

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CANNOCK COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 4 MARCH, 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.**  
**AT CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK**

PRESENT: District Councillors:

Alcott, G. (Chairman)  
Allen, F.W.C. (Vice-Chairman)

Anslow, C.                      Dixon, D.I.  
Davis, Mrs. M.A.              Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health  
Mrs. W. Rowe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present

Mike Galverley, Locality Public Health Partnership and Commissioning  
Lead  
Inspector Paul Cooke, Staffordshire Police  
Kelly McCulloch, Community Safety Officer (Staffordshire Fire and  
Rescue Services)  
Local Residents (approximately 10)

**37. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Brown (Chief Executive), District Councillors J. Kraujalis, Miss M. Freeman, C. Mitchell, P. Snape and J. Toth and County Councillor Mrs. A. Spicer.

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

There were no interests declared.

**39. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 17 December, 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

**40. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Although no questions had been submitted in advance Inspector Paul Cooke

was present to take questions from the meeting.

A local resident commented that the impact of the recent parking restrictions that had been implemented along Brunswick Road had resulted in vehicles parking further down towards Hamelin Street/Georgian Place. The parked vehicles were causing issues as Brunswick Road was a bus route and buses were having difficulty passing. Additionally, there was also an access issue for refuse collection vehicles and ambulances.

The Inspector was not aware of any increased issues in this area and there had been no feedback from other agencies. He would liaise with the PCSO's, Arriva and Staffordshire County Council Highways Team and ascertain whether there had been any complaints and report back to the resident concerned. He commented that PCSO's now carried video cameras which would be useful in getting a real understanding of any problem areas.

Another resident explained that he had raised the issue of drug problems at the last Forum but had received no feedback. The Inspector commented that there was room for improvement in providing complaints/victims with feedback. This was something the Police were working on. The Inspector explained that there was a competing demand for Police resources and restructuring was currently taking place with the aim of becoming more efficient. He asked the resident to advise the Clerk of the area where he was concerned about and he would provide an update on the position for the Clerk to pass on.

The resident also raised an issue regarding the turning head at the bottom of Cardinal Way where vehicles were driving against the flow of traffic when using the facilities at the school. This happened on a Saturday afternoon at around 4pm. The Inspector advised that there were a number of tactics that could be deployed to resolve the issue including the enforcement/education route. However, he would ask an unmarked car to survey the area to assess how big the problem was.

#### **41. Questions for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

The Chairman welcomed Kelly McCulloch, Community Safety Officer from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services (Prevention Team) to the meeting.

Kelly McCulloch gave a presentation on fire safety in the home, which covered the following areas:

**Smoke Alarms** – one alarm on each level of your home which should be tested weekly. A home fire risk check could be arranged by calling 0800 0241 999.

**Kitchen Safety** – never leave pans unattended, take care with tea towels, turn appliances off and avoid using chip pans.

**Electrics** – Do not use block adaptors, avoid overloading extension leads, do not leave appliances unattended, store electric blankets safely.

**Smoking** – Never smoke in bed, use a proper ashtray and don't leave cigarettes unattended. Take extra care if you've been drinking or on prescription drugs.

**Candles** – use ceramic/glass holders for tea lights, put candles out completely and keep away from curtains and pets.

**Make an Escape Plan** – keep keys where you can find them, have a mobile phone and torch handy and keep doors closed.

**What to do if there is a fire** – Keep calm, don't tackle the fire yourself, get out of the house and call 999.

**What to do if your escape route is blocked** – Keep doors closed, put bedding against bottom of door, open windows and shout FIRE.

**Bed time checklist** – Close doors, turn off appliances, ensure candles/cigarettes are out, keep exits clear and keep door/window keys handy.

Following the presentation there was an opportunity to ask questions. A resident asked whether there was a law on the fitting of opening lights in windows as some only have a small opening at the top which could not be used as a means of escape in the event of a fire. The Community Safety Officer was not aware of any specific law – it was down to personal choice.

A resident asked if there was any legislation on the fitting of spot lights in bungalows. The wiring for down lighters was located under the loft insulation in bungalows and he considered there was a fire safety risk if they were not fitted with fire guards. The Officer was not aware of any legislation but would look into the matter.

The Chairman asked whether the Fire Service still tested electric blankets free of charge. The Officer confirmed that due to service cuts the Fire Service no longer tested electric blankets. She advised that a selection of fire safety leaflets would be available at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the officer for attending the Forum and for providing those present with the presentation.

