

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HEATH HAYES LIBRARY, HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES

PRESENT: Councillors

Jillings, J. F. (Vice-Chairman – In the Chair)

Ansell, Mrs. P. A. Beddows, J.
Bernard, J. D.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mrs. C. Bowker, Committee Officer
Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Julie Bryan, Street Warden
Adam Harper, Street Warden

Also Present:-

Mr. D. Botfield, Staffordshire County Council
P. C. Dean Cooper, Staffordshire Police
County Councillor S. Woodward
Press Representative

Local Residents (approximately 15)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. L. Bennett, Mrs. A. F. Bernard, L. W. Bullock, D. L. Mawle (Chairman), Mrs. D. M. Todd, County Councillors J. Toth and J. O'Leary).

17. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 2 September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

18. Maintenance of Hedging and Verges

A local resident explained that she had telephoned Staffordshire County Council on many occasions, as had other residents, to complain about the state of the verges and overgrown hedges around Chapel Street and Cannock Road, Heath Hayes, area. The resident had spoken to the contractors, Glendale, and been informed that it was not listed in their instructions for work to be carried out. Those carrying out tree maintenance had reported the same.

Concern was also expressed regarding Japanese Knotweed not being treated and that it had been seen growing in gardens alongside the Cannock Road.

Mr. Botfield informed the Forum that the District Council instructed its contractor's Glendale with respect to the maintenance of hedges and grass verges. He understood that the area in question was included on the list for work to be carried out, but would investigate the matter. He would also ask that the Cannock Road/Chapel Street area be included in the weed control scheme. Japanese Knotweed was an increasing problem and the number of sites in the District was increasing.

Concern was also expressed regarding the trees and hedges near to a bus stop on Sevens Road, Prospect Village which resulted in poor visibility and residents having to stand in the road to see if a bus was coming, thus causing a safety problem.

County Councillor Mrs. S. Woodward also raised concern with respect to the hedges, verges and communal gardens in the Hawks Green estate area, notably Condor Grove. The responsibility for maintenance lay with the District Council, but it was considered that this was not being carried out. Various options had been put forward by residents, including the possible planting of shrubs, but the areas were still unkempt.

Mr. Botfield undertook to investigate the matters raised.

19. Police Issues

P.C. Dean Cooper asked if members of the Forum had any Police issues they would like to raise, although none had been requested to be included on the agenda.

Residents thanked the Police for the recent successful initiative carried out on the Wimblebury Road with regard to speeding problems.

Concern was raised by residents who had heard shot guns being fired near to the cricket club on the Littleworth Road, and whether this was legal. P C Cooper informed the Forum that the area concerned came under the Rugeley Police jurisdiction and he would report the matter to them. It was explained that Fire Arm Legislation was complicated and if a person held a licence for a shot gun and had the land owner's permission to be on the land, no law was being broken.

A resident reported that an adult and young child had been seen riding a mini motto along Newlands Lane, both of whom were not wearing helmets. P.C. Cooper requested that if the public could inform the Police by using their mobile phone when this was taking place, they would take appropriate action.

Residents were concerned with regard to speeding along Hayes Way and asked if the LED speed sign was monitored. It was explained that the sign was managed by the County Council and Mr. Botfield informed the Forum that data gathered would be submitted to the Camera Partnership section for them to decide if a fixed camera was needed.

20. Maintenance of Sewers and Drains

A local resident reported that following a heavy rain storm, drain covers were seen to be lifting. Drains in Chapel Street and Cannock Road were full of leaves. Drains had also been seen to have leaves in them in the Hayes Way area close to the roundabout and grass was also growing out of them.

It was also reported that the Prospect Village area had not been cleaned for a number of years, gullies were not capable of taking all the rain water and it was running into the car park of the community village hall causing erosion.

County Councillor Mrs. S. Woodward explained that with climate change, this was a national problem as severe storms appeared to be increasing. Planning Legislation was being introduced with regard to paved drives to ensure they had 'soak aways' as the loss of garden areas added to the problem.

Mr. Botfield informed the Forum that any problems should be reported to 'Clarence' on a freephone number 0800 23 23 23 where calls would be logged and a unique reference number issued to the specific problem. Requests would be categorised and urgent matters dealt with as a matter of priority. He explained that new technology had been introduced which could take additional information.

21. Resurfacing of Littleworth Road

Mr. Botfield was pleased to inform the Forum that with the aid of County Councillor Mrs. S. Woodward funding of £100,000 had been allocated for the resurfacing of the Littleworth Road between Burntwood Road and the junction with Wimblebury Road. The work was listed to commence in March 2009.

The Forum thanked Councillor Woodward and Mr. Botfield for all their efforts with regard to this matter.

22. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available to be completed for questions to be raised at the next meeting.

23. Date of Future Meeting

The Chairman reported that the date of the next meetings of the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes & Rawnsley Community Forum was scheduled for Tuesday, 3 March 2009, at The Theatre, Norton Canes High School.