

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 7.00PM
AT RUGELEY ROSE THEATRE, TAYLOR'S LANE, RUGELEY

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Councillors:

Johnson, J.P. (Vice Chair)

Bennett, C.	Jones, R.
Bottomer, B.H.	Lovell, A.
Fisher, P.A.	Molineux, G.N.

Other District Councillor(s):

Rowley, J.	Toth, J.
Spicer, Mrs. A.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

S. Shilvock	Head of Environmental Health
S. Partridge	Democratic Services Manager

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire Police	(Sgt. D. Edge + PCSO)
Staffordshire County Council	(SCC Cllr. G. Martin)
Neighbourhood Watch	(Ms. V. Singleton)
Rugeley Town Council	
Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	
Rugeley Traders Association	
The Landor Society	

Approximately 10 local residents

Councillor J.P. Johnson took the Chair in the absence of Councillor Grocott.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from CCDC Councillors Mrs. A. Allt; A. Dudson; and M.R. Grocott (Chairman).

Apologies were also submitted on behalf of a number of Town / Parish Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 9 June, 2013 were accepted as a correct record. Councillor R. Jones advised that he had been present but was not shown as such on the notes.

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

None.

6. Questions for Staffordshire Police

No questions had been submitted in advance, but the Police representatives invited questions from the floor.

A resident enquired where the Police had been throughout the school holidays. It was suggested that the Youth Centre and Hagley Park fields area had been a virtual no go area for residents while youths were freely using it underage drinking / drunkenness, smoking (cigarettes and other), and even sex acts. The PCSO advised that there was an Action Plan covering the area, which meant it was regularly visited; in fact he had visited it at least 15 times in the past week alone. However, the resident's concerns were noted and he would keep a special eye on the area.

7. 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.

8. Questions for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)

Questions submitted by Hazel Southwell Jr., - Ms. Southwell had raised questions in respect of various on street parking / parking restrictions in the vicinity of Arch Street / Armitage Road, Rugeley.

Mark Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, had advised (by e-mail) that Mrs Southwell had previously written to the County Council regarding parking issues along Arch Street, and three letters

had been sent in response.

Ms. Southwell advised that she was generally happy with the responses provided except that she understood that yellow lines at the junction of Armitage Road / Arch Street were not due to be removed until 2015-16. As a result, residents were receiving several parking tickets each week.

No other questions have been submitted by the agenda deadline, and the County Council (Highways) had not sent a representative to the Forum.

Horse Fair Public Realm Proposals - Mrs. A. Cooney, Rugeley Traders Association, had asked for an item to be added to the agenda after the deadline had passed, in respect of concerns about the Horse Fair Public Realm proposals, which had previously also been raised with Mrs. Angela Schulp, District Lead Commissioner (SCC). The matter had been forwarded (by e-mail) to Mr. Keeling to address; however, it was understood that he was on jury service and, therefore, may not have picked it up or arranged for a colleague to cover the forum, i.e. in the absence of any other previously submitted questions.

In summary, there was a lot of concern about the County Council's intention to proceed with the project, when only a limited amount of consultation had been undertaken, during the peak holiday period, and the opportunities for meaningful feedback were extremely limited. Mrs. Cooney and others said they felt that the County Council should send representatives to all forums while issues remained live, regardless of whether or not written questions had been submitted in advance.

A resident expressed concern at the potential increased traffic impact on surrounding roads following the opening of the new Tesco store at the end of the month. Councillor Johnson suggested that everyone should wait and see, as he remembered similar concerns being raised prior to the opening of Morrisons, which had proved to be largely unjustified.

SCC Councillor G. Martin advised that he would be meeting with relevant SCC Officers later in the week and would raise these concerns with them.

Former Nursery site, Bow Street - A resident enquired what was happening, if anything, with the site. The Democratic Services Manager said he would contact the Property Services team to see if they could provide an update, and would feedback to Councillor Johnson.

Armitage Road, Rugeley – A resident advised that the “chasm” was getting bigger, and the “No right turn” appeared to be too high to be of any use.

9. The Old Chancel, St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley

The Reverend Prebendary Michael Newman M.A., St. Augustine's Church had apologised that he was unable to attend. However, he had advised that work continued along the lines last reported. The legal issues in particular would take some time to resolve. A further meeting of church officials, local authority officers and conservationists would be taking place in the autumn, and it was likely that a further public meeting would be called in the early part of the New Year to address concerns locally.

SCC Councillor Martin advised that he had allocated a further £2,500 of his Community Fund to assist in moving matters forward.

10. Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Deborah Neal, Head of Communications, Mid-Staffs NHS Foundation Trust, had provided the following update:

"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."

In relation to the TSAs consultation process, there are still a number of public meetings to be held, which are taking place on the following dates:

- 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.

Those present were encouraged to attend the public meetings.

11. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

Attendance by SCC Representative. It was felt strongly that a County Council representative should attend all future forum meetings. Ideally, this should be someone from the Highways Department, as most of the issues of concern were highways related, and an immediate answer was preferable to having to wait for subsequent feedback. Alternatively, someone with sufficient authority to take matters back to any department of the Council and ensure that they were dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded those present that there

was a form for questions attached to the back of the forum papers.

12. Any Other Business

Staffordshire Regiment Veterans' March - A resident advised that the veterans' march through the town had been a great success, led by the band of the Prince of Wales Regiment. He commented that it was disappointing to find out that for the sake of £750, they could have also marched to Lea Hall Miners Welfare Club, rather than marching through the town centre, disassembling, and then regathering at the club.

13. Next Meeting

Monday, 9 December, 2013. Venue: Rugeley Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN