

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM

THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 7.00PM

AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Councillors:

Sutherland, M. (Chair)
Bernard, Mrs. A.F. (Vice Chair)

Stretton, Mrs. Z

Other District Councillor(s):

Bottomer, B

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

T. McGovern	Corporate Director
D. Cook	Senior Democratic Services Officer

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire Police	(Inspector Cooke; Sgt. Higgins; 2 PCSO's)
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Norton Canes P.C.	J. Beddows, J. Preece and R. Knowles
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Approximately 4 local residents

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Bernard, J.D.; Councillor Spicer, Mrs. A.; Councillor Todd, Mrs. D.; Councillor Todd, R.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 13 June, 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising (Not Otherwise Covered on the Agenda)

None.

6. Questions for Staffordshire Police

Inspector Cooke and Sgt. Higgins introduced themselves as they had recently been appointed and would be covering this area.

No questions had been submitted in advance, but Inspector Cooke invited questions from the floor.

A member of the public enquired as to whether it was illegal to drive or park on the pavement with an out of date tax disc. Insp. Cooke explained that if a car was on the road it had to have a tax disc. As the member of the public had reported it to the police Insp. Cooke explained how the contact centre worked with police officers now answering calls in order to provide a quicker and more responsive service. The police would have taken the details of the car and would have sent them onto the DVLA who is the governing body. Insp. Cooke explained that with regard to parking issues enforcement needed to be balanced with common sense.

One of the PCSO's remembered the issue of this car and said that it was moved fairly quickly after it had been reported as the police had contacted the owner. He apologised that the member of the public had not been contacted to say that this had been actioned.

Norton Canes Parish Councillor John Beddows asked for an update on hot spots in the areas. Insp. Cooke explained that these were regularly updated on the website, where ever possible he would attend meetings. The PCSO explained that through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the OWL System weekly updates could be sent via email, text or voice mail. Councillor Beddows was asked to give his details so that he could be added to the system. Insp. Cooke asked that all Councillors be signed up to the OWL System. The Chair asked for all Councillors and Parish Councillors to raise this at their respective meetings.

A member of the public raised an issue relating to a field in Rawnsley that houses backed onto where a person was shooting a double barrelled shot gun at intermittent times. The last time was on a Saturday that lasted for 5 hours. This issue had been raised with the police before and something may have been done as the shooting did stop for a while but had recently started again. The member of the public was concerned about safety and the noise pollution.

Insp. Cooke explained that the person would need a licence to own

and fire a gun. He would need to investigate as to whether the person shooting on the land had had permission off the owners of the land. If they had got permission then they would have to check the terms of the licence that had been granted. As this had been reported before the police may have the details of the person who owns the gun and can investigate this further. Insp. Cooke encouraged the member of the public to always contact the police when this is happening in order to keep an accurate record.

Tony McGovern, the Corporate Director CCDC, thought that this might be in the vicinity of Bleak House Colliery Site, Littleworth Road. If that is the case then Harworth Estates are the successor to the National Coal Board and Mr. McGovern was sure that they would not have given permission for someone to shoot on their land. However, a farmer was leasing part of the land from Harworth Estates. Insp. Cooke asked if Mr. McGovern could ascertain if the farmer had given permission and keep him updated. Mr. McGovern agreed to do so.

A Member raised an issue regarding speed cameras in Walsall Road as to whether they were operative or not as this is a very busy road and has been prone to accidents. There was also concern as a new company was starting up on Walsall Road which would be in operation 24/7 with lorries coming and going which would add to the traffic flow.

Insp. Cooke explained that this was a Government directive that speed cameras had been proven to not be effective as they only slowed the drivers down where they were and then they would speed up once they had passed through them. Mobile speed camera vans were more effective as they could be moved from location to location the only drawback with these is that they are not used at night. He also explained that the deployment of the mobile van was based on evidence regarding number of accidents; criminal activities across borders, intelligence gathering. Bids were then put in for the mobile van for the areas that had high activity. Insp. Cooke explained that if it was a community issue then it could be put as a policing priority if a ward councillor wrote in. Councillor Stretton said she would do this

Insp. Cooke agreed to ask the PCSO's to canvass the area and find out the issues and if there was a case for the mobile van then a bid would be put in for it for this area.

8. Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

A response had been received and put on the agenda as consultation was still taking place and therefore, no one was in attendance.

9. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for the Fire and Rescue Services, consequently no representative had been sent to the meeting.

No other matters were raised for referral back to the Fire and Rescue Service.

10. Questions for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)

The issue of speed humps in Wimblebury Road and the response from Highways was raised. A member of the public was not happy with the response from Highways regarding the speed humps and now the subsequent deterioration of the road surface. An enquiry was made as to why chicanes had not been put in instead of speed humps. A member of the public wanted to know what the cost of the speed humps in Wimblebury Road and St. Johns Street was. In addition, the public wanted to know how many responses had been received from the article in the Chase Chronicle. In the answer submitted from Highways it stated that no objections had been received and therefore the inference was that there were no responses to the advert.

Mr. McGovern, Corporate Director explained that when consultations are carried out it is very rare to get a huge response from the public.

The Chair agreed to investigate if the facts regarding the statistics and consultation had been misrepresented and acknowledged the fact that traffic calming was an emotive subject.

Parish Councillor Knowles raised the issue of the deterioration of the road surface in Church Street. This issue had been raised at the Parish Council and with Highways. An inspector from Highways had been out and agreed that something needed doing immediately but nothing had happened yet. The question was raised as to how one highways inspector could cover such a huge geographical area?

The Chair said that he would ask Councillor Diane Todd to answer this concern.

With regard to Chapel Street and Walsall Road there has been an ongoing issue of flooding for approximately 2 years. The flooding takes place by the pedestrian crossing which the school children use. It only takes a small amount of rain for this area to flood which then means the children are in danger as they cannot cross safely at the pedestrian crossing. Letters and photos have been sent to Highways and a copy was given to the Chair and Mr. McGovern at the meeting. It is assumed that the flooding is due to a collapsed drain. Highways attended a Norton Canes Parish Council meeting but there has been no follow up. It is imperative that something is done before the winter months.

The Chair and Mr. McGovern agreed to follow this up with Highways.

A further issue was raised regarding Blakeney Way Retail Park and the serious problem regarding the cracked road surface due to sunken

manhole covers. This road is heavily used by lorries and so has a lot of wear and tear. The sunken manhole covers do not necessarily affect the lorries but they are a danger for light vehicles, motorcycles and cyclists. This issues has been raised with Highways but there has been no response and has gone through the Parish Council.

The Chair and Mr. McGovern agreed to follow this up with Highways.

The final issue raised was that of Norton Lane/Newmans Lane and Newhall Farm which has remained unadopted for over twenty years. The question raised was why? The previous Head of Highways had promised to look into this and give a response but none was ever received. There is also a severe problem of flooding in this area which needs dealing with.

The Chair and Mr. McGovern agreed to follow this up with Highways and ask Highways to report back to a Parish meeting.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Next Meeting

Thursday, 2 December, 2013.
Venue: Heath Hayes Library.

13. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

None.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

CHAIRMAN