

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Bernard, J.D. (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)
Councillors:

Corfield, P.	Rowley, J.
Dixon, D.I.	Toth, J.
Martin, G.	

(Staffordshire County Council and District Council Members)

Cannock Chase Council Officers: Presland, J. (Waste and Engineering Services Manager)
Schofield, S. (Senior Technical Assistant)
Thomas, C. (Parking Services Manager)

Staffordshire County Council Officers: Keeling, M. (Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager)

(In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor P.A. Fisher, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor J.D. Bernard took the Chair).

20. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P.A. Fisher (Chairman).

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

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests.

22. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

23. CPE Progress Report for the Period October – December 2012

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Joss Presland, Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report and provided Members with an update on the progress of Civil Parking Enforcement in the third quarter of the financial year 2012-2013. He advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) issued and cancelled were summarised in the Annexes to the report. He further advised that, following a request at the previous meeting, a comparison table showing PCN's issued by adjoining authorities was included at Annex 6. Members were advised that there were a number of factors that could influence the fall in the number of PCN's issued. These included, more compliance from motorists when considering where to park on and off street, along with the general reduction in footfall to the town centres which can be seen by the reduction in car park users throughout the district.

The Committee was informed that Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) patrolled the most appropriate areas and the better used roads were patrolled more often. Feedback from the CEO's indicated that it was becoming more difficult to find vehicles parking in contravention of the parking orders.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager confirmed that as the number of PCN's issued were falling the number of CEO's employed would be reviewed to ensure that the Council was not paying for a service that was not needed.

Councillor Corfield asked whether Officers could assess the parking along New Penkridge Road by St. Luke's School. Mark Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager advised that he would include further information with regard to this in his report to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Bernard raised the issue of parking on the pavement in the Victoria Street/Market Street area of Hednesford. Officers advised that this had been assessed and it appeared that the operator of the car sales business was parking the cars he had for sale on the pavement and also allowing customers to do so. The operator had been advised that he had no rights to do this and parking tickets had actually been issued to vehicles that were parked in this area. Work was ongoing to erect bollards in this area and it was anticipated that the problem would be resolved once these works were completed.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

24. Prioritisation of Parking related Traffic Regulation Orders

Consideration was given to the Report of the County Council's Corporate Director for Development Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The report detailed the new requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders that had been received since the previous meeting. The Community Infrastructure Liaison Officer outlined the requests contained in the report. With regard to Old Fallow Road Members noted the difficulties drivers were experiencing when exiting the Brunswick Road junction onto Old Fallow Road due to the number of parked vehicles opposite the junction. Following consideration of the request Members agreed that Officers should undertake further investigation.

With regard to Park Road, Norton Canes it was agreed that no further action be taken at the current time. Councillor Rowley, who covered this area, agreed to speak with residents to ascertain the problems being experienced.

Members discussed the request in relation to Post Office Lane, Rugeley in detail. Councillor Martin considered that action had to be taken in this area before an accident occurred. Residents were unhappy with the parking that was taking place, particularly on the bend. However, it was acknowledged that should parking restrictions be installed on this road it may move the problem further into the residential park of Post Office Lane or Penkridge Bank Road. Additionally, Members were asked to note that it may be difficult to enforce any parking restrictions that were implemented in this area.

The Committee noted that Cannock Chase was popular with mountain bikers and the parked vehicles mainly belonged to cyclists who were looking for somewhere to park without paying. Councillor Corfield advised that area was being assessed in connection with hosting a World Biking Event in the future. The Forestry Commission had identified an area of their land that could be used for off road parking.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Officers further review this request. Officers would liaise with the Forestry Commission, the relevant County Councillor and PC Bradbury in order to ascertain residents views and the matter be referred back to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager then provided Members with an update on the progress with the current Traffic Regulation Orders. Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager then He advised that the Traffic Regulation Order in relation to Brunswick Road/Georgian Place,

Cannock was currently being consulted upon, with the consultation period ending on 20 February, 2013. It was anticipated that the scheme would be implemented in April 2013.

The scheme in respect of Mill Street/Remington Drive, Spring Street/Girton Road, Cannock was on hold until the outcome of the proposed on street parking charging was known.

