannock Chase Hospital, to either: (i) send a representative to this cycle of Community Forums, or (ii) provide a statement for inclusion on the agenda.

Neither of these have been forthcoming at the time of preparation of the agenda. If an update is received in time for the meeting then it will be read out by the Chairman.

(The RWT website: <http://www.royalwolverhamptonhospitals.nhs.uk>)

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Questions are invited from members of the public and will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting which is as follows:-

- Tuesday 3 March, 2015 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

Any questions should be submitted on the form supplied with this agenda. Alternatively, questions can be emailed to membersservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

To Councillors:-

Kraujalis, J.T. (Chairman)
Alcott, G. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Anslow, C.	Snape, P.A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dixon, D.I.	Toth, J.
Freeman, Miss M.	Witton, P.

Other Invitees/Representatives:

Mrs. J. Arm	Clerk to Bridgtown Parish Council
County Councillor Mrs. D. Todd	SCC - Cannock Villages Division
County Councillor Mrs. A. Spicer	SCC - Cannock Town Centre Division
County Councillor D. Davis	SCC - Chadsmoor Division
Mr. K. Parsons	Chase Council for Voluntary Services
Chief Inspector Stephen Morrey	Staffordshire Police
Inspector Paul Cooke	Staffordshire Police
Michelle Lucas	Cannock Chase Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mark Keeling	Staffordshire County Council Highways
Mr. A. Burley	Member of Parliament (Cannock Chase Constituency)
Angela Schulp	District Lead Commissioner (Staffs CC)
Jonathan Bletcher	South Staffs PCT
Neil Pedersen	Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Victoria Singleton	Neighbourhood Watch, Staffordshire Police
Miss T. Gould	Residents Champions, Chase CVS
Helen Davis/Sultan Mahmud	Royal Wolverhampton NHS Foundation Trust

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Wendy Rowe, Senior Committee Officer:

Telephone: 01543 464584 / E-mail: wendyrowe@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Date of despatch: 27 November, 2014