**42. Question for Staffordshire County Council Highways – submitted in advance**

No questions had been submitted in advance.

**43. Questions for Cannock Chase District Council – submitted in advance**

*Question from Mr. P. Haywood, local resident:*

*Amendment to street trading policy:-*

*The reason a Street Trading policy was introduced was to ensure that proper procedures were followed and everything properly regulated. More than anything else it was to ensure the Health and Safety of the public. We are concerned that this has now been compromised as this amendment withdraws the policy from Council owned land.*

- 1. Under this amendment what requirements have been removed from the Policy?*
- 2. How do you now ensure the necessary public protection safeguards?*
- 3. As the amendment applies to Council land only is this creating a two tier system where some must conform to stronger regulation than others?*
- 4. Isn't it the role of the Council to ensure Public Health and Safety regardless of how much administration there is?*

The Head of Environmental Health explained that last summer there had been a number of carnivals and fetes where prospective stall holders had to satisfy the requirements of up to 3 separate departments in order to take part in an event. They were required to obtain a street trading permit from the Licensing Unit in addition to obtaining permission from the Parks and Open Spaces Manager due to the event being on Council owned land, and possibly also the organiser of the event. It became apparent that work was being duplicated and therefore the street trading policy was amended and carnivals and fetes on Council controlled land were removed from the scope of the policy. Therefore traders wishing to trade on Council owned land (such as Cannock Park) only have to apply to the Parks and Open Spaces Manager for permission.

A resident, who had attended a Friends of Cannock Park meeting on Friday where these issues had been discussed, raised concern that as a street trading permit was no longer being issued in these circumstances an umbrella of protection had been removed. The Head of Environmental Health confirmed that whilst the policy had been amended the same safeguards and public protection remained. It was the administrative duplication that had been removed. He further explained that at the removal of Cannock Park from the scope of the street trading policy had not reduced the controls the Council had in place. Anyone trading without consent would be breaking the law. He confirmed that the street trading policy (as written) was excessive and not fit for purpose in regulating events and trading on Council owned land. The Council wanted to encourage events in order to stimulate the economy and, as the policy was stifling those who wished to trade, it had been amended.

A District Councillor explained that she had received a number of complaints from organisations/charities wishing to trade at carnivals who considered there was too much red tape for a one day event. She had therefore asked for the policy to be reviewed as events in the Park should be encouraged.

The Head of Environmental Health confirmed that a two tier system had not been created by amending the street trading policy. The difference was that a trader applied to either the Licensing Unit or the Parks and Open Spaces Manager, depending on where the event was being held. He also commented that charities were not exempt from the regulations however; there was discretion on whether to charge them. He also explained that the amendment had made the process less onerous for the Council and it cost less money to carry out the function; it was also less onerous for those wishing to apply.

A resident made reference to street traders who were trading in Cannock town centre on Fridays. She had concern that they were not complying with street trading consent with regards to disabled access. The Head of Environmental

Health advised that this was actually a street market which was being trialled for 6 months. Street trading permits had been issued at the commencement of the trial; however, he would liaise with the Head of Planning and Regeneration who was overseeing the trial with respect to these concerns.

The Chairman commented that he had been asked to look at the Friday street markets and did not consider there to be a problem with access.

A resident asked the Head of Environmental Health to clarify that the Premises Licence for Cannock Park was still in force. He confirmed that the Premises Licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 was still in place for Cannock Park and this imposed controls in respect of the sale of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment.

#### **44. Public Health Presentation**

The Chairman welcomed Mike Calverley, Locality Public Health Partnership and Commissioning Lead to the meeting who was in attendance to provide a presentation on public health and provide information on the Cannock Chase Health Profile. He circulated a copy of the presentation together with the Health Profile 2013.

Mike Calverley provided the Forum with a presentation which covered the following areas:

- **The Public Health Budget**
- **Mandatory responsibilities** – sexual health, physical activity/healthy weight, NHS health check programme, public health advice and health protection
- **Discretionary (needs based) responsibilities** – Children’s public health (ages 5-19), public mental health, drug misuse, tobacco control, reducing and preventing birth defects, health at work, dental public health and seasonal mortality
- **The way ahead** – central support, local action
  - commitments to joint commissioning
  - finding a way to create opportunities for some SCC PH monies to be used at locality level to commission local activity
  - mechanisms being worked out
  - key focus on outcomes and governance
- **Public Health England health profiles** – published Sept 2013, Public Health outcome framework, all data and graphs shown are from Public Health observatories website
- **Overall picture** – 32 indicators, 27 with updated data in 2013
- **Overall compared to England average** – 6 significantly better, 17 not significantly different and 9 significantly worse
- **Health summary for Cannock Chase showing the indicators and their position in comparison to the England average**
- **Areas of good performance (compared to England average)**
  1. Proportion of children in poverty
  2. Statutory homelessness
  3. New cases of TB