He apologised for the delay with regard to the proposal to implement on street parking charges. However, it was explained that the scheme had been delayed due to staffing resources. The consultation process had commenced week beginning 21 January 2013 and all affected businesses/residents would be included in the consultation. It was also intended to arrange an open day/evening at Cannock Library to showcase the proposals. A date for this had yet to be arranged.

The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager advised that a Member had asked for an update with regard to Cemetery Road at the previous meeting. He provided Members with information regarding the speed and volume count that had been undertaken in the area. The data showed the number of vehicles using a particular road in a 24 hour period along with the average vehicle speeds. The results were as follows:

Cemetery Road – 1900 vehicles – average speed 35 mph
Old Fallow Road – 1400 vehicles – average speed 34 mph
Huntington Terrace Road – 1600 vehicles – average speed 31 mph

The results confirmed that there were no specific issues with regard to Cemetery Road. However, Members noted that the projects team were looking at various options to improve turning conditions from Victoria Street onto Cemetery Road which may include parking restrictions for Committee approval.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Officers undertake further investigation regarding the request in relation to Old Fallow Road, Cannock.
- (B) That no further action be taken at the current time in respect of the request regarding Park Road, Norton Canes.
- (C) That Officers further review the request regarding Post Office Lane, Rugeley and liaise with the Forestry Commission, the relevant County Councillor and PC Bradbury in order to ascertain residents views and the matter be referred back to the next meeting of the Committee.

25. Residents Permit Parking (Victoria Street, Cannock)

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the County Council's

Cabinet Member (Highways and Transport) (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager provided Members with an update on the current position regarding the development of a Residents Permit Parking Scheme in Victoria Street, Cannock and to seek Members continued support for the introduction of the scheme.

Additionally, the Committee was informed that the residents of Newhall Street had expressed concerns about the difficulties being experienced with vehicles parking close to their properties. It was being recommended that following on from the conclusion of the Victoria Street scheme, further more detailed consideration of a similar scheme for Queen Street and Newhall Street should be considered.

Members had concern whether residents would be happy to pay a joining fee of £40. The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager confirmed that the setting up of such schemes should be cost neutral and therefore a joining fee of £40 was being suggested. Residents had indicated they wanted the scheme to progress and were happy to pay the fees being proposed.

Councillor Toth asked whether a fixed percentage of residents needed to support the scheme in order for it to proceed. The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager was of the opinion that 80% of the residents (who had returned their consultation forms) would need to be in agreement with the scheme in order for it to progress. The Senior Technical Assistant advised that Staffordshire County Council had produced a "Residents Parking Zone pack". This would include information about the number of residents who would need to support of the scheme in order for it to progress. The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager agreed to email a copy this pack to all Members on the Committee.

The Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager confirmed that residents of Newhall Street had indicated an interest in a similar scheme for Newhall Street. Subject to the necessary consultation being undertaken it was possible that a similar scheme for Newhall Street could be implemented in the next financial year. Councillors Corfield and Bernard advised that a petition had been gathered by Newhall Street residents. 90% of residents were in favour of a Residents Permits Parking Scheme being introduced in Newhall Street.

The Officer also suggested that Kevin Smith, Highways Traffic Regulation Manger, who had produced the report and was the Officer responsible for implementing the scheme, attend the next meeting to provide Members with further information regarding Residents Permit Parking.

Councillor Toth remained concerned about the need for there being sufficient support for the scheme from residents and suggested that this

be incorporated in to the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (B) That the continued development and implementation of a Residents Permit Parking Scheme in Victoria Street, Cannock be approved.
- (C) That upon completion of the Victoria Street scheme and subject to residents being in support of the scheme further consideration be given to assessing the introduction of a similar scheme for both Queen Street and Newhall Street.
- (D) That a copy of the "Residents Parking Zone pack" be emailed to all Members of the Committee.
- (E) That Kevin Smith be invited to attend the next meeting to provide Members with further information regarding Residents Permit Parking.

19. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parking Committee was scheduled for 23 April, 2013 at 4.00pm.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN