

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 24 APRIL, 2006 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Collis, C. (Chairman)  
Hewitt, S.M. (Vice-Chairman)

Grice, Mrs. D.

Morgan, C.W.J.

Also present: Chase Tenants' and Residents' Federation Representatives:-

Mr. R. Wells  
Mrs. V. Lloyd

Mrs. A. Wells  
Mrs. D. Whitehouse

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.J. Hodges, J.T. Kraujalis, R.G. Meaden, J. Toth and A. Williams. Apologies also received from Mr. L. Lloyd, Mrs. H. Heath and Mr. A. Derry of the Chase Tenants and Residents Federation).

**33. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>Type</b>
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal

**34. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April, 2006 were approved as a correct record.

**35. Recommendations – Review of Disability Services**

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and input into the review of disability services.

Consideration was given to those matters that should form part of the policy recommendations to Cabinet:-

### Promotion and access to information

The Chairman explained that it was of importance that those members of the public with disabilities were aware of what information was available to them. Ideas were sought from Members and Tenant Representatives on other forms of promotion apart from the conventional methods such as using the press to promote.

Other forms of promotion of information included: -

- Using the services of the tourist information office
- Information could be given to Shopmobility, should there be one in Cannock in the future
- Doctors surgeries
- Stroke Victims Association in Stafford and Cannock
- Council's Housing Department

### Awareness campaigns

The Chairman explained that it was important that businesses were aware of the current Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation and sought ideas from Members and Tenant Representatives on how to make businesses aware of their responsibilities.

Suggestions for awareness included: -

- Information contained within business rates
- Requirement of a monitoring mechanism

### Parking provision

The Chairman sought ideas from Members and Tenant Representatives on what measures could be taken to address the situation of parking provision for the disabled within Cannock. He explained that Staffordshire County Council were considering a scheme regarding parking where each District would be responsible for parking provisions in their area.

Suggestions on measures to address parking provision included: -

- Better signage on disabled bays
- Enforcement of parking provisions in disabled bays (issuing of fines)
- Audible warnings
- Awareness campaign (including posters in supermarkets)
- The location of the disabled bays near the Prince of Wales, Cannock should be located near the post office

### Shopmobility

The Chairman explained that Shopmobility shops were located in Stafford, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Lichfield and stated that the shops provided the hire of equipment such as scooters for those people with walking difficulties, and there was no charge for the hire of equipment at these shops.

The Chairman then sought ideas from Members and Tenant Representatives regarding establishing a Shopmobility shop in Cannock.

Ideas regarding Shopmobility included: -

- Only space would have to be provided by the Council for a Shopmobility shop in Cannock
- Contact local businesses regarding funding for Cannock (the service provided by the Shopmobility shop would be free to use)
- Shopmobility shop could be incorporated in Hednesford as part of the St. Modwen Development
- The schemes would need to be properly managed
- Disabled spaces would require consideration as part of any Shopmobility scheme

#### Establishing of groups to consider planning applications for new buildings

The Chairman reported that the Council currently has links with Cannock Chase Access Group, a group formed which looks at planning applications for new buildings to make sure that they comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The Chairman then sought ideas from Members and Tenant Representatives regarding the establishment of such a group, which included: -

- Self managed campaign/pressure group for checking buildings, parking spaces etc. (a body for raising continual awareness for disabled people).

#### Raise awareness of employers for special needs under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The Chairman reported that a problem existed whereby employers were reluctant to employ people with disabilities.

The Chairman asked both Members and Tenant Representatives for their views, these included: -

- Opportunities should be made available to all sections of the community
- The culture of employers should be improved regarding the application process for vacancies

RESOLVED:

That the Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee recommend the above as future implementation priorities for consideration by Cabinet.

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CHAIRMAN