

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

HELD ON MONDAY, 5 MARCH, 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J. D. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Rowley, J.
Gilbert, P.	Spicer, Ms. A.
Holder, M.	Todd, Mrs. D.

Other District Councillors in Attendance

Councillor R. Todd

Councillor J. Toth

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director

Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Sgt. J. Browning, Staffordshire Police (based at Rugeley)

Ms. V. Singleton, Staffordshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch

John Commins, Staffordshire County Council

Sean Garaghty, Staffordshire County Council

Parish Councillors

Members of the public - 12

27. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Sutherland and Mr. D. Shepherd a local resident.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

29. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 15 November, 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

30. Questions for Staffordshire Police

A resident raised concern that when issues arose such as cars not being taxed or parked incorrectly and fireworks going off late at night etc., it was not easy to know who to report this to. A Member advised that there was no easy solution in pointing people to the right agency. It was considered that it could be useful to have information signposting them where to go on the Council's website as different authorities had different responsibilities.

Sergeant Browning explained that historically the Police received telephone calls relating to various issues. They worked with partner agencies to address complaints raised and if it was not in the Police's domain, they signposted people to those that could help. The Forum was advised that parking issues had been the responsibility of local authorities for several years. The Police however, did take action against vehicles causing an obstruction if an Officer was available, although it was not considered to be a high priority.

Concern was raised with regard to cars being parked on double yellow lines and near the junctions in Chapel Street causing it to become a dangerous area. People were aware of the day and times when the Parking Enforcement Officer carried out patrols. It was reported that since September 2011, 15 penalty charge notices had been issued in Chapel Street. The Forum was informed that it was not possible for Parking Enforcement Officers to patrol that area permanently. Residents considered that with the amount of penalty charge notices that could be issued, particularly at night, in Heath Hayes, it could self finance a parking officer.

Sergeant Browning undertook to pass on the concerns raised to Cannock Police.

It was reported that the car parks in Heath Hayes were nearly always full and that additional parking spaces could help alleviate this problem, although it appeared that people did not appear to want to walk too far.

The Chairman commented that he was appointed to the Joint Parking Committee and would report the concerns to the next meeting.

Sergeant Browning was asked if there was any intention to use private companies for patrol purposes. She reported that PCSOs were to receive further training as they were to have increased powers. At present there was no intention to use private companies.

Concern was raised with respect to drug related activities taking place in Cross Street, Heath Hayes. A raid had been carried out sometime ago, therefore the Police were aware of the problem. Sergeant Browning advised that people were encouraged to report any issues and could do so by providing information to Crimestoppers. Sergeant Browning undertook to research the matter.

A resident reported that shotguns were being fired in a field near to the Bleak House area, sometimes up until 10.00 pm, and that people, including children, walked in that area. He asked if this was allowed. Sergeant Browning explained that this could take place if the landowner had given permission and the necessary shotgun certificate had been granted. She reported that she would ask the appropriate Police Officer to investigate this.

31. Update on Mid Staffs. Hospital

In the absence of Lyn Hill Tout, the Chief Executive of Mid Staffs. Hospitals the Chairman updated the

Forum on the staff that had been appointed and were to be appointed at Stafford Hospital. Extensive training was taking place and it was anticipated that the Accident & Emergency Department would re-open at the end of May, 2012. It was requested that the reason why the Chief Executive was present be emailed to Members and the appropriate Parish Clerks.

32. Proposed Traffic Calming Measures along the High Street in Heath Hayes and Chapel Street

The representative from the Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council (SCC), reported that with respect to the proposals for traffic calming along Hednesford Road, an extensive consultation exercise was carried out with the emergency services, local elected Members and bus companies. Residents in Boston Close, Chapel Street, Cromwell Street, Dorsett Road, Gladstone Road, Gorsemoor Road, Hayes Way, Hednesford Road, Highfield Road, Hill Street, Holston Close, Kent Place, Langham Drive, Lyndhurst road, Rutland Road, Stafford Street, The Coppice, and Cleeton Street were also consulted.

A public exhibition was held on 9 November, 2011 at Heath Hayes Library where residents were invited to review the four options which included:-

- Traffic calming measures along Hednesford Road
- One way and associated parking restrictions along Chapel Street
- No entry except buses and cyclists between Chapel Street and Five Ways
- Staggered on street parking bays between Bank Street and Five Ways

At the exhibition SCC Projects Team was available to explain the reasoning behind the proposals and address any concerns raised by residents. Following the exhibition there was an opportunity for residents to comment on the proposals by returning a response form which was analysed and it was established that:-

44% were in support of the traffic calming measures along Hednesford Road
48% were not supportive

33% in support of the one way and associated parking restrictions along Chapel Street
60% were not supportive

27% in support of the no entry except buses and cyclists between Chapel Street and Five Ways
67% were not supportive

32% in support of the staggered on street parking bays between Bank Street and Five Ways
60% were not supportive

When the results were broken down to the directly affected frontages it was found that:-

56% of residents on Hednesford Road supported traffic calming
44% of residents did not

46% of residents of Chapel Street supported the one way and associated parking restrictions
54% of residents did not

In some instances no preference was ticked regarding the support or otherwise of a particular option. As a result of feedback received several of the measures were discounted, namely the one way system

along Chapel Street, no entry between Chapel Street and Five Ways and the staggered street parking. Officers had taken into consideration the views of residents, businesses and Parish Councils. It was opted to proceed with speed cushions and road humps as detailed in option 1 and not to erect traffic calming measures in Chapel Street, although it was acknowledged that there was a problem with indiscriminate parking. County Councillor John Rowley had also visited residents in the area to ascertain their views. It was reported that the Fire Service had raised objections to some of the proposals. Officers from the County Council had also visited objectors to discuss their concerns.

The Forum was informed that people living in Hednesford Road had written to the County Council in support of the scheme. The scheme when in place, would be monitored by the Highways Department and if it was established that excess traffic was using the side roads, ways to address this would be explored.

Concern was raised with respect to pot holes in certain areas and the representative from the Highways Department explained that if they were reported to them, action would be taken. With respect to damage being caused to the road surface in John Street, Wimblebury, due to work being carried out by the water authority, the Forum was informed that they had to repair the damage caused, However, sometimes a temporary repair was carried out before a permanent solution was done at a later date. The surface dressing of the Hednesford Road would be looked at when the traffic calming measures were installed.

A resident advised that large vehicles and those going to work, were using Newlands Lane, Washbrook Lane and Norton Lane to access the Kingswood Lakeside area and that the Lanes were intended for emergency purposes only. He commented that he had emailed an Officer at the County Council with regard to what was being done to get Norton Lane adopted, but had not, as yet, received a reply. The representatives from Staffordshire County Council explained that there were a number of issues with respect to getting the Lane adopted and they undertook to investigate the matter.

Concern was raised with respect to where the signs on the Lichfield Road were situated as they were not clearly visible until drivers had turned into Newlands Lane. It was reported that lorries were also being parked in the lanes overnight. The Staffordshire County Council representatives agreed to look into these issues.

26. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Forum has been arranged for Thursday, 14 June, 2012 at Hayes Green Community Centre, Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, (subject to approval by Council).

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm