

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEDNESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM
MONDAY, 4 MARCH, 2013 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT THE MUSEUM OF CANNOCK CHASE, VALLEY ROAD, HEDNESFORD

PRESENT: Councillors

Adamson, G. (Chairman)
Pearson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Ball, G.D. Todd, R.
Gamble, B.

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Mrs. D. Todd

Officers: T. McGovern, Corporate Director
 G. Watson, Planning & Economic Development Services Manager
 R. Phillips, Head of Planning & Regeneration
 Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also present: Members of the Public – approximately 25
 Chief Inspector C. Ratcliffe, Staffordshire Police, Chase Division
 PCSO Laura Mancicius, Cannock Police
 PCSO Clare Evans, Cannock Police
 Vicki Singleton, Staffordshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch
 Andrew Donald, Chief Officer, Cannock Chase Clinical
 Commissioning Group
 Aaron Cummins, Director of Finance and Performance, Mid-
 Staffordshire NHS Foundation
 Hester Parsons, Staffordshire Local Involvement Network (LINK)
 County Councillor J. Bernard (Hednesford Division)

The Chairman advised that an exhibition was available for members of the public to view with regard to the Local Plan and that Officers of the Council would be available to answer any questions at the close of the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. M. Cartwright and Mrs. D. Grice.

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

No declarations of interests were declared.

3. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 19 November, 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

It was reported that no questions had been received.

5. Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group

Andrew Donald advised that from 1 April, 2013 the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would become an organisation that would commission healthcare services for their communities. The CCG would replace Primary Care Trusts that at present provided this service. The CCG had been working over the last 12 months to develop the organisation in order for it to be 'authorised' by the National Health Service Commissioning Board. Authorisation was granted after experts had ensured the CCG was safe and effective through a rigorous assessment and assurance process which included reviewing the CCG's policies, carrying out detailed site visits, interviewing and assessing its work with stakeholders and patients. However, conditions would be placed on the body in terms of finance. The CCG was focused on delivering improved health outcomes, quality, innovation and public participation and would be responsible for a budget of £150m each year. Increasing demands on budgets meant that Stafford and Cannock Chase health services would need to change.

It was explained that a 'Conversation Staffordshire' event was to be held the following day in the Ballroom at the Civic Centre, Cannock. This was to allow residents of Cannock Chase to have an opportunity to raise questions, discuss their top priorities and to work with the CCG to create practical solutions to provide the best services possible. The Forum was advised that residents should be encouraged to speak to their General Practitioners or Practice Managers regarding what services they considered should be commissioned, or they could contact the CCG through the website.

It was explained that the A & E department at Stafford Hospital had been closed at night as it had been considered that it was not clinically safe. It was proposed to provide, if possible, a 24 hour 7 days a week, Emergency and Urgent Care Service at Stafford Hospital. The Service would be carried out by a mix of professional staff.

It was reported that rather than admitting people to hospital, additional work in the community would be carried out to enable more people to remain in their own homes with health care being provided. The CCG would look at the whole range of public health services as it was

considered that prevention of health problems was preferable to it developing into a need for treatment.

6. Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust

The Chairman welcomed Aaron Cummins, Director of Finance and Performance to the Forum to provide an update on Trust related matters.

He reported that it was important that residents recognised how much Stafford hospital had improved. This had been identified from the results of surveys carried out and from feedback from patients and staff. Over 90% of patients had commented that they had been treated with dignity and respect and it was reported that mortality rates had reduced. It was reported that during the closure, the hospital had continued to accept patients overnight, but not through the A & E Department.

Committees focused on any issues of concern to seek ways for them to be addressed. Compassion had been identified as an important factor by patients and changes to recruitment and training procedures were being made. Specific questions were being asked at interviews to try to identify if the applicant was a caring person, rather than just seeking the financial benefits. It was considered important to have the right people in post.

When asked Mr. Cummins commented that he was of the opinion that the closure of the two hospitals was highly unlikely. He advised that considerable investment had recently been made in the provision of additional services.

It was reported that the Trust considered that its ambitions would be delivered and that it was on track to meet its financial targets set by regulators.

The Forum was advised that Stafford Hospital had been in financial difficulties for a few years and the Board had developed a 3 year strategy to make efficiencies, but not to the detriment of patient care. The hospital had previously been in deficit by £20m and this year by £15m. It was considered that the hospital would always be in deficit.

Cannock Hospital was underutilised and with Stafford Hospital's A & E Department not being open 24 hours, this had contributed to the financial difficulties. It was explained that in order to recruit quality staff, a high level of salary needed to be paid, plus additional incentives to retain senior staff.

Monitor would be making recommendations with respect to the Mid-Staffs Trust to the Secretary of State and some form of announcement was expected the following day. The Board would then meet that day and when the situation became clear, processes and time scales would be identified on how to move forward.

7. **Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust**

The Chairman welcomed Emma Colclough, Associate Director of Business Planning and Strategy from the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust.

The Associate Director explained that Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust was one of the largest Trusts in England serving a population of 1.1 million people. The Trust was committed to delivering high quality, safe and effective services that were simple to access and that would enable people to remain independent.

Key transformation projects were

- Integrated Locality Care Teams
- Community Hospitals Transformation

Supported by schemes such as:

- Standardised Assessment Process
- Risk Stratification / Case Management
- Community Integrated Teams (CIS)
- IT remote working

The Forum was informed that with the assistance of General Practitioners, patients were assessed on a variety of social and health factors. Care was targeted not only at users with an immediate need, but those who were highly likely to have future requirements. This was to ensure independence could be maintained and escalation to hospital care avoided. Patients were assigned a care co-ordinator who could reach out to other services and voluntary sectors to provide a complete care package for service users with a single point of contact. It was considered this would help alleviate duplication, i.e. patients being asked the same question by a number of people from different organisations, which in turn would help free up resources.

It was explained that the demand for health services was increasing due to an ageing population. Concern was raised that a person could potentially have health problems at night and that the Care Teams would not be a 24 hour service. The Associate Director advised that the teams would help build patients confidence during the day visits and they would be given a number to call a member of the team who would have access to the details of the callers personal situation. Should the person's symptoms require it, an ambulance could still be called.

The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust was applying for Foundation Trust as it would allow them greater independence; while being regulated by Monitor. It would enable longer term financial planning and greater flexibility to be more innovative. As an NHS Foundation Trust, it was reported that service users, carers, staff and members of the public could become members of the Trust. This would enable people to become more involved in shaping local health and

social care services and help improve quality of life over Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Those that became a member could stand for election as an FT Governor.

The Associate Director advised that the Trust would take into consideration the recommendations of the Francis Report and they would learn from the mistakes that had been made by other Foundation Trusts.

Emma Colclogh advised that she had brought to the Forum a supply of membership forms which could be completed by anyone wanting to join.

8. Staffordshire Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Chairman welcomed Hester Parsons from Link to the Forum. It was explained that LINK stood for Local Involvement Network. However, the name Staffordshire LINK would disappear at the end of March 2013 when local Healthwatch went live.

The role of LINK was to find out what people liked and disliked about health and adult social care services and to work with the people who planned and ran them to help make improvements. This involved talking directly to health and care staff regarding any services that were not being offered. The views of local people were being sought in order to advise the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Participants included carers, service users, community leaders, patient representatives; and those who wanted to ensure the needs of the community were taken into consideration. The more people that got involved, giving as much time as was convenient to them, the stronger and more influential the organisation could become. Hester Parsons advised that the volunteers enjoyed the work they undertook.

LINK could ask providers for details of their services and visit hospital wards, care homes, nursing homes etc., to observe and report on their findings. Any concerns would be raised at Health Scrutiny Committee meetings. It was explained that Staffordshire County Council was reviewing a key service for people with dementia or Alzheimers after a report had been submitted to them by LINK.

9. Questions for Staffordshire Police – Submitted in advance

It was noted that questions raised by members of the public for the Police were detailed below.

10. Questions received from Lynn Evans, Chair, Friends of Hednesford Park

A. Stafford Lane and youth issues at Tesco in Hednesford, projects planned in park to support young people and encourage positive activities

B. Motorbike and moped racing in the parking area under Hednesford Tesco (want to discuss issues of approaching Council, Hednesford Raceway and local residents to agree for us to set up funding to get race days put on for young people at the Raceway

Lynn Evans reported that there was negativity with regard to young people and it was considered that there were insufficient activities for them to attend. Voluntary groups were exploring initiatives to address this issue, including holding potential race meetings for young people at Hednesford Raceway. However funding would need to be raised to enable this to take place.

Representatives from Incarace, who ran Hednesford Hills Raceway, were in attendance and they explained that, at present, the business was not in a strong financial position as there had been a fall in the number of people attending the smaller events. Incarace was focusing on providing family entertainment to try to encourage more young people to attend the Raceway to try to alleviate the problems occurring in the surrounding area. They were, however, currently limited by the Council to holding 19 events each year.

11 Questions received from Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Bailey, Local Residents

A. Discussion regarding the parking in Victoria Street, Hednesford and the proposed 90 minute restriction

The following response had been received from the Staffordshire Highways Department:-

'I believe this is a development / car park non - Highway issue. We have been asked by a member of the public to consider changing the restriction time on Market Street Hednesford however this request is yet to go to Committee.'

B. Lack of toilet facilities in Hednesford

It was noted that neither Mrs. Stanley nor Mrs. Bailey were in attendance. The Planning & Economic Development Services Manager advised that the issues raised linked in with the following questions.

12. Question received from Mr. D. Greatrix, Local Resident on behalf of the Hednesford Traders Association

The new Aldi store will be controlling parking of approximately 120 spaces on the Victoria Street car park. They will be enforcing a 90 minute time limit and anyone exceeding this will receive a parking charge of £70.

Under what legislation is this arrangement being implemented? Will it be

enforced under the Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012 or the Traffic Management Act, 2004?

The Planning & Economic Development Services Manager advised that under Part 2 of the Local Government Act, 2000, enabled Councils to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas. As part of Hednesford Town Centre regeneration Aldi agreed to establish a new store in the town centre. Using the above legislation it was agreed, through subsequent negotiations, that Aldi would need to have a means to manage the car park to ensure that their customers would be able to have reasonable parking provision close to the new store. The Council also wished to ensure that the needs of others wanting to access the town centre were also met. It was considered that a shoppers car park, not restricted to Aldi customers, with a 90 minute limitation was a reasonable compromise.

Concern was raised by representatives of the Traders Association on the legality of penalty charges being issued. The Planning & Economic Development Services Manager undertook to discuss with Aldi under which legislation the arrangement would be implemented and he would report back.

The Planning & Economic Development Services Manager advised that there was a good supply of car parking spaces in Hednesford Town Centre with no car parking charges unlike the other town centres in the District.

With respect to toilet facilities in Hednesford it was explained that as part of the Hednesford Town Centre regeneration the former toilet block had been demolished. It was reported that better toilet facilities were provided in the new Tesco store which was open 24 hours a day Monday to Saturday.

He also added that the Council was promoting a community toilet scheme and traders that met the criteria were being encouraged to take part.

13. Question received from Mr. Faulkner, Local Resident

Speeding traffic on the Littleworth Road at the Junction of Rawnsley Road/Cannock Wood Street, Hednesford. Traffic Calming measures are required.

The following response had been received from the Staffordshire Highways Department:-

'The County Council has previously received a request from the local community to investigate the issues with speeding on Cannock Wood Street and this issue has therefore already been recorded on the Divisional Highway Programme to be discussed with the local County Councillor.

Cannock Wood Street is long and straight with high visibility which may lead to drivers travelling at a higher speed than the posted limit which is 30mph.

In order to "educate" drivers we allocated a "speed indication device" to this area in order to "remind" drivers of the speed they are driving, we feel this unit does make a difference in the community however I understand that the device is not a permanent feature and the unit moves around other various locations identified in the Cannock area.

Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership aims to make the roads of Staffordshire safer by coordinating engineering, enforcement, and education solutions at locally identified areas of concern and further investigation has been requested at this particular site.'

Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe advised that the majority of questions raised at Forums for the Police were with respect to traffic issues. Drivers would still exceed the speed limit when speed indication signs were in place and even when the Police mobile speed van was present. He advised that he could put in a bid for the mobile speed van to be in the areas concerned and would request that someone from community speed watch contact the residents.

14. Question received from Mr. D. Greatrix, Local Resident

Can anything be done to improve the access to the new KFC restaurant on East Cannock Road opposite The Globe Public House? I have seen many drivers who are approaching from the direction of Hill Top mistake the old British Waterways access road for the entrance to KFC. They then have to reverse out onto East Cannock Road and it is difficult for vehicles coming down the hill to see them due to the brow of the hill at the junction with Lower Road. I feel it is only a matter of time before a collision occurs.

The following response had been received from the Staffordshire Highways Department:-

'I was unaware of any reported issues at this location until now, however In terms of signing we cannot provide Highway signage to a private business and it may be that KFC have to consider if the signage they have on private land is adequate. Drivers also have a responsibility to drive with due care.

I have since carried out a site visit and the entrance to KFC is quite wide, I think as per my previous comments the majority of drivers seem to locate the access however understand that some drivers will make the mistake, however, I suggest we monitor how things go as the site is quite new.

I have been out and had a look at the access from the direction which was suggested, and as its approached it looks like there is an access until you get closer.

It may be of benefit for the land owner or KFC to provide an earth bund across the old access to make it more clear.'

County Councillor John Bernard explained that the issue was to be discussed at a meeting of the Joint Parking Committee.

15. Speeding Traffic – Keys Park Road, Hednesford

Item requested by Councillor Ball.

The following response was received:

'Enforcement is still ongoing with the use of the Mobile Enforcement camera team, we have discussed changing the speed limit to 40mph in the industrial section and creating a 30mph gateway feature as you approach the residential side, however no consultation has taken place with residents to date.'

Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe had spoken on this issue when dealing with item 13 listed above.

16. Update on Hednesford Town Centre Regeneration

Item requested by Councillor Ball.

The Planning & Economic Development Services Manager explained that lettings in the town centre were being achieved and further potential lettings were being negotiated.

It was anticipated that Aldi, which was currently under construction, would be opening towards the end of June/early July, 2013.

With regard to Anti Social Behaviour issues in the vicinity of the new Tesco, he advised that access to certain areas had now been restricted and CCTV cameras introduced.

New community facilities would be opening shortly which would be run by Mike Allsopp who had formerly run The Aquarius in Hednesford.

With respect to Anglesey Lodge it was reported that legal issues had now been resolved and it was envisaged that a planning application would be received shortly from JD Wethersoon.

A safety audit would be carried out by Staffordshire County Council once the regeneration schemes had been completed and this would include a review of Market Street and it's junction with Victoria Street. The

Planning & Economic Development Services Manager advised that he would relate the concerns to the Highways Department. A problem with poor surface water drainage at the above junction was also reported by a member of the public which would also be investigated.

17. Update on Hednesford Park

Item requested by Councillor Ball.

The Corporate Director reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), St. Modwen and Cannock Chase Council would be making a £3m investment with respect to Hednesford Park and the War Memorial area and other potential funding avenues were being explored.

The Council was currently going through processes with HLF prior to spending commencing; however there did not appear to be any particular problems to date. It was essential that any robust plans were in place. It was explained that what was intended to take place would be carried out over a number of years. A consultation period, prior to planning applications being considered, would need to be undertaken. All opportunities were being explored to enhance sporting facilities, particularly with regard to improving football pitches and the provision of changing rooms. A resident remarked that plans for a skateboard park looked impressive and should be considered as a matter of priority.

18. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for 18 June, 2013. Questions from members of the public should be submitted on the forms supplied.

Concern was raised by a resident that a considerable length of time had been taken up at the Forum on health matters. The Chairman reported that it was important to discuss the changes to the health service in order that residents were made aware of what was occurring. What was being planned for Stafford and Cannock Chase Hospitals were of particular importance as the residents of Hednesford would be affected.

19. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman confirmed the dates of the meetings of the Hednesford Community Forum:-

18 June, 2013
18 September, 2013
11 December, 2013
3 March, 2014

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.)

