

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
MONDAY 10 MARCH, 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.
NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J.D. (Chairman)

Dean, A.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Preece, J.	Todd, Mrs. D.

Other Councillors Present: Todd, B.
Toth, J.

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

Also present: Members of the Public – 4
PC Gamble, Cannock Police
Jonathan Bletcher, Cannock Chase Clinical
Commissioning Group
County Councillor C. Mitchell
Mr. L. Bullock, Heath Hayes and Wimblebury
Parish Council

33. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.S. Buttery (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. A.F. Bernard, M.J. Holder and County Councillor G. Adamson.

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

There were no interests declared.

35. Notes

The Managing Director updated the Forum regarding the Cemetery at the Bleakhouse Colliery Site. He advised the Forum that planning permission had been approved and the Council were in the final stage of purchasing the site. Work would commence over the next few years to develop a

burial site for the District.

Clarification was provided to the Forum of current arrangements that were in place for burials/cremations within the District. However, the Managing Director advised that in respect of land in the Heath Hayes area, there had been no planning approval for crematoria facilities but the covenant that is to be placed on the land referred to by the Parish Councillor would permit the development of a crematorium in the future.

The Notes of the meeting held on 1 December, 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

36. Question(s) for Staffordshire Police

It was reported that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting however PC Gamble was in attendance to answer any questions from members of the public.

PC Gamble updated the Forum on current issues around the area and advised that there had been a number of cases where car vehicles had been left unsecure and items had been taken. He reported that In the Norton Canes area there had been a few issues with regard to young people outside the One-Stop-Shop causing anti-social behaviour.

A local District Councillor asked what was being done to tackle the problem around the targeting of vulnerable people in their homes. PC Gamble referred to a recent incident which appeared to be an isolated case. He explained that patrols were in operation during the day and the incident was being thoroughly investigated.

A local District Councillor asked if there was something the Police could do concerning a vehicle (details were provided to PC Gamble) that was parked on a local footpath near a very busy junction which was a cause for concern due to the safety aspect. PC Gamble would look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

A member of the public referred to a recent incident concerning a lit match that was pushed through the letterbox of a resident who lives on Chapel Lane, Heath Hayes and asked if there was any further update. PC Gamble reported that this was an isolated incident which had not caused any damage.

A local District Councillor referred to the problems still experienced in the Heath Hayes and Rawnsley areas with 'car enthusiasts' speeding on roads which was a danger to other motorists and pedestrians. PC Gamble advised that reports had been received concerning 'car enthusiasts' using roads around Tesco, Heath Hayes. He had not received any other reports but advised the Forum that they should inform the Police of any instances of speeding/racing around streets and roads.

A local Parish Councillor advised of parking problems experienced on the brow of the hill and the lay-by on the approach to Wimblebury and informed the Forum that this was a safety issue which needed to be addressed. PC Gamble advised that he would look into this and if there was a safety issue, the Police would become involved.

A local District Councillor was concerned with heavy good vehicles using the Hednesford Road when weight restrictions were in place. She asked how the Police enforced the restrictions on drivers. PC Gamble reported that the weight restrictions were not enforced as there was no way of prosecuting drivers. He was not aware of any complaints in respect of this and advised the Forum to log incidents with the Police. He stated that this was not ideal, but with limited resources available, demands would have to be analysed.

The Forum expressed concern that there was a need for the same Officer to be available for the next meeting in order that an update could be given on the issues raised. PC Gamble explained that it was not always possible that the same Officer could be available; however he would endeavour to be in attendance at the next Forum meeting.

37. Question (s) for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

It was reported that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

38. Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Jonathan Bletcher, Director of Strategy and Collaborative Projects from Cannock Chase CCG was in attendance to address questions raised by the Forum but first provided information on GP shortage and recruitment.

It was reported that across Cannock there was a shortage of 6 GPs, and those vacancies were currently being filled using locums, temporary GPs and additional hours which had been extended for this year and next. He explained that there appeared to be an issue with recruiting to the area, particularly following the problems experienced by the former Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust.

He advised that practices within Cannock and those nationally were ceasing to be family GP orientated and becoming less common as people now had the flexibility to join whichever practice they chose. Other areas of discussion surrounded GP training, attracting and recruiting GPs, GP Fellowships and the advantages of practices that may work together.

In response to a question raised by a local District Councillor, Jonathan Bletcher reported that the CCG was not responsible for primary care and went into further detail regarding the previous 'red book system' and the rationale that was behind it.

In response to this a local District Councillor highlighted the problems the public experienced when trying to see a GP. On occasions the waiting time to see a GP could be anything between 2-4 days. He explained that in some cases, the public would access the Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital as they would be seen the same day. He also asked about statistics with regard to waiting times to see GPs.

Jonathan Bletcher explained that the CCG were working closely with NHS England with regard to primary care development. He advised that statistics concerning waiting times were based around Primary Care Access Surveys which were available for the public to complete, although these only measured if a patient was happy with the service and not the number of days waiting to see a GP.

The Forum expressed concern that the public were unaware of the work undertaken by the CCG and how the system linked together with primary care and NHS England. There was also concern regarding the waiting times, recruitment particularly around female GPs and the current situation concerning GPs who would be retiring in the near future.

Jonathan Bletcher responded and stated that there were no plans at practice level to recruit female GPs. He reported that the CCG were aware that approximately 15-20 GPs would be retiring in the next 5 years. He also advised that with regard to training, a GP would be required to have at least 7 years experience before they could train and then be required to undergo further assessment.

