

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J. D. (Chairman)
Sutherland, M. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Rowley, J.
Gilbert, P. Todd, Mrs. D.
Jones, Ms. J. L.

Other District Councillors in Attendance

Councillor B. Bottomer

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Sgt. A. Richards, Staffordshire Police
Chief Inspector C. Ratcliffe, Staffordshire Police
Ms. V. Singleton, Staffordshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch
Mr. P. McFarlane, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Parish Councillors
8 Members of the public were in attendance

(The Chairman advised that he had agreed to the order of the agenda being changed in order to allow Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe from Staffordshire Police to leave earlier.)

9. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Holder.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

11. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 14 June, 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

12. Presentation on the Community Safety Partnership

The Forum received a presentation from the Corporate Director, Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe from Staffordshire Police and Phil McFarlane from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Corporate Director explained that the vision of the Community Safety Partnership was for Cannock Chase to be a place where people have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life and achieve economic prosperity.

The structure of the Chase Community Partnership was made up as follows:-

Chase Community Partnership Strategic Board/ Responsible Group

Chase Community Partnership Executive Board

Joint Operations Group (JOG)

Health and Well Being Board

Enterprise Skills Board

It was explained that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities and other 'Responsible Authorities' to 'exercise their various functions with due regard to their likely effect and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area'.

The Chase Community Partnership was made up from the following partners:-

- Staffordshire Police
- Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cannock Chase Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Fire Authority
- South Staffordshire PCT
- West Midlands & Staffordshire Probation Service
- Parish Council
- Chase CVS
- Cannock CAB
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- Clinical Commissioning Group

The Community Safety Delivery Plan's targets were

Outcome 1 – Increased assurance in the community

Target – Maintain 98% who feel safe in their local area during the day

10% increase (80%) of people who feel safe in their local area after dark over 3 years

Reduction of 2% = 8% of people who felt fearful of being a victim of crime in last 12 months

Outcome 2 – Improved Living Environments

Target – 10% reduction in violent offences

Outcome 3 – Reduced Offending

Target – A reduction on 53 first time entrants in Criminal Justice System with a continued downward trend

It was explained that the Councillor G. Adamson, Leader of the Council, was the Chair of the Strategic Board / Responsible Authority's Group (RAG) and the Chief Executive, Stephen Brown, was the Chair of the Executive Board.

A number of initiatives had been undertaken by the Chase Community Partnership with respect to domestic violence which had proved to be successful with an increase in the number of incidents being reported.

Chief Inspector Ratcliffe (Local Policing Commander) advised that it was important that resources were used in an effective and efficient manner, particularly as allocated budgets were being reduced. By working through the Chase Community Partnership a greater achievement of what could be done had been made. The Forum was advised that the public's perception of crime and anti social behaviour (ASB) levels was greater than that which was actually occurring and ways to address this issue were being explored. The top priorities for 2012/13 were to deliver quality services, reduce crime and disorder, protect the public from harm and provide value for money.

It was reported that Officers, with the support of its partners, had conducted a number of search warrants as part of Operation Impact at four addresses in Mill Street, Cannock after members of the community had raised concerns relating to crime and disorder at the location and a series of actions had been taken by partners. A total of 32 cannabis plants had been seized from an address in Park Road, Cannock and a 23 year old man had been arrested and released on police bail pending further enquiries. A council flat had also been closed and boarded up following neighbours complaints, as it had been proved that heroin had been used at the property.

A number of initiatives had been carried out to try and address ASB issues, including a boxing project for young people, PCSOs had attended youth clubs, and young people had been encouraged to take a pride in their area and to take part in a community clear up. It was explained that an ASB Reduction Officer had also been appointed to the Council and a notable reduction of 20% had been achieved during the last year and a significant reduction was continuing to be made.

A resident asked what the position was with respect to PCSOs being given the power to detain. Sergeant Richards advised that they were currently approximately two-thirds through their training, although their main role was seen as community reassurance.

The Police, together with their partners, were continuing to look after those that were considered to be vulnerable, particularly those with disabilities suffering abuse and those experiencing hate crime. Oliver Greatbatch, ASB Victim and Witness Champion at the Council, had referrals made to him which he then signposted to the appropriate agency.

Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe advised that people could obtain up to date information on what was taking place by following Cannock Police on Twitter.

