

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY, 2006 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Hewitt, S.M (Vice-Chairman)

Collis, C.  
Kraujalis, J.T.

Faulkner, B.  
Williams, A.

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

Mrs. H. Heath  
Mrs. V. Lloyd

Mr. R. Wells  
Mrs. D. Whitehouse

(Councillor S.M. Hewitt was in the Chair for the meeting)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R.G. Meaden (Chairman), J. Toth and Mr. L. Lloyd, Mrs. A. Ames and Mr. A. Derry representing Chase Tenants' and Residents' Federation Representatives).

**1. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

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

**2. Work Programme 2006/07**

The Head of Planning and Regeneration reported that there would be an amendment to the work programme on the schedule of work. The meeting scheduled for Friday, 8 September, 2006 to discuss Background to Decent Homes Standard in Private Sector Homes would now be moved to Thursday, 28 September, 2006.

A discussion took place regarding consideration of the Decent Homes Standard. Members were of the opinion that more emphasis should be placed on private sector housing although Council housing should also be taken into account.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration explained that he would change the work programme to reflect the Select Committee's comments and the wording would be changed to 'Background and approach to Decent Homes Standard in Private Sector Homes'.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme for the Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee for 2006/07 be Community Engagement and Decent Homes.

### **3. Community Engagement**

Members and Tenant Representatives welcomed Martin Drayton, Community Engagement Officer to the meeting.

The Community Engagement Officer explained that Community Engagement activities were carried out across the District in various ways with various outcomes and levels of engagement. For example collating the results of the Citizen's Panel Survey.

He explained that there were a number of ways the Committee could consider methods of engagement, which included: -

#### Citizens Panel

He explained that the Panel consisted of 1300 members of the public and was a cross section panel. The aim of the Panel was to seek the views of the public on issues that mattered to local people.

#### Community Voices Steering Group

The aim of the group was to bring together the wide range of consultative methods and routes of engagement with the community with a view to channelling issues into the Chase Community Partnership more effectively.

#### 'Own Your Streets' – Operation Teamwork

'Own Your Streets' is a series of events planned for various locations within the district, that showcase partnership working between different agencies whilst addressing local need.

#### Community Forums

The Community Engagement Officer explained that the Council's Community Forums had been taking place for a number of years and had been established to provide a mechanism in which the Council, and its partners, could consult with the public on local issues. The forums allowed for open participation and public debate.

Members discussed Community Forums and were of the opinion that they should only be open for the public to ask questions and public debate. Although, many members of the public preferred their local Councillor to raise items on their behalf.

Members were of the opinion that the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Rawsley Community Forum should be divided into separate Community Forums in order to engage other members of the community.

It was suggested that the three group leaders consult on what was acceptable from Members of the Council in relation to conduct at Community Forums.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration advised the Committee that the Terms of Reference within the Council's Constitution would require consideration.

Martin Drayton referred to the information previously circulated and commented on the Community Engagement and Participation Mapping Survey and Blyth Valley – Beacon Status, Getting Closer to Communities.

Members appeared keen for young people to be involved in the Community Engagement and Participation Mapping Survey, which concentrated on consultation and community engagement activities in the District.

With regard to Neighbourhood Policing, Members were keen to see a neighbourhood Police Officer patrolling Cannock Park due to the congregation of youths playing football on the bowling green rather than the football pitch. A suggestion included the use of a Council Street Warden as the youths may be more inclined to speak with a Street Warden than the Police.

Members discussed the proposals for how the Committee could conduct research into how communities wished the Council to consult with them on local issues.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Social Inclusion and Housing Select Committee conduct research into how communities wish the Council to consult with them on local issues, with focus upon establishing a two-way dialogue and identifying best practice.
- (B) That the target group for research be a community defined by an 'Own your Street' area, Norton Canes (Trees Estate), Rugeley (Pear Tree Estate).

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CHAIRMAN