

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY, 8 MARCH, 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.**  
**AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEATH HAYES**

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)  
Bernard, J. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P. A.	Rowley, J.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Sutherland, M.
Bullock, L.W.	Todd, Mrs. D.
Collis, C.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Gilbert, P.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director  
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Cannock Police  
Mr. D. Wright, Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council  
Parish Councillors  
Press representatives  
6 residents

**29. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs. Z. Stretton and the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

**30. 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>
Bernard, J. D.	Is appointed to the Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee	Personal

**31. Notes**

The Notes of the meeting held on 23 November, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

### **32. Issues Arising from the Notes**

#### Traffic Calming on Norton Hall Lane and Church Road, Norton Canes

Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that he had contacted the TNT Transport Manager regarding concern that had been expressed and the Manager had agreed to send a letter out to all their drivers.

#### Overgrown Hedges, Footpaths, Roadsides etc.

Mr. D. Wright reported that the road markings near to the Ramada Hotel had been reviewed by the Highways Agency but the County Council had not, as yet, received the information. He would report the outcome to a future meeting of the Forum.

Concern was raised with respect to the number of potholes, especially in the Cannock Wood, Hazel Slade and Rawsley area. One considered to be particularly dangerous was at the top of Cumberledge Hill.

Mr. Wright informed the Forum that it was a county wide problem due to two consecutive hard winters. Extra resources had been provided with an additional 8 gangs carrying out repairs.

### **33. Concern raised with respect to the No. 33 Bus Service and it being re-routed away from Walsall Road, Norton Green Lane, Church Road and Chapel Street**

A local resident explained that following talks by the Parish Council, Staffordshire County Council and Arriva, the No. 32 bus service had been diverted to serve Chapel Street, Norton Green Lane and Walsall Road to and from Brownhills, Cannock and Rugeley. He was concerned, however, that the earliest bus was at 8.47 am and the last bus was not that late in the evening. This therefore proved difficult for those wishing to use the bus service to get to work or school. The resident considered it would be more beneficial to have a reduced off peak service and to have buses run earlier in the morning and later in the evening.

Concern was raised with regard to the replacement No.62 bus service run by Heartlands Bus and that there was a substantial increase in fares from that formerly charged by Arriva. The increase was particularly difficult for students and those on low wages to access work. The withdrawal of the £30 Education Maintenance Allowances could also have an impact on students being able to afford to use public transport to access higher education. Problems occurred for the disabled and those with baby buggies being able to use the service due to the three steps up, to get on the bus. It was reported that the Arriva bus service for this area had been withdrawn without Cannock Chase Council having been consulted. It was understood that the contract with Heartlands Bus was only until September, 2011. Councillor Mrs. P. Ansell reported that she was investigating the matter of Heartlands Bus not accepting Arriva travel passes that had been issued and was awaiting replies from the County Council.

**34. Kingswood Lakeside site**

Mr. D. Wright from the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council explained that the final stage of getting the street lighting signed off had now taken place and the adoption of the roads could now proceed. It was anticipated that the adoption would be completed six weeks from 7 March, 2011.

**35. Update on pedestrian crossings at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury**

Mr. D. Wright informed the Forum that with regard to the issue of pedestrian crossings at John Street and Cannock Road, a feasibility study had been completed and the recommendations of the Highways Officer would be taken forward to the Programmes Board for seeking funding. However cuts from £8.9m to £4.1 had to be made over the next 3 years and difficult decisions would have to be made. Officers had recommended a zebra crossing at John Street.

Concern was raised that campaigning for a crossing had been going on for years and recently an elderly lady had been killed where the crossing was wanted to be sited between Scott Street and Glover Street. It was reported that the Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council had also been pressing for a crossing. Councillor D. Todd informed the Forum that she had requested that a half way island be erected if the crossing was not provided and she had been told the road was too narrow. However she had measured Hayes Way, which had such an island, and that was narrower than John Street and she had passed this information on to the appropriate Officer.

It was reported that children crossed the Cannock Road to get to school and a child had been knocked down a few years ago. Councillor J. Bernard explained that he was a member of 'Speed Watch' and on average between 900/1200 cars per hour used the Cannock Road. It was considered that when traffic calming initiatives were put in place on Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes this would increase the use of Cannock Road.