The Corporate Director advised that Staffordshire County Council, as part of the Chase Community Partnership

- Supported vulnerable people in the community through Children's and Adult safeguarding processes
- Commissioners of services within the area covering a range of services accessed by residents
- Responsibility of road safety across the county taking account of local issues

- Members of the Joint Operational Group (JOG)
- Statutory service provider across a range of services

Mr. Phil McFarlane from the Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service explained that he was Head of Prevent & Protect Western Service Delivery Group which covered Stafford, Cannock and South Staffordshire. He advised that the Fire Station at Cannock was on call 24 hours a day.

There had been a significant reduction in the number of small fires occurring and a great deal of time had been spent by Fire Officers on fire prevention projects. It was explained that the majority of small fires occurred during school holidays and a number of initiatives had taken place, including, LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education), a Play it Safe campaign and student fire fighter schemes. A recent student scheme had taken place using young people referred by the Police from families experiencing particular difficulties, which had proven to be successful. Officers gave fire safety advice and free risk assessment checks were available to residents.

Concern was raised by a Member with respect to the costs involved in building the new fire stations. Mr McFarlane advised that the new Community Fire Station did make a difference and the Service could now interact to a greater extent with the community.

13. Question(s) for Staffordshire Police

Sergeant Richards was asked what action the Police were taking with respect to speeding and 'street racer' issues. He advised that the Police were aware of the problems and were targeting problem areas, it was important to have 'the right people in the right place at the right time'. The Police were compiling evidence to seek a high court injunction to deal with issues of speeding, excessive noise, dangerous driving and un-roadworthy vehicles. The application aimed to halt reckless drivers congregating at Longford Island, Eastern Way and the Orbital Retail Park. The Police were also liaising with the County Council with regard to traffic calming measures, particularly with respect to new roads.

With respect to the Community Watch project a resident asked why the vehicle registration number of a stolen car was not included in the report. Ms. V. Singleton advised that it was only possible to give out a partial registration, rather than the whole, due to data protection. The permission of the person concerned was required for exact information to be provided and what information could be given was supplied.

Concern was raised with respect to those using mobile phones whilst driving. Sergeant Richards advised that covert operations were taking place to address this issue. Education courses were offered to drivers in place of them receiving points on their licence, but they were only allowed this once and it was at a higher cost than a fine.

A resident expressed concern with regard to a Kingswood Lakeside road not being adopted. He advised that he had asked the Highways Department a number of questions with respect to this issue to which he had not received a reply. He was concerned that the Police would not have jurisdiction due to the road not being adopted and that the number of heavy goods vehicles in that area was increasing significantly. Sergeant Richard advised that the Police used the relevant legislation to take any actions that were needed.

A summary of crime in the area was provided by Sergeant Richards as follows:-

	Last YTD	This YTD	% Change
Domestic Burglary			
Norton Canes	8	3	-62.5%
Heath Hayes	19	7	-63.2%
Rawnsley	4	3	-25.0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle			
Norton Canes	11		-100.0%
Heath Hayes	5	3	-40.0%
Rawnsley	2		-100.0%
Theft from Motor Vehicles			
Norton Canes	20	7	-65.0%
Heath Hayes	24	10	-58.3%
Rawnsley	8	2	-75.0%

Sergeant Richards reported that of the top 50 streets listed for repeat incidents over the last 365 days, the first street in the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes & Rawnsley area was at number 24. It was considered to be a relatively safe place to live.

The Forum asked that their good wishes be passed on to PCSO Andy Turnock for his speedy recovery after being injured in an accident, which Sergeant Richards undertook to do.

14. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for 11 December, 2012 and questions from members of the public should be submitted on the forms supplied.

Concern was expressed at the lack of people attending the Community Forum. The Corporate Director advised that the same process was used for advertising this Forum as for the other three at which there were normally more in attendance. The Chairman reported that it was important that Members ensured that copies of the posters were displayed, where possible, and that they tried to encourage people to attend. Ms. V. Singleton explained that as the Neighbourhood Watch Manager she promoted the Forums quite extensively.

15. Dates of Future Meetings

It was noted that meetings of the Forum has been arranged for –

Tuesday, 11 December, 2012

Thursday, 14 March, 2013

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm