

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEDNESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**MONDAY 09 SEPTEMBER AT 7.00 P.M.**

**AT THE AQUARIUS, VICTORIA STREET, HEDNESFORD**

PRESENT: Councillors

Pearson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Ball, G.D     Grice, Mrs. D.

Officers:     T. McGovern, Corporate Director  
                  G. Watson, Planning and Economic Development Services Manager  
                  M. Berry, Senior Committee Officer  
                  Ms. K. Miles, Communications Officer

Also present: 3 Members of the Public

Sgt. D. Edge, Staffordshire Police, Chase Division  
PCSO L. Mancicius, Staffordshire Police  
D. Ballett, Brindley Heath Parish Council

**1.        Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Adamson (Chairman) and R. Todd.

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

There were no interests declared.

**3.        Notes**

The Notes of the meeting held on 18 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

**4.        Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Sgt. D. Edge and PCSO L. Mancicius from Staffordshire Police were in attendance for this item.

No questions had been submitted in advance, so questions were taken from the floor.

**Local resident:**

“Have heard about problems re-occurring on Kingfisher Drive. Surprised about this, as understood that any issues had been resolved by the Police talking to parents and children in the area.”

*PCSO Mancicius responded that any recent incidents in the Kingfisher Drive area had not been reported to the Police, but would be investigated if necessary.*

**Residents and Members:**

“There have been issues with motorcyclists and ‘boy racers’ driving around in the Victoria Shopping Centre car park, and groups of youths hanging around outside the Tesco store. What have the Police been doing to tackle this issue?”

*Sgt. Edge and PCSO Mancicius responded that no recent complaints had been received about groups hanging around in the area, however regular patrols were undertaken alongside working with the Tesco security staff.*

A Member commented that Police had been present when groups of youths were congregating in the area, however they could not be moved along if no trouble was being caused.

**Member:**

“What is Tesco’s remit in respect of this, as we do not normally see security staff operating in the area”.

*Sgt. Edge responded that he was unsure what their remit was, as Tesco’s primary concern was preventing stock theft from the store.*

**Local resident:**

“Dance events are regularly held at the Aquarius till late on Saturday nights. The access road which runs along the back of the building is normally secured by entrance gates; however the gates were often left unlocked, which provided potential security issues for the non-Tesco retail units.”

*The Planning and Economic Development Services Manager responded that the service road provided access to the Tesco loading area and the ‘terraced’ area retail units, with the gates and CCTV being installed shortly after the building opened. The gates should be locked when not in use, as each retailer had been issued with a gate key.*

Sgt. Edge then asked residents and members present to say what their top 3 main concerns were for quality of life in Hednesford. The following items were raised:

- Anti-social behaviour;
- Speeding traffic;
- Vandalism;
- Night-time safety;
- Vehicle theft;
- CCTV provision.

In respect of CCTV provision, the Corporate Director raised that as part of the regeneration work two fixed cameras had been removed, but were due to be replaced. Furthermore, the Council had been looking into provision of wireless cameras for the area.

## **5. Questions for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services**

No questions were received.

## **6. Speeding Traffic – Keys Park Road, Hednesford**

Item had been requested by Councillor G. Ball.

*Mark Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council, provided the following response in advance of the meeting:*

*“At previous forum meetings we have discussed various options in regards to Keys Park Road. We collected data which showed cars in general were travelling around 40mph at the industrial end of Keys Park Road which is currently within a 30mph zone.*

*Following a discussion with County Councillor George Adamson we have agreed to continue to provide support through the Road Safety Partnership and the mobile enforcement vehicle continues to be deployed at this location on a regular basis. A number of offences have been recorded at this location to date”.*

## **7. Update on Hednesford Town Centre Regeneration**

Item had been requested by Councillor G. Ball.

*Glenn Watson, Planning and Economic Development Services Manager, provided the following update:*

- *Pleased to have the Forum based in the Aquarius building once again, as progress on redeveloping the site had taken a number of years;*
- *New Aldi store in Hednesford opened on 01 August;*
- *Introduction of the ‘Parking-Eye’ scheme into Rugeley Road car park had been deferred to allow time to assess how usage of the car park was being managed;*

- *All remaining vacant shop units on the Victoria Shopping Park were due to be let by Christmas, including the space below the Aquarius, however the pace of lettings being taken up in Market Street was slower;*

A local resident thanked the Council for the hard work it had put into the redevelopment of the Aquarius site, as he had led the campaign to save it from demolition.

Councillor Ball queried what the Council planned to do in respect of car parking charges and car parking issues on the Rugeley Road car park?

*The Planning and Economic Development Services Manager responded as follows:*

- *Aware of the over-demand for spaces on the car park, particularly during the lunchtime to mid-afternoon period when the Bingo Hall was also in use.*
- *Time restrictions could be put in place (i.e. short stay parking), which would potentially provide sufficient capacity to support the various activities which took place in the area at that time of day;*
- *There were no proposals in place to charge for car parking.*

## **8. Update on Hednesford Park**

Item had been requested by Councillor G. Ball.

*Tony McGovern, Corporate Director, provided the following update:*

- *First stage of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) programme had been completed;*
- *Tennis courts on Hednesford Park had been replaced, with four adult courts and four junior courts now available to use free of charge;*
- *In respect of the remainder of the scheme, planning consent was required to carry out some aspects of it, so the next phase could not commence until late 2013/early 2014;;*
- *Sport England had raised concerns about provision of football pitches as part of the scheme;*
- *A Project Manager had been appointed to take forward the remainder of the scheme, which would take a minimum of three years to fully complete.*

A resident queried whether the Council would consider making usage of the bowling green free of charge, as had happened with the tennis courts?

*The Corporate Director responded as follows:*

- *The bowling green usage was less about issues of charging a fee, but more to do with the fact the Council had to decide not to maintain the green due to budgetary pressures;*
- *The Council was in a much more difficult financial position than in previous years, so there was little room to manoeuvre in providing such activities free of charge. The decision to allow free usage of the tennis courts was made three or four years ago.*

Councillor Grice queried if the Friends of Hednesford Park would be able to take on management and maintenance of the bowling green?

*The Corporate Director responded that under the HLF agreement, the bowling green site was to be used for provision of a play area, so it would not be possible for the Friends of Hednesford Park to take it on.*

Councillor Ball queried what had happened in respect of installing an Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) in Hednesford Park?

*The Corporate Director responded that the Council was currently focussed on securing planning consent for the remaining aspects of the HLF project, but with £500,000 funding being provided by Staffordshire County Council, suitable options were being explored.*

## **9. Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust Update**

*Deborah Neal, Head of Communications, Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust, provided the following update in advance of the meeting:*

*“As the Trust Special Administrators’ (TSAs) consultation is currently underway, the Directors of Mid Staffs have concluded that it would not be appropriate to attend the Community Forums at this time. However if there are any questions on the day to day business of the hospitals, I would be very pleased to provide answers/updates from the Directors.”*

The following dates of forthcoming public meetings in relation to the TSAs consultation were noted:

- Tuesday 10 September, 10am-12pm, Staffordshire County Showground;
- Thursday 12 September 7pm-9pm, Chase Leisure Centre, Cannock;
- Wednesday 18 September, 7pm-9pm, Lea Hall Social Club, Rugeley;
- Thursday 19 September, 2pm-4pm, Chase Leisure Centre, Cannock.

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

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for 11 December 2013. Any questions would need to be submitted on the forms

supplied.

**11. Dates of Future Meetings**

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

11 December, 2013

3 March, 2014

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

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CHAIRMAN