

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
MONDAY 1 DECEMBER, 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.
NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J.D. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F. Preece, J.
Holder, M.J. Todd, Mrs. D.

Other Councillors Present: Toth, J.
Adamson, G.

Officers: T. McGovern, Corporate Director
 J. Hunt, Senior Committee Officer

Also present: Members of the Public – approximately 5
 Inspector P. Cooke, Staffordshire Police

24. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.S. Buttery (Vice-Chairman), A. Dean, B. Hardman, Mrs. A. Spicer and County Councillor Mrs. C. Mitchell.

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

There were no interests declared.

26. Notes

A local District Councillor referred to the Highways issues raised at the last meeting and in particular the area outside the Express and Star. He advised that the area had been inspected and was the responsibility of Severn Trent; however no work was carried out.

With regard to Highways issues, a local District Councillor separately reported that he had been contacted by a local resident concerning the increase in traffic and HGVs on the Cannock Road, Heath Hayes. It was proposed that some highways works would start in the near future on the Five-Ways island and this had led to concern with the potential increase in traffic.

A local District Councillor referred to this issue and advised the Forum that realignment of the road was carried out in the past, however due to an increase in traffic the condition of the road over time had deteriorated.

A member of the public reported that the section of road near Gold's Car Hire and Van Hire on the Cannock Road, Heath Hayes had a number of dips in the road. It appeared the problem was getting worse with HGVs travelling on the road and concern was expressed that an accident could happen if the problem was not rectified.

A local District Councillor referred to the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust update and reported that a meeting had taken place with Members of the Council and David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust. When asked why there had been no consultation carried out in the District, Mr. Loughton advised Members that the Trust Special Administrators process was already being carried out and the public through the consultation had not expressed concerns with transferring.

A local District Councillor in response to a question advised the Forum that there was not an elected Member on the Trust Board, however the Council's Corporate Director, Mr. T. McGovern advised the Forum that Councillors had no automatic right of nomination to the NHS Trust. He advised that Non Executive vacancies would be advertised and an application process would apply.

The Notes of the meeting held on 8 September, 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

27. Question(s) for Staffordshire Police

Inspector P. Cooke, Staffordshire Police was in attendance to answer questions from members of the public.

A number of local residents highlighted problems in their local area with drug dealing, particularly outside of people's homes. An issue was raised and it was reported that a property occupied by an offender had been boarded up 2 weeks ago; however the offender had now gained access to the adjoining property.

Inspector Cooke advised that the offender should not be in the area due to an injunction being served and indicated that the Police now had new anti social behaviour powers and other legislation which could be used in these instances.

The local residents were advised to contact the landlord of the property in question and to keep pursuing the Police in order for the problem to be resolved.

A local District Councillor was concerned with the situation and the length of time it was taking for it to be dealt with.

Inspector Cooke explained that this issue should have been addressed some time ago and was not aware that the situation was still the same. He advised the Forum that resources were limited and certain areas had a high demand for policing.

Inspector Cooke referred to recent thefts from sheds in Cannock that had been taking place and advised that a number of offenders had been arrested over the past few weeks. He indicated that policing would continue in this area.

A local District Councillor on behalf of a resident asked if someone could still use a scooter if they had been banned from driving.

Inspector Cooke advised that if the scooter/moped was designed for the road then a licence would be needed, although it depended on the type of scooter.

28. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

It was reported that there were no questions received.

29. Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

The following statement was received from Sultan Mahmud, Integration Programme Director, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

“Current and Future Management of Services at Cannock Chase Hospital

The separation of Cannock Chase Hospital from the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (Stafford Hospital) took place very smoothly on the 1st November 2014 – with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), taking full management responsibility for the delivery of inpatient and outpatient services on the site.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust now manages the inpatient wards and provides all of the Orthopaedic, Rheumatology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Elderly Care services at the hospital. The Consultants attending outpatient clinics are largely unchanged with additional sessions being provided by our Gastroenterology Team.

Good working relationships with the Cannock Chase Hospital staff have developed well with Induction plans provided to support their introduction into our organisation and we have ensured a senior presence is available on site at Cannock to answer questions and resolve any issues quickly.

Initial informal feedback from patients and visitors has been positive.

Our immediate plans:

- *Work is underway to build a dedicated Endoscopy Suite – doubling our capacity to undertake these procedures at Cannock. Expected completion date: March 2015*
- *We are looking to bring all of the elements of the Rheumatology service into a single location at the hospital which will allow us to increase the number of ward beds that we can provide, therefore, increasing the number of operations we can undertake.*
- *Expected start date for Rheumatology: January 2015*
- *January 2015 will see the reopening of 16 beds on the Orthopaedic Ward, increasing the number of Orthopaedic operations. Surgeons from both New Cross Hospital and Cannock Hospital will undertake elective/planned cases*
- *With the changes proposed for Maternity Services at County Hospital Stafford, we will begin to provide all Midwife and Consultant Obstetric clinics at Cannock Hospital and for Cannock GP's from mid-January 2015.*
- *We are now working closely with GP's in Cannock to process all of their blood samples from the local surgeries, as well as those samples taken at Cannock Hospital*
- *We are working with Cannock Chase District Council to increase access to car parking for patients, visitors and staff*

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is fully committed to ensuring that Cannock Chase Hospital has a robust and viable long term future.

It is our aim to further develop the site as a centre of excellence for elective Orthopaedics and Rheumatology and establish it as a significant elective care centre, offering improved access / waiting times and guaranteed admissions for Cannock residents and those in the surrounding areas.

Our plans for the physical development of the site and the increase in capacity are well underway and we will be providing regular updates to patients and residents on our progress and timescales”.

A local District Councillor advised the Forum that the transfer of Cannock Chase Hospital to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust had taken place and residents would receive notification of this in writing. He explained that work would continue at Cannock Chase Hospital into the new year and the future was looking more certain, however it was important that communication continued.

A local District Councillor was pleased that information had been provided for the meeting and asked if representatives from the Trust would be attending future meetings of the Forums, as there were many questions which needed to be answered surrounding emergencies and pathway for

treatment.

The Council's Corporate Director reported that patient pathways were commissioned by the CCG including the emergency/urgent care pathway.

A local District Councillor requested that a representative from the CCG be invited to attend the next meeting to answer any questions and deal with any issues raised at the Forum, and in particular to ask what will be put in place to address the shortage of GPs as and when GPs start to retire.

30. Additional Items raised by Members of the Public

The Chairman agreed at this point to allow members of the public to raise additional items.

Brunswick Road, Traffic Issues

A member of the public reported on the problems being experienced with traffic on the Brunswick Road, Cannock and asked if land owned by the Council on the opposite side to Cannock Hospital could be used to widen the road.

It was reported that a meeting had recently taken place with Mr. Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust to discuss this issue and try to solve the parking problems. It was noted that the idea of a multi-storey car park had been discussed, however there were no plans for this to happen.

Cemetery – Bleakhouse Colliery Site

A member of the public was keen to know further details regarding the possibility of a cemetery on the Bleakhouse Colliery site, and also asked about tree cutting on the opposite side of the road.

The Council's Corporate Director reported that negotiations were in progress to purchase the 47 acre site and a planning application was submitted for a change of use to a cemetery. He advised that if the planning application was successful, the site would be purchased and work would commence over the next few years for a burial site for the District.

He referred to the area of land where tree cutting was taking place and advised that the land was privately owned and trees had been cut by the owner but this was unrelated to the proposed site of the cemetery which was nearby.

The Corporate Director also reported that a site had been identified within the boundaries of South Staffordshire Council and a private company had secured an interest in the site and was currently in the planning process

for the erection of a crematorium.

31. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for Tuesday 10 March, 2015 and questions from members of the public should be submitted on the forms supplied.

32. Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 10 March, 2015 (venue to be confirmed).

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 8.10 p.m.)