

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 12 APRIL, 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Corfield, P. (Chairman)
Davis, D. (Vice-Chairman)

	Alcott, G.	Bernard, J.
	Easton, R.	Williams, A.
Staffordshire County Council Members:	Rowley, J.	

By Invitation: Inspector C. Ellerton, Staffordshire Police – Rugeley
Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU)
Sergeant Donna Gibbs – Staffordshire Police – Cannock
Neighbourhood Policing Unit
Jason Dorrington – Night Time Economy Manager – Cannock
Neighbourhood Policing Unit

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor G. Martin and Inspector Shannaghan, Staffordshire Police.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Easton, R.	Blue Badge Holder	Personal

23. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

24. CPE Progress Report for the Period April 2009 – March 2010

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. J. Presland, Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report and advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) issued and cancelled were summarised in Annex 4 for the period 1 January 2010 – 29 March 2010. For comparison the results of the Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were summarised in Annex 5 for the period 1 April – 29 April 2009. The Committee was informed that the number of PCNs issued by the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) had levelled out in the fourth quarter compared to those in the first three quarters of 2009-2010. The figures given in Annex 4 were not for a complete quarter and also reflected a period of extreme winter conditions during January 2010 when enforcement was limited.

PCNs cancelled had fallen to 16% during the fourth quarter of 2009/10, a reduction on the first quarter of 25%. For the period 1 April 2009 to 29 March 2010 PCNs cancelled were currently averaging 22%.

Annex 4 showed that in the fourth quarter 7.5% of tickets issued relating to Disabled Badge holders not displaying the blue badge in accordance with the rules had been cancelled in accordance with County Council policy for the first failure to conform. There was also a reduction to less than 2% of PCNs being issued and cancelled after evidence had been provided of a ticket having been purchased but incorrectly displayed. CEO errors had reduced from 9% of PCNs issued in April 2009 to 3% in the fourth quarter. The balance of PCNs issued for on and off street parking currently stood at 48% on street and 52% off street as opposed to the County's CPE model of 60% on street and 40% off street.

Concern was raised regarding the process residents had to undergo to get a ticket that had been incorrectly issued cancelled and that it was important that the contractors were not over zealous. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised the Committee that he would find out what the national and county averages were with respect to this matter and report them to the next meeting.

It was reported that currently there were 5 parking attendants deployed on the streets working 36/37 hours per day and Council Officers put considerable pressure on the contractor to seek to improve performance.

It was explained that there were 9 beat patterns with 6 being mobile to cover every street throughout the district. Concern was raised with respect to the Stafford Road/Eskrett Street area and the number of cars being parked on the road causing problems for motorists. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager reported that they were able to provide information on how many tickets had been issued for each area. Inspector Ellerton said he would research if the Police could provide information on enforcement action taken by them with respect to individual streets.

It was requested that the Waste and Engineering Services Manager present figures to the next meeting of the Committee on enforcement action taken, on behalf of the Council, for Cannock Road, Chadsmoor and Huntington Terrace Road.

Concern was expressed with respect to parking restriction signs not being put back up when lamp posts were replaced. Mr. D. Wright from the County Council's Highways Department explained that where there were double yellow lines on the highway, restriction signs were not needed. For other highways where restrictions were in place, signs should be in view and the county would welcome any feedback with respect to this matter.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager reported that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had requested that they be allowed to join the four Tranche 2 authorities. The Committee was informed that the authority would have their own deployment staff and there would be no financial burden on this Council. The Committee considered that partners should be consulted and legal opinion sought on this matter in order for it to proceed.

The Chairman explained that he had been approached by a resident in Victoria Street, Cannock with respect to the Council considering putting a domestic parking zone in that location. He reported that before this could come into effect the Council would need to write to all the residents of the street and that 60% had to reply and of that number 80% had to be in favour of the application. The Committee agreed that the application could be forwarded to the appropriate Officer for the viability to be initially assessed.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (B) That the national and county averages with respect to parking tickets being cancelled be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (C) Details of enforcement action taken in respect of Cannock Road, Chadsmoor and Huntington Terrace Road be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (D) That partners be consulted and legal opinion sought on Staffordshire Moorlands District Council be allowed to join the four Tranche 2 authorities.
- (E) That the letter relating to Victoria Street, Cannock being considered for a domestic parking zone be forwarded to the appropriate Officer for the viability to be assessed.

25. Schools Parking Project

Mr. J. Presland, Waste and Engineering Services Manager gave a presentation to the Committee on the Schools Parking Project.

He advised that Officers had visited the Churchfield CE Primary and Hob Hill CE/Methodist Primary Schools in Rugeley to assess the parking situation. The Committee were shown photographs that they had taken of the areas. It was explained that the Crossing Patrol gentleman located near to the Hob Hill School normally put out cones twice a day to stop cars parking near to his crossing point to help cross the children more safely. Residents also parked their cars on the road as people parking on the highway

often blocked residents drives. A Member did not consider that the photographs gave a true reflection of the problems encountered when cars were parked on either side of the road.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager gave details of a scheme undertaken by Tamworth Borough Council and its partners, which it was considered had proven to be successful. It was in essence an educational scheme with postcards detailing information, such as:-

‘The Highway Code states:-

- You must not wait or park on yellow lines during the restricted times shown on time plates
- You must not park obstructing dropped kerbs, including crossing points and driveways
- You must not wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers on school entrance markings
- You must not leave your vehicle in a dangerous position or where it causes unnecessary obstruction of the road
- Do not stop or park near a school entrance anywhere you would prevent access for the Emergency Services or opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction or on a bend.

Offenders may be issued with penalty charge notices or Police fixed penalties

Matters of serious road safety concern and dangerous/obstructive parking or driving can be reported to the Staffordshire Police Non-emergency number 0300 123 4455.

Please park in a safe, legal and responsible manner.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR CHILD WAS INJURED BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE PARKED INAPPROPRIATELY.

THINK! – PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY ‘

Concern was raised that schools were built without adequate car parking space, or drop and pick up areas or that school opening hours were not staggered to help overcome these problems.

The Committee agreed to the suggestion that certain Members, together with a representative from the Police and Officers from the Council would meet at the school sites to endeavour to seek solutions to the issues. Members considered that the problems encountered at the two schools were typical of many schools throughout Cannock Chase.

It was explained that a ‘Ziggy Zaggy’ initiative involved working with year 6 students to highlight road safety issues around schools. The students were working with street wardens, the Road Safety Officer and PCSOs to identify inconsiderate parking and issue warning postcards. Inspector Ellerton explained that good work was being carried out with partners to try to educate parents.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a site visit be made by Members, Officers and a representative from the Police to the Churchfield CE Primary and Hob Hill CE/Methodist Primary Schools in Rugeley to further assess the parking situation.
- (B) That the postcard scheme being carried out by Tamworth Borough Council be further investigated by Officers.

26. Rugeley Services Areas

Mr. S. Schofield, Senior Technical Assistant updated the Committee on the Rugeley Services Areas. He informed the Committee that a booklet had been produced by the Council as a guide to pedestrian areas. It was explained that two numbered spaces had been allocated to each premise, although 5/6 cars could be registered to each bay, with a valid permit detailing the vehicle's registration number. The permits were renewed annually in September.

27. Cannock Chase Parking Conference

It was considered that holding a Cannock Chase Parking Conference, possibly in the summer or early autumn, would be beneficial. It was suggested that representatives could be invited from each Parish/Town Council, the Road Safety Officer, representatives from Tamworth Borough Council, some Head Teachers, the Police etc.

It was agreed that a Working Group would be set up made up from Members of the Committee, Officers and the Police to consider the practicalities of holding a Conference.

RESOLVED:

That a Joint Parking Working Party be established to discuss holding a Cannock Chase Parking Conference.

28. Joint Staffordshire Parking Board

Consideration was given to the Prioritisation of Parking Related Traffic Regulation Orders (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. D. Wright detailed the three new requests that had been received. The Committee gave consideration to the requests and agreed that they should not be progressed. With respect to Market Street, Hednesford the Committee considered that an amicable arrangement may be for the bakery to put cones out when loading/unloading occurred.

A Member referred to the Priority List and pointed out that:-

W2/10/05	Wood Lane was in Hednesford not Hednesford & Rawnsley
W2/11/008	Cecil Street/John Street, Chadsmoor – County Councillor D. Davis had not been consulted on this and it was explained that the streets were not connected and that Chadsmoor was not a Parish

Library rear access, Heath Hayes – It was considered that an grassed area in that proximity would be better used for parking

RESOLVED:

That the three new requests received for Norton Terrace, Norton Canes, Market Street Hednesford and Beaumont Way, Norton Canes should not be progressed.

29. Future Meetings

Discussion took place on items to be raised at future meetings of the Committee. A Member asked that a report on 20 miles an hour zones detailing their full implications and that a full list of which schools would be affected, be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Jason Dorrington, the Night Time Economy Manager from Cannock Police Station, informed the Committee that Cannock town centre at night was a pedestrian area, but cars were still driving through causing a hazard to pedestrians and were being parked illegally in disabled bays and outside fast food outlets and bars. The Committee was advised that in Newhall Street, cars were being parked on either side of the road and Emergency Service vehicles could encounter access problems. Jason Dorrington enquired if it would be possible for an Enforcement Officer, provided with a Police escort, to work a late evening.

The Chairman explained that as this was not on the agenda it may be preferable to receive a report on the matter at the next meeting.

Councillor A. Williams considered that the matter would be more appropriate for the Safer & Stronger Policy Development Committee to consider.

RESOLVED:

That a report on 20 mile per hour zones be presented to the next meeting of the Committee detailing their full implications, together with a list of which schools would be affected.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.