

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HAYES WAY, HEATH HAYES
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. (Chairman)
Beddows, J. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Mawle, D.L.
Butler, R.D.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Holder, M.J.	

Other Councillors

County Councillor J. Toth
Councillor A. Williams
County Councillor S. Woodward

Council Officers and other Representatives

Mr. D. Botfield, Staffordshire County Council Highways
Mrs. C. Bowker, Committee Officer
Mr. B. Braithwaite, Staffordshire County Council
Mr. C. Dimaline, Tesco Customer Services
Mr. W. Foster, Tesco Group Security Manager
Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Sergeant Ant Richards, Staffordshire Police
Ms. D. Hickman, PCSO, Staffordshire Police
Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health
Mr. G. Watson, Property Services Manager
Representatives from the Press
Local Residents (approximately 20)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. L. Bennett, L. W. Bullock, C. Collis, County Councillor J. O'Leary and Mr. P. Birkenhead, Manager of Tesco).

1. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 3 September 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Items requested at last meeting

- Update with regards to the number of buses and heavy lorries travelling along Burntwood Road and to parked cars along Burntwood Road near to Norton Canes High School – request that the entrances to the schools be opened to parents.

Sergeant Ant Richards informed the Forum as buses had a right to travel along the Burntwood Road and it must have been deemed to be a safe route and the Police could therefore take no action. A number of HGV's had been stopped during a Police operation and it had been ascertained that none were over 7.5 tonnes and were entitled to use the road and therefore no tickets had been issued. The area would continue to have regular Police patrols.

- Update on speeding issues on Cannock Road, Heath Hayes

Residents considered that there should be a 30 mile per hour speed limit for the entire length of the Cannock Road, Heath Hayes, rather than a section being a 40 mph.

Mr. D. Botfield from the Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council explained that an assessment had been carried out and it was considered having a 30 mph for the entire road would have an adverse affect and was impractical. Monitoring of the road had been undertaken and the data intimated that conditions had improved.

County Councillor S. Woodward explained that information from the Community Speed Watch would be fed into the data and would assist when reviews were undertaken.

Councillor Beddows considered that solar powered speed signs that flashed when people exceeded speed limits would be useful. Mr. Botfield explained that there were only six of these signs in the County and resources were an issue as they cost approximately £6,000 each. He informed the Forum that the County had to prioritise projects and reported that he would again review the data.

3. What can be done to overcome the problem of 'boy racers' using Tesco Car Park

Sergeant Richards explained that regular patrols in unmarked cars were carried out at Tesco's car park. The Police had limited powers due to it being private land but were working with representatives from Tesco's to try and restrict the car park from being misused without causing inconvenience and restricting access to others. The Tesco Group Security Manager explained that the car park needed to be expanded for the use by the disabled and families. The Police Architectural Liaison Officer was carrying out an assessment of the car park's layout to ascertain what could be done to help overcome this problem.

Residents considered that the Police should stop the offenders before they reached the car park or when leaving. Sergeant Richards informed the Forum that it was difficult to prove offences had been committed and that people had the right to drive to Tesco's.

Resources were an issue and what was taking place elsewhere needed to be prioritised. On the previous Sunday when officers had visited the car park in unmarked cars there were six cars causing problems and three had been issued with tickets for various offences. It was reported that the majority of offences were committed by local residents over the age of forty.

The Joint Operations Group had provided funding for a Tint Man to be bought and this would be used to measure tinted windows on cars to catch those that were breaking the law.

4. Anti Social Behaviour at Meadow Way Park and the issue of trees which have not been planted which formed part of the planning agreement

An update of actions agreed at a meeting held on 19 November to address the problems in Meadow Way/Hayes Way was circulated at the Forum. In addition the programme for the landscaping, planting and turfing works in the area was provided. It was requested that the information be circulated to local residents and that the County Councillors for the area also be kept informed of what actions were to be taken.

A Section 30 Order had proven successful on Cannock Town Centre, however it was not considered appropriate at Meadow Park as many of the youths lived nearby.

Police data showed that in the year to 1 October 2007 there were 33 reported anti social behaviour incidents of which 13 related to the play area. The vast majority of the perpetrators being local youths aged between 10 and 16 years with alcohol use being reported in most incidents. Trading Standards had agreed to carry out operations in the locality. A local resident reported that youths were congregating in the park and objects were being thrown at garden fences, there was broken glass laying around, fireworks were being let off in the park and that she had telephoned the police on numerous occasions.

The Police representatives explained that the youths had informed them that they were bored and had nowhere else to go and they could only be dispersed if they were doing something wrong as it was a public open space and they had the right to be there. It was important to acknowledge that the majority of youths in the Heath Hayes area were well behaved and contributed to the community. Photographs taken of graffiti in the park showed offenders names/nicknames and these would be used to identify the offenders with local schools being visited and newspapers being requested to publish the photographs. It was intended that the offenders would be asked to remove the graffiti or for those unwilling to cooperate, an Anti Social Behaviour Order process would commence.

The County Council were visiting the area with a 'Big Bruvva Bus' to gather the youths views on improvements they would like to see in the area. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, local PCSOs and Street Wardens were encouraging residents to establish new schemes. Street Wardens would commence twilight shifts in the New Year and the play area would be patrolled.

Councillor Beddows informed the Forum that Norton Canes Parish Council, together with other partners, had provided funding for a factory unit to be used as a community area, including providing sports facilities.

5. Waste Strategy – What is the current position regarding the consultation recently held by Staffordshire County Council regarding the Waste Strategy and what this may mean for the Poplars Landfill Site and any proposed plans that are being brought forward for the future development of the Poplars Landfill Site.

Mr. Braithwaite explained that Staffordshire County Council was the Waste Disposal Authority for the eight District Councils. Currently there were 600,000 tonnes of household waste and 2,000,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste to landfill. The Joint Waste Management Board, which was made up of the eight borough/district councils, the County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council, aimed for zero waste to landfill by 2020. A three month consultation process had been undertaken including leaflets being distributed in supermarkets, articles published in local newsletters and street interviews undertaken with 90% agreeing that the aim should be to seek to recycle 50% of waste and to produce energy from residual waste.

Currently one-third was recycled, one-third produced energy and one-third went to landfill, the majority going to The Poplars site. It was explained that the number of households was increasing for the same number of population, with an increase in single occupiers. It was anticipated that over the next 10/15 years; 710,000 tonnes of waste would be produced. A need to locate an energy from waste facility in the south of the County had been identified and various sites had been assessed with a site at Four Ashes being the preferred option. Full environmental and traffic assessments, amongst others, would be carried out prior to planning permission being sought. The plant would produce electricity and hot water and the resultant ash would be used for road contracts, breeze block purposes etc.

Concern was raised regarding the volume of traffic travelling to the Four Ashes site, particularly any travelling through Bridgtown which has a problem with air pollution. Mr. Braithwaite informed the Forum that vehicles would use primary roads such as the A38 and A5 and that between the site and the A5 there were currently only ten houses. The Joint Waste Management Board considered it was preferable to have a facility providing income rather than paying the fines imposed by Central Government on waste to landfill and it was considered that the fines would also have an impact on others disposing of waste.

6. Hednesford Hills Raceway

A. In view of the fact that the local authority is the landlord and the lease for the Raceway is due for renewal in February, what measures are being introduced into the lease to protect the local residents from noise nuisance;

B. Following on from the last meeting when no progress on this matter had been made, what criteria will be used to determine and monitor the noise nuisance and what enforcement measures will be adopted to ensure that the problems do not re occur.

C. When can residents expect to see an improvement in their quality of life.

A local resident asked what measures were being included in the lease to overcome the problems experienced by residents.

The Property Services Manager informed the Forum that ongoing negotiations were taking place with regard to the lease. It was explained that although the lease was expiring early in 2008 until the terms had been agreed, the tenant had the right for the present terms to continue. At a meeting with representatives from the Raceway it had been agreed that a maximum of six practice days would be held preceding events. Leaflets would be distributed requesting that car parks were used rather than cars being parked on the streets and the Police would be actively involved. The Raceway was also paying for additional cones to discourage street parking. The Head of Environmental Health explained that noise monitoring had been undertaken by Council officers and that the Raceway had now engaged the services of a Noise Consultant. The Consultant would advise the Raceway on any further measures required to ensure legal compliance.

The Forum were concerned that Officers were negotiating the conditions of the lease through delegated powers, rather than the matter being considered by Cabinet. The Director of Service Improvement informed the Forum that he would advise Cabinet of their concerns.

It was requested that the Raceway be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.

7. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available for completion for items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The following item was requested at the meeting

Hednesford Hills Raceway - what measures are being introduced into the lease to protect the local residents from noise nuisance

8. Date of Future Meeting

The Chairman advised the Forum that the next meeting had been arranged for Monday 10 March 2008 and would be held at Norton Canes High School, Burntwood Road, Norton Canes.