4. Excess winter deaths
  5. Road injuries and deaths
- **Areas for major improvement (compared to England average)**
    1. Starting breast feeding
    2. GCSE achieved 5x A\*-C (inc Maths and English)
    3. Obese children (Year 6)
    4. U18 Teenage pregnancy
    5. U18 Alcohol specific hospital stays
    6. (Violent crime)
    7. Healthy eating adults
    8. People diagnosed with diabetes
    9. Obese adults
  - **Changes over time** – within Cannock, compared with previous data for the same indicators – 20 improved, 1 similar and 6 worse
  - **Priorities in Cannock (highlighted in the PHE Health Profile)** – Reduce smoking, reduce obesity and reduce early deaths from cancer

He then asked Forum Members to consider a number of questions:-

- Are you surprised by the overall picture in Cannock?
- What do you think should be the priorities?
- How can we as residents start to change some of this?
- What can the public do to raise awareness?
- What responsibility as individuals do we have to lead healthier lifestyles?
- How would you like to engage with us on this in the future?

The Head of Environmental Health advised that the Chief Executive was keen to seek ideas on how to engage with the public on this in the future. Would a public health event be an appropriate way of debating this matter and where should it be held and at what time? Anyone who had any suggestions should contact the Council to offer their thoughts and ideas.

Those present at the Forum suggested that any event that was arranged should be held in a welcoming venue so as to attract attendance. The Chamber was considered to be an intimidating venue and not suitable for such an event. A local Councillor, who was the Chair of the Commissioning Partnership, commented that this was the first time the public had seen these figures. She sought feedback on whether to roll this presentation out to the other three District Forum meetings. She considered that it was useful to know what the public considered to be important so as to ensure the right priorities were set.

The Chairman advised that alternative venues had been used for the Forums in the past but he considered that the Chamber was the most suitable venue to hold the Community Forum meetings.

It was suggested that a “Health Day” could be organised with three presentations spread out throughout the day – one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. It was considered that the event should not be a formal event and would have to be welcoming to the public. However, it was noted that it was difficult to generate the interest of the public in such events as could be seen by the low public attendance at Community Forums meetings.

#### **45. Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust - Update**

The Head of Environmental Health advised that Deborah Neal, Head of Communications, Mid-Staffs NHS Foundation Trust, had provided an update which was detailed on the agenda. However, this information was only appropriate at the time the agenda was despatched and a further updated had been provided, as follows:-

“On 26 February 2014 the Secretary of State for Health approved the Trust Special Administrators’ principal recommendation, to dissolve Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

The TSAs have been working closely with Maggie Oldham, Chief Executive of the Trust, Mark Hackett, Chief Executive of University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust and David Loughton CBE, Chief Executive of The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust to ensure that they would be prepared to implement the dissolution of the Trust as quickly as possible, should the Secretary of State approve it. The announcement of his decision means their joint working will intensify over the coming months as the TSA process moves into the next phase.

It is important to note that the Trust is not yet dissolved. Both Cannock Chase and Stafford Hospitals are operating as usual and patient services continue to be provided in the normal manner.

The TSAs remain in charge of the Trust at this time, as required by the TSA process”.

A local Councillor advised that there was a public meeting of the CCG this Thursday 6 March between 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the Aquarius should anyone wish to attend.

#### **46. Update on the position of the negotiations in respect of the Asda s.106 monies for the Artificial Turf Pitch**

Steve Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health advised that a proposal to resolve the dispute had been under active discussion since late 2013. A legal document was being drafted which, if agreed and approved by both the Council and ASDA, should resolve this dispute. It was anticipated that the position would be clear by 31 March 2014.

#### **47. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman explained that a form was available for any issues to be discussed at future meetings of the Forum. Appropriate representatives would be invited to attend and debate the issues and answer any questions.

#### **48. Date of Future Meetings**

The Forum noted that the next meeting of Cannock Community Forum had been arranged for Wednesday 25 June, 2014. Additional meetings had been arranged for 16 September, 2014, 9 December, 2014 and 3 March, 2015.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

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CHAIRMAN