

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Jones, R. (Chairman)

Bullock, L. W.

Jillings, J.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. L. Bennett, M. R. Green (Vice-Chairman) D. L. Mawle, and Mrs. D. M. Todd.

21. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2009 be approved as a correct record.

22. Gating Orders – The use of Gating Orders in tackling fly-tipping and anti social behaviour and the criteria and process for making an application

The Committee received a presentation from Karen Sulway, Environmental Protection Manager.

It was explained that under Section 2 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, new powers were given to highways authorities to make, vary or revoke gating orders by inserting two new sections into the Highways Act 1980. Gating Orders did not need to be designated highways, they could relate to alleyways. The Gating Orders could be made on areas which suffered from crime and/or anti social behaviour and where it was considered to be in the best interests of the community. However Gating Orders could only be made as a last resort following an extensive consultation process with all relevant parties. Funding of approximately £5,000 was required per Gating Order to purchase and maintain the gates and also to provide keys to legitimate users and emergency services. The County Council had developed a procedure with respect to Gating Orders and each application took approximately 12 months to complete.

Cannock Chase Council had been successful in its applications to Staffordshire County Council for Gating Orders at the following locations:-

- School Lane, Little Wyrley
- Newlands Lane, Heath Hayes
- Reservoir Road, Hednesford

Concern was raised regarding an alleyway behind the Somerfield store on the Springfield Estate, Rugeley. The Environmental Protection Manager explained that documental evidence to support a Gating Order application would need to be collected from the following:-

- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)
- Landowners/users
- Residents
- Police statistics
- Fire & Rescue statistics

AGREED:

That the Committee supports the use of Gating Orders where required.

23. The cumulative effects of premises licences in certain areas to determine if a cumulative impact policy is required

Karen Sulway, Environmental Protection Manager reported that at present the Council did not have a cumulative policy in respect of the effects of licenced premises in certain areas. Cannock Chase Council's Licensing Policy states:-

‘The cumulative impact of licensed premises on a particular area and the need for the Council to adopt a special policy designed to address the problem, would only be considered following relevant, evidence based representations from the police, another responsible authority, or from interested parties within the vicinity of the premises concerned and the Council will also consider possible solutions with local liaison groups where appropriate.’

The Environmental Protection Manager explained once the vacant post of Licensing Enforcement Officer had been filled it was intended to collate information regarding certain areas. A comprehensive consultation process would be carried out and a cumulative impact policy would be developed.

AGREED:

That the Committee supports the development of a cumulative impact policy.

24. Work Programme 2008/09

Discussion took place on the work programme.

AGREED:

That the Safer & Stronger Communities Policy Development Committee Work Programme be amended as follows:-

- (A) That a representative from Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service be invited to attend the meeting scheduled for 28 April 2009;

- (B) That a Safe by Design presentation be received from the Police;
- (C) That the Respect Agenda be included in the 2009/10 Work Programme
- (D) That the District Alcohol Strategy be discussed once the first draft was available;
- (E) That Michelle Lucas from South Staffs. Chamber of Commerce & Industry be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the Chase Business Crime Initiative and Safer Socialising Award Scheme;
- (F) That discussions on the development of a Safer & Stronger Communities Communication Strategy be deferred until later in the 2009/10 Work Programme.

CHAIRMAN