In response to a question raised concerning training courses around updating the medical profession on new drugs, treatments etc Jonathan Bletcher advised that re-validation would be improved and new arrangements would be made. He advised the Forum that he would seek further information on this.

In response to a question raised concerning the Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock and the extension of hours, Jonathan Bletcher advised the Forum that a review was in place for every 6 months to see how the service was running.

Local District Councillors and County Councillors referred to the debt the CCG had incurred and asked about cuts to services. Jonathan Bletcher discussed the control total and the amount the CCG could overspend by, although the CCG had 3 years to close the gap. He referred to the changes that had taken place with the move from the former Mid Staffs to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust which had helped with the deficit, although cut backs would be seen with regard to management costs and investment was needed in primary care.

39. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

The following update was received from Sultan Mahmud, Integration Programme Director with regard to the Cannock Chase Hospital integration with 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. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) now has full management responsibility for the delivery of inpatient and outpatient services on the site and plans to further develop both the site and services for patients in and around the Cannock area will continue.

Ongoing Plans:

- Work is ongoing for a dedicated Endoscopy Suite which will double our capacity to undertake these procedures at Cannock. It is anticipated that this facility will open to patients from 1st April 2015
- Trauma services ceased at County Hospital on 9th February and the service transition occurred smoothly. In line with local planning, elective Orthopaedic activity has been transferred to Cannock Hospital with the designation of a fifth operating theatre and an additional 13 beds to support this activity. This has supported the transfer of inpatient operating for 6 lower limb surgeons, who commenced operating at Cannock on 10th February and created capacity at New Cross Hospital to accommodate the anticipated increased trauma activity and operating theatre capacity for colorectal and breast surgery.
- The intention is to further expand elective Orthopaedic services at Cannock by building two new theatres at Cannock by December 2015.
- Following the successful transfer of Obstetrics Services on 16th January 2015, Gynaecology transferred on 9th February 2015. The Gynaecology team had worked closely with colleagues from UHNM to ensure the safe transfer of services. Clinics are continuing to run at Cannock Chase Hospital in addition to Obstetric and Gynaecology ultrasound service.
- There has been no reduction in the number of outpatient clinics carried out at Cannock Hospital.
- The Paediatrics service will transfer in May 2015. Additional beds have been identified and recruitment is currently ongoing for nursing staff to support this service.
- A free bus service for patients and staff operating from Wolverhampton Bus Station via New Cross Hospital to Cannock

Hospital was operational from 9th February 2015. Patients attending appointments at either Cannock Hospital or New Cross Hospital will be able to use this service free of charge on production of an appropriate appointment letter. The service will run at hourly intervals from 6:54am at Wolverhampton Bus Station with stops at New Cross Hospital, Featherstone, Wedges Mills and Cannock Chase Hospital, returning to Wolverhampton from 7:30am at hourly intervals until the last departure at Cannock Hospital at 21:40 pm.

- Car parking availability for patients, visitors and staff is recognised as a significant issue. It is hoped that the bus service will ease some of the pressures, however, plans are in place to increase the number of car parking spaces available at Cannock Hospital over the next few months. There will be a number of car parking spaces at Cannock Hospital allocated for Renal patients to use free of charge”.

The Managing Director updated the Forum and explained that the Council was currently in discussion with the Trust concerning parking. It was likely that the Council’s staff car park would be converted into a ‘pay and display’ and talks were being held with Staffordshire County Council Highways concerning changes to Brunswick Road. He explained that there was no agreed scheme or funding for this and other safety issues needed to be considered, however the Council was aiming for September 2015 in respect of the ‘pay and display’ parking.

Local District Councillors referred to the bus service which operated between the Trust and Cannock Hospital and it was found that more advertising of the service was required. It appeared that the bus timetable leaflet was not being circulated with patient letters and the website lacked information about this.

Both the Council’s Managing Director and Jonathan Bletcher would look into and take up the issues raised.

40. Highways Issues

It was reported that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

The following response to highways issues raised at the last meeting was received from Mark Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council:

- “Highways issues outside the Express and Star office.
- Cannock Road, Heath Hayes and the increase in traffic and HGVs, and also the potential increase in traffic caused by future highways works on the Five-Ways island.

Mr. M. Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council reported the following:

“The manhole covers near the Express and Star are not the County’s, however this has been reported to South Staffs Water. We are chasing this matter regularly and will update as soon as possible.

The Cannock Road Heath Hayes is the A5190 and as such is the main route for the majority of traffic. As the “A” road it is expected to carry HGV traffic.

The alternative route (Hednesford Road) is also busy however; there is a Weight Restriction on this road which prevents HGVs from using it.

I believe there was a slight depression in the centre of the carriageway near the junction of Newlands Lane, we will need to inspect this again to see if it meets intervention levels”.

Highway Issues

A member of the public and local District Councillor referred to problems at the far end of Chapel Street, Heath Hayes in the evenings. It appeared that road markings or fencing was required on the corner of the junction. It was reported that this issue had previously been raised with the Highways department a few months ago. Councillor Mrs. D. Todd would take this matter up with the Highways department.

41. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for Monday 29 June, 2015 and questions from members of the public should be submitted on the forms supplied.

42. Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting is Monday 29 June, 2015 (venue to be confirmed).

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 8.35 p.m.)