

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CANNOCK COMMUNITY FORUM**

**MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Faulkner, B.J. (Chairman)

Alcott, G.

Morgan, C.W.J.

Bennett, Mrs. D.J.

Thomas, D.

Dixon, D.I.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mr. W.L. Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive

Mr. M. Fletcher, Partnership Officer

Mrs. W. Rowe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present

Mr. D. Botfield, Divisional Highway Manager, Staffordshire County Council

Representatives from the Press

Local Residents (approximately 6)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F.W.C. Allen, Mrs. M.A. Davis, M.P. Freeman, M.R. Green and C. Mitchell)

**1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Councillor B.J. Faulkner was appointed as Chairman and Councillor M.P. Freeman was appointed as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

**2. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 11 March 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from consideration of the notes, a discussion took place regarding Minute 3 relating to the funding for the implementation of the traffic scheme along Wolverhampton Road and the surrounding area. Councillor Thomas advised that the Forum had been advised at the last meeting that the funding was no longer available, however, he had a copy of the budget book for 2008-09 which stated that there was £50,370 available for the High Green Access and Area Improvement Scheme. The Deputy Chief Executive commented that he had previously looked into this matter and had been advised that the Section 106 money had been spent. Dave Botfield, Staffordshire County Council Highways, advised that there was no money in the County Council's budget to implement this scheme and he understood that a large amount of the original Section 106 money had been

spent on consultation with local residents.

The Chairman stated that it was important that the funding for this scheme be made available and asked that Officers look at it again. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that he would investigate this matter again and report back at the next Forum meeting.

With regard to Minute 6 relating to Cemeteries/Headstone Testing Open Day, Councillor Alcott advised that he had spoken to Councillor Bernard, who was the Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People Portfolio Leader for 2007-08. She had confirmed that a Working Group had met and it had been agreed that the testing open day would only be held in Wolseley Cemetery, Rugeley and not in Cannock Cemetery as Councillor Alcott had requested.

### **3. Items requested at previous meeting:**

- **Information outlining parking and speeding issues on the Pye Green Road along with information relating to the deactivated speed cameras**

Dave Botfield, Staffordshire County Council Highways, stated that the Camera Partnership Team had advised that none of the speed cameras along Pye Green Road had been deactivated. A matrix had been developed to define the best location for the cameras to be activated at various times as not every speed camera had a camera installed. However, the information outlining which cameras were activated and when had not been made public. Since the speed cameras had been installed there had been a 40% reduction in those killed or seriously injured along the Pye Green Road. He commented that he was not aware of any specific parking issues on the Pye Green Road but if anyone had any further information he would look into it.

Councillor Alcott commented that the camera located by Fieldhouse Road was hidden behind a hedge and he considered it could not be working properly. He further advised that an officer from the County Council had visited to assess the traffic lights by the Cemetery Road crossroads following a number complaints being received. The lights only allowed 6 seconds for pedestrians to cross and he considered that this should be extended to 12 seconds in order to improve the safety of pedestrians. Dave Botfield stated that he would speak to the Traffic Signal Section regarding this matter and report back to Councillor Alcott direct.

- **Information in respect of controlling the traffic along the Stafford Road after the junction of Pye Green Road towards Cannock**

Dave Botfield advised that he had looked at this matter and there appeared to be no particular problem with speed or accidents along this stretch of road. If there were any specific issues he would be willing to look into these further. Councillor Thomas stated that the school run caused problems with parking in Cardinal Way and Westbourne Avenue and this made it difficult for motorists when pulling out of the junctions with Stafford Road.

### **4. Update on the Consultation Process in Respect of the Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Forum received an update from Mr. M. Fletcher, Partnership Officer, on the consultation process in respect of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Community Forums, elected Members, disability groups, the Citizens Panel and in excess of 150 partners had all been consulted on the draft Strategy and information had been made available on the Council's website.

The draft Strategy had been considered by Scrutiny on 2 June 2008 and was due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 June and Council on 25 June. A final draft would then be prepared and the Strategy would be launched at the end of June 2008. Once the Strategy had gone through this process an action plan would then be formulated.

Councillor Alcott considered that the Strategy should include more facts and figures relating to unemployment rates, examination results and leisure facilities for comparison purposes and to outline the Council's aims. It was explained that the action plan which would be formulated in July would include targets and how these would be achieved.

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

The Chairman sought issues to be discussed at future meetings. The Forum considered that in order to increase attendance at Forum meetings it would be beneficial to create an interesting agenda by inviting partners such as the Police or Primary Care Trust to attend for a question and answer session.

The Chairman stated that he would liaise with the Lead Officer with the aim of arranging something for the next meeting.

The following item was requested to be included on the agenda for the next meeting:-

- Update on Parking and One Way System for Wolverhampton Road and surrounding area and confirmation of the position with regards to funding for the scheme.

## **6. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman advised that Forum meetings were scheduled to be held as follows:

Monday 1 September 2008  
Monday 1 December 2008  
Tuesday 24 February 2009

The meetings scheduled for Monday 1 September and Monday 1 December 2008 may need to be re-arranged due to the Chairman having another commitment on these evenings. Following liaison with the Chairman, Forum Members would be advised of any revised dates in due course.