

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 2006 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Meaden, R.G. (Chairman)

Collis, C.	Toth, J.
Faulkner, B.	Williams, A.
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	

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

Mr. L. Lloyd	Mrs. A. Ames
Mr. R. Wells	Mrs. D. Whitehouse
Mrs. V. Lloyd	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J.T. Kraujalis, Mrs. H. Heath and Mr. A. Derry).

1. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	CCTV/Home Alarms – Family Connection	Personal

2. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2006 be approved as a correct record subject to the following inclusion: -

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Toth, J.	Members of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish	Personal

Council

Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	CCTV/Home Alarms – Family Connection	Personal

3. Learning Disability Strategy

The Chairman welcomed Claudia Brown, Project Manager, Staffordshire County Council to give a talk on the Learning Disability Strategy.

Claudia Brown explained that the purpose of the Learning Disability Partnership Board was to reflect the priorities of the recently published White paper, which included priorities such as improved health, emotional well being and improved quality of life.

She reported that one of the recommendations in the report 'Whose Life is it Anyway', reviewed the Learning Disability Services in February 2006 and was a complete review of the Partnership Board arrangements.

The new structure of the Learning Disability Partnership Board would have one representative from a selection of agencies and the Board would include service users and carers. The Board would make decisions about services and strategy for people with learning disabilities.

She explained that Locality Boards would be set up in 8 districts of Staffordshire which would be multi agency forums inclusive of service users and carers. The Locality Board would consider local operational issues, developments arising from countywide strategies and identify local need and feed issues and messages into the main Board.

A carers Board would be established and up to 3 carers from each Locality Carers Group would make the Countywide Carers Group which would feed directly into the main Board

She explained that the Countywide Group would consider services and strategies for people with learning disabilities and would provide an alternative view on them for the Learning Disability Partnership Board, which would ensure that carers would feed into the Countywide Strategies and planning.

The first meeting of the new Learning Disability Partnership Board took place on 6 September 2006 and meetings of the Locality Boards would be taking place between 9 and 16 October. The Carers Association, South Staffordshire would be holding meetings with carers in all localities in September and October to agree a way forward for their locality carers groups and who would volunteer to sit on the Learning Disability Partnership Board, Locality Board and Countywide Carers Group.

Members raised some concern as to the lack of Member involvement. Claudia Brown explained that Members could be involved at locality level or within the Carers Group.

4. Community Engagement Mapping Exercise

The Chairman welcomed Martin Drayton, Community Engagement Officer to the meeting.

Martin Drayton circulated to all Members a draft copy of the Community Engagement and Participation Survey 2006/07 Report, Community Engagement and Participation Survey and the Table of Consultation and Engagement Methods.

The Community Engagement and Participation Survey is being conducted on behalf of the Chase Community Partnership.

Martin Drayton gave a presentation regarding the draft survey, which included the following: -

- Background
- Methodology
- Findings
- Participants Details
- Consultation and Engagement Activities
- Costs, Barriers and Performance
- Voluntary, Community Sectors and Compacts
- Recommendations

RESOLVED:

That Members of the Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee consider the draft Community Engagement and Participation Survey 2006/07 and submit any comments to the Community Engagement Officer.

5. **Background to Decent Homes Standard in Private Sector Homes**

The Chairman welcomed Scott Conroy, Strategic Housing Manager to the meeting.

Scott Conroy circulated to all Members a briefing paper on the background to Decent Homes Standard in Private Sector Homes and Private Sector Housing Assistance.

He explained that delivering decent homes was a priority for the Government, the Region, the District, the Council and the Council's housing partners. The Government's definition of a decent home was called the Decent Homes Standard (DHS). A decent home was safe for the occupants to live in, warm, weatherproof and would have reasonably modern facilities.

Scott Conroy reported that The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), through the Public Service Agreement Target 7, would require all social housing throughout the Country and 70 per cent of non-decent private homes occupied by vulnerable residents to meet the DHS by 2010.

He explained that the Council had been addressing decent homes in the public sector for a number of years and achieving the DHS in the private sector would only be achieved by adopting a combination of policies, which would include a range of financial assistance/incentives, advice and encouragement to homeowners and using enforcement powers only as a last resort.

The results of the Council's housing condition survey during 2004 suggested that 14 per cent or around 4,600 private homes in the District failed to meet the DHS and

vulnerable households occupied 1,290 or 28 per cent of those homes.

Scott Conroy explained that assistance with regard to private sector housing could be obtained in a number of ways including: -

- Urgent Repairs Assistance
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Home Security Grant
- Crime Reduction Grant

The Chairman and Members thanked Scott Conroy for his presentation.

CHAIRMAN