Mr. D. Wright undertook to report the concerns back to the County Council. County Councillor J. Rowley agreed to report the findings of the Highways Plan meeting, which was to be held shortly, back to Members.

**36. Planning Applications for Antennas to be erected**

Local residents said they were seriously concerned over the planning applications for the erection of a 14 metre high 3G antennae with base station being erected near to where they lived and close to a children's play area in Heath Hayes near to the Tesco supermarket car park. Particular concern was raised with respect to health issues.

It was considered that a more appropriate site would be in an industrial area. A petition was being raised by residents.

A Parish Councillor reported that the Parish Council had opposed the application and it would then be considered by the District Council. Applications for a number of antennas in Cannock Chase were being submitted. Concern was raised that not all neighbouring residents had received a letter informing them of the application. It was reported that applications were published in the local press, but the residents explained that they did not

all receive copies of the local papers.

The Corporate Director informed the residents that he would set up a meeting with the relevant Planning Officer in order for them to register their objections and get guidance on this matter. It was reported that people had until 25 March, 2011 to respond to the Council.

### **37. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Concern was expressed that cuts were being made to Police Forces. Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that the Chief Constable would not be making cuts to front line services and the number of Police Constables and PCSOs would remain as currently. Processes would be streamlined and processes would be completed differently with back office functions being reduced. Police Forces would work more closely with other Forces with resources, such as training, being shared. It was considered that by sharing services an improved service would be provided at a reduced cost. The Police were also working closely with partners to endeavour to address issues. Inspector Shannaghan explained that there were currently 30 Special Constables in the area and there were plans to recruit a further 10.

A Member raised concern with respect to an incident that had occurred in Cannock Town Centre when a person had been accused of damaging another persons car and had been grabbed around the throat, although he had not carried out the damage. The person attacked had visited the Police Station at approximately 9.10 am and been told no Police Officer was available.

Inspector Shannaghan explained that this was an unfortunate mistake as Police Officers would have been at the Police Station. An appointment had been made for the person in question to see a Police Officer the following day.

It was reported that it was understood that this was the last meeting of the Forum that Inspector Shannaghan would be attending. Inspector Shannaghan explained that due to budgetary cuts Cannock and Rugeley Police would be merging and he would be made redundant. He was taking up a new post with South Staffordshire Police Force and he was of the opinion that Inspector Chris Ellerton would be attending future meetings of the Forums.

### **38. Energy Recovery Facility – Kingswood Lakeside Site**

Councillor J. D. Bernard informed the Forum that he was appointed to the Poplars Landfill Liaison Committee and had received an email that they were putting a new application for an incinerator through the planning process for consideration as they were aware of the comments on their first proposed plan. Due to this all objections and petitions lodged were now null and void. All residents he had spoken to were in favour of total rejection of the application.

It was considered that in order for the County Council to meet its contract for the amount to go into landfill, waste from other areas would be brought to the site.

It was reported that the Lakeside site would be used for commercial and industrial use and would burn 400,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste and generate 34 megawatts of electricity. The Forum was informed that Biffa was making a massive investment on the site (£200m) and would not be doing this if it was not commercially viable. The investment would generate cheap electricity and attract new industry to the area.

Concern was expressed that the A5 corridor air quality was already poor and the Energy Recovery Facility would further damage people's health and that people's life expectancy in Cannock Chase was already lower than in other areas.

### **39. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available to be completed for questions to be raised at the next meeting.

It was requested that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting:-

- Kingswood Lakeside site
- Update on pedestrian crossings at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury
- Energy Recovery Facility – Kingswood Lakeside Site
- Bus Services
- Planning applications for antennas
- Update on Potholes
- Ways to overcome poor attendance by members of the public at the Forum

### **40 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman reported that meetings of the Forum had been provisionally arranged for

- Tuesday, 7 June, 2011
- Monday, 19 September, 2011
- Tuesday, 15 November, 2011
- Monday, 5 March, 2012

(These dates need to be approved by Council.)

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CHAIRMAN