

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Dudson, Miss M.J. (Chairman)

Gamble, B. (Vice-Chairman)

Dean, A.

Foley, D.

Hardman, B.

Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)

Kraujalis, J.T.

Lea, C.I.

Pearson, A.

Snape, P.A.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Sutherland, M.

Witton, P.T.

Also in attendance –

Councillor C. Bennett (Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader, Observer).

6. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton (substituted by Councillor M.W.A. Hoare).

7. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

8. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

9. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Cleaner and Safer Environments Priority Delivery Plan Update (Community Safety Section Only)

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance (Item 4.1 – 4.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council) *(presented by the Environmental Protection Manager)*.

Director of Travel Performance Indicators

The Environmental Protection Manager reported that these would be updated ready for the next meeting of the Committee to include appropriate wording for each indicator.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The performance information relating to the 'Community Safety' section of the Cleaner and Safer Environments Priority Delivery Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (B) The actions and indicators which were rated, yellow, orange or red and the associated commentary/remedial action proposed by the Leader Officer be noted.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation and Powers

Cllr. P.A. Snape arrived at the meeting at the start of this item.

The Environmental Protection Manager delivered a presentation to update Members on the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2014, which covered the following:

- Background
- Enforcement principles
- Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
- Timescales
- Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)
- Injunction
- Closure Notice/Order
- Dispersal Notice/Order
- Absolute Grounds for Possession
- Community Trigger

A Member queried whether issues such as bad language being used in public and the taking of illegal substances could be dealt with in the same way as street drinkers. The Environmental Protection Manager replied that such matters could be dealt with using the new powers in the Act, but only if the relevant authorities determined that such action would be worthwhile.

A Member queried if the new powers could also be used for instances where an individual hadn't done something (e.g. not maintaining hedges, therefore becoming overgrown and impacting upon the highway). The Environmental Protection Manager replied that in such instances the relevant tests for issuing Orders or Notices would have to be met before action could be considered.

A Member queried what powers were in place for the collection of stray dogs. The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the dog warden service had been

outsourced by the Council some years ago, but as part of those arrangements the wardens were only able to collect 'contained strays'.

A Member queried what could be done in instances where waste etc. was found to be disposed of incorrectly at industrial units. The Environmental Protection Manager replied that a warning letter would have to be issued to the owners of the units concerned in the first instance, and then further action considered where necessary.

A Member asked for clarification on whether the existing Dog Control Order (Dogs Off Leads) allowed for dogs to be taken off leads in parks, as there was concern about dogs coming into contact with small children and being taken into designated children's play areas by their owners. The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the Order only specified that dogs must not be taken off their leads within 3 metres of a highway, so this would usually mean that dogs can be off leads in parks. In respect of children's play areas, there were no powers or orders in place to prevent dogs being taken in, so notices displayed on entrances to play areas to prevent people doing so were only advisory.

A Member sought clarification on the status of the existing Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) which was currently in force on Church Street in Cannock town centre. The Environmental Protection Manager replied that this could be changed to a PSPO, but there would have to be justifiable reasons for doing so. An alternative option may be to target individuals instead through the use of CPNs or CBOs. Councillor Snape commented that a better use of money and resources would be to properly enforce the existing DPPO rather than target individual persons.

A Member raised concern that the existing Dog Control Order (Dogs Off Leads) did not stipulate that dogs must be kept on leads if taken into children's play areas, so requested this be looked into. Another Member also requested that football pitches be considered as part of this. The Environmental Protection Manager confirmed he would take both concerns away for further consideration.

11. Feedback from the Staffordshire Police Transformation Project and CAB Staffordshire Victim Gateway Service Briefing Sessions

The Chairman sought feedback from Members who attended the two briefing sessions held on 16 November 2015.

The following comments were made:

- Both sessions were very good. The CAB gave a good insight into what they wanted to achieve; but making sure they have the right resources and funding will be important. In respect of the Police briefing, the next stage now will be to wait and see what outcomes they achieve.
- The presentations were good quality and well prepared. More regular briefings such as these should be held in order to keep Members better informed on issues.
- The CAB presentation was good from an operational aspect, but it would

have been helpful for a more senior CAB representative to also be in attendance to provide a strategic viewpoint of the service.

- There was clearly a will by the Police to make their project work so will have to wait and see what happens. In respect of the CAB service, there was concern about how robust their structures and funding were, especially coming up to the Christmas period when domestic violence cases tended to be higher.

The Chairman requested that figures be provided by the CAB on its caseload work in relation to domestic violence issues.

12. Work Programme Discussion

The Chairman suggested the following additional items for the Committee's work programme, which were agreed by Members:

| Item | When |
|---|------------------------------|
| 'Prevent' training for all Councillors | To be confirmed |
| Staffordshire Police Transformation Project update | March 2016 Committee meeting |
| CAB Staffordshire Victim Gateway Service update | March 2016 Committee meeting |
| Briefing on child sexual exploitation issues | To be confirmed |
| Briefing on the Child Sexual Abuse Outcomes Framework (Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner) | Early February 2016 |

The meeting closed at 5:25pm

CHAIRMAN