

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
CANNOCK COMMUNITY FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2006
IN THE BALLROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members

Councillors:

Freeman, M.P. (Chairman)
Faulkner, B. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allen, F.W.C.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Thomas, D.
Dixon, D.I.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. W.L. Trigg (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr. T. Walsh (Parks and Open Spaces Manager)
Mrs. W. Rowe (Senior Committee Officer)

Also Present

Mr. J. Debens (Staffordshire County Council)
Gemma Durie (Trading Standards)
Representatives from the Press
Local Residents (approximately 30)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M.A. Davis, C. Mitchell and J. Toth).

1. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 7 August 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from consideration of the notes Councillor B. Faulkner provided the Forum with an update on the item discussed at the previous meeting relating to road safety/traffic volume/parking problems, Wolverhampton Road, Newhall Street, Victoria Street, Cannock. He explained that he had been involved in assessing the area along with David Steptoe, the County Council Officer and PC Haywood, from Staffordshire Police. Following this, David Steptoe had been working on developing a suitable scheme for the area.

Councillor Faulkner stated that an informal meeting was to be arranged at Cannock Social Club to explain the proposed scheme. All interested parties would be invited to attend the meeting and anyone interested in attending should contact either Councillor Faulkner or David Steptoe.

It was explained that a further update would be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.

A resident made particular reference to a recent incident of a vehicle mounting the pavement in Newhall Street and driving at speed nearly causing an accident to a pedestrian.

2. **Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards**

Gemma Durie, a representative from Trading Standards, provided the Forum with details of the services provided by Trading Standards. These included:-

- Consumer Advice Department
- Fraud Special Investigation Team – Rogue Traders
- Food Safety
- Community Safety Team
- Trader Register
- Volunteer Scheme (Watchdog)

Leaflets and contact details were available for anyone interested.

3. **Items Requested at Previous Meeting**

(i) **Police Issue – Section 30's and their impact on areas**

Staffordshire Police had indicated that a representative would be attending the Forum to deal with this issue. However, as no representative was present it was agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum. Forum Members requested that Staffordshire Police be advised that the Forum was concerned that an officer did not attend the meeting to deal with this issue.

(ii) **Proposed Health Centre at Cardinal Way – Impact on Feasty Lane**

Les Trigg, the Deputy Chief Executive, explained that as John Heminsley, the Planning Services Manager, was unable to attend the Forum he had provided a briefing note. Les Trigg read out the note which stated:-

“A track called Feasty Lane, crossing Cannock Park from Stafford Road to Old Penkridge Road, is named on some large scale Ordnance Survey maps dating from before 1970. It doesn't exist anymore on the ground as a continuous track and is not recorded as a public right of way on the Definitive Map of rights of way produced by Staffordshire County Council acting as highway authority. It therefore doesn't have any legal status as a public right of way.

We have not received a planning application from the PCT for a health centre but we do expect to receive one in the next few weeks and if we do it will be given wide publicity. The site we understand they wish to submit an application on is Council owned land at the western end of Cardinal Way and doesn't include any land which comprised any part of the former route of Feasty Lane”.

The representatives of Friends of Cannock Park explained that they had been involved in trying to get Feasty Lane recognised and had submitted a right of way application to Staffordshire County Council. There was a row of old oak trees running along the length

of the Lane which they considered should be protected by Tree Preservation Orders. They felt that the development of the health centre at the site would have an impact on the Lane.

The Chairman stated that it would be beneficial if a meeting was arranged within the next few weeks to discuss this matter further. He would attend along with Les Trigg, Deputy Chief Executive, John Heminsley, Planning Services Manager and two local residents – Christine Salmon and Gordon Taylor.

(iii) Security Guard for Cannock Park

Tom Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager, advised that the Council's Commercial Services operate with Security at the golf course and leisure centre. Enquiries by Glendale were ongoing with the same Security Contractor to ascertain if duties could be extended to cover security at Cannock Park.

Concern was expressed that Cannock Park was not already included in the security arrangements for the golf course and leisure centre.

Les Trigg explained that Cannock Park was included in the Glendale Contract and responsibility for security was included in their contract. There was a requirement for Parks staff to monitor anti-social behaviour and take appropriate action and the Friends of Cannock Park had received details on this in relation to a previous Forum question. The golf course and leisure centre were not included in the Glendale Contract and the Council makes alternative arrangements for security.

Further concern was expressed that this issue had been ongoing for at least a number of years without a resolution.

Arising from the discussions a question was raised regarding the golf course being used outside the normal opening hours and the effect this had on the public liability insurance. The Chairman asked Tom Walsh to speak to the Leisure Operations Manager regarding this issue.

(iv) Update on the Closure of Children's Home in Old Penkrige Road and Future Plans for the Land and an Update on the Walsall Road Children's Home

The Chairman advised that John Debens, the County Council representative, would be dealing with this issue. He stated that John Debens would soon be retiring and expressed thanks for his attendance at Forum Meetings and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Local residents requested John Debens to express their thanks to the County Council for retaining the 875 bus service.

With regard to the Children's Home in Old Penkrige Road, John Debens advised that consultation was currently taking place to determine whether there was any use internally for the building, if not, it would be disposed of for development.

The Walsall Road Children's Home was subject to a Private Finance Initiative and there were a number of issues still to be resolved. There were also a number of internal alterations required to be made to the building in order to make it fit for purpose. It was intended that this would be completed April 2007. It was intended to consult residents with regard to the proposals and anyone interested should contact Liz Kelay on telephone

01785 277091.

(v) **The Lack of Bus Services to the Orbital Centre**

John Debens reported that at the beginning of the year there was a bus service from Cannock town centre to the Orbital Centre which had been funded by developer contributions. However, the service had not been used sufficiently and it was decided to suspend the service until demand had increased.

Should anyone wish to discuss this issue they should contact James Warman on telephone 01785 276740.

4. Closure of Bus Lay-bys in the District – Question from Councillor G. Alcott

John Debens advised that since installing the lay-bys transportation priorities had changed from car travel to Green Travel (i.e. public transport). He explained that quality bus routes had been negotiated between the bus companies and Staffordshire County Council. This involved a Working Party which included the District Council.

Councillor Alcott thanked John Debens for the response. However, he explained that the lay-bys he was referring to, which were located in Pye Green Road (between Edward Street and Albert Street) and Cannock Road, Chadsmoor (opposite Sankey Road) had been installed in the interests of road safety and no consultation had taken place with regard to their removal. Traffic blocks were now caused due to the buses having nowhere to pull in. Councillor Alcott suggested that a letter be forwarded to the County Council requesting that these two lay-bys be reinstated in the interests of road safety and other road users.

5. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The following items were requested for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:-

- Update on Health Centre proposal – request that a Senior Officer from the PCT attend.
- Road Safety/Traffic Volume/Parking Problems – Wolverhampton Road/Newhall Street, Victoria Street, Cannock – Update on Proposed Traffic Scheme.
- Section 30's and their impact on areas.
- Alcohol Restriction Orders – report on numbers of people caught.
- Problems with regard to the volume of traffic on the A4601 through Cannock.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

The following dates of future meetings of the Forum were noted:-

29 January 2007
8 May 2007

CHAIRMAN

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

HEDNESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT TRINITY CHURCH HALL, STATION ROAD, HEDNESFORD

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members

Councillors: -

Burnett, J. (Chairman)
Turville, R.C. (Vice Chairman)

Ball, G.D. Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Grice, Mrs. D. Pearce, Mrs. L.J.

Cannock Chase Council Officers: -

Mr. S. Brown (Chief Executive)
Mr. R. Phillips (Head of Planning and Regeneration)
Mr. L. Neate (Waste and Engineering Services Manager)

Also Present, Representatives from the Following Organisations: -

Mr. J. Debens, Staffordshire County Council
Hednesford Town Council
Circle of Residents Association
Area Tenants and Residents Collective
Staffordshire Ambulance Service
Press
Members of Public – approximately 15

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton and County Councillor S. Woodward (Hednesford Division)).

1. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 8 August 2006 were agreed as a correct record, subject to Mr. B. Lee, Staffordshire Ambulance Service being included in the list of those Representatives present at the meeting.

2. Police Issues

The Chairman raised the issue of speeding traffic in Stafford Road and Station Road, Hednesford and requested that some action be taken by the Police.

PC Emma Whardle, Cannock Police, explained that there was a problem with the make-up of the roads which made it difficult for the speeding devices to be used. She reported that checks around the area did occur from time to time and she would endeavour to put the two roads on the next Police traffic day.

3. Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards

The Chairman welcomed Cath Wohlers from Staffordshire County Council.

Cath Wohlers reported that there were currently a number of ongoing projects at Staffordshire Trading Standards, those projects included the following: -

Trade Register – launched with the help of Age Concern, the register comprised a list of reputable traders such as electricians, tree surgeons and plumbers. The register would help safeguard the public from rogue traders.

Underage Sale of Alcohol and Fireworks – members of the public were advised to contact Trading Standards should they know of any establishments selling to underage people.

Claims Management Businesses - Trading Standards were currently investigating businesses which offered a 'No win, no Fee' deal as most people using the type of business ended up paying out more than what they had won in costs.

Watchdog Scheme – she explained that the scheme was similar to the neighbourhood watch scheme but concentrated on issues such as projects, scams and rogue traders. The Forum met every 3 months and was open to the public to discuss issues.

Some concern was raised with regard to the letting off of fireworks in the Hednesford area. Cath Wohlers explained that it was legal for fireworks to be let off at any time of the year so long as it was not after 11.00 p.m., she also reported that the limit to the intensity of fireworks was 120db.

4. Items Received from Members of the Public and Raised on their Behalf

Q. From Councillor Mrs. D. Grice - with regard to the S106 money generated from the sale of land on Pye Green Valley, where will the money be spent and will it be spent in Hednesford.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Bob Phillips, the Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration to provide a response to the question.

Mr. Phillips reported that the S106 money associated with a planning consent for Pye Green Valley would be spent in Hednesford and an explanation was provided to members of the public regarding a Section 106 agreement.

For example, local play areas and their maintenance payments would be controlled through a Section 106 agreement as would habitats on the land to be retained and improved. With regard to the habitats on the land, this was considered important to members of the public, therefore a management plan would be required and this together with any management/maintenance payments would be a matter for the S106.

He further reported that the Pye Green Valley development was of sufficient size to generate a financial contribution to sports and recreation facilities. Because of the importance of retaining land within the valley for habitat creation, the financial contribution would be required for off-site facilities within the Hednesford area.

He reported that with regard to the transport infrastructure the highway network improvements were controlled by planning conditions, however financial payments may be required for a bus service serving the new development, therefore a sum of money is likely to be required to pay a transport provider.

Councillor Mrs. L.J. Pearce reported that the habitat survey undertaken was not the correct survey, and that it should have been a wildlife survey that was undertaken. She also commented that the survey was carried out at the wrong time of year.

Mr. Phillips reported that the survey was undertaken by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and had been fully incorporated into the approved development Brief. The Brief also required any outstanding issues to be addressed through further surveys and bespoke Management Plan.

5. Updates

Fortnightly Refuse Collection

The Chairman welcomed Mr Les Neate, Waste and Engineering Services Manager to the meeting to provide an update.

Mr. Neate, the Council's Waste and Engineering Services Manager reported that 44 per cent of all materials were recycled in September and between the months of April and November 38 per cent had been recycled. He explained that approximately 1200 tonnes of waste per month was not going to landfill, which equated to approximately 55-60 tonnes per day.

Hednesford Town Centre

Mr. Phillips, the Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration reported that the regeneration of Hednesford consisted of different phases, those were Phase 1, the Rugeley Road scheme, Phase 2 Victoria Street and Phase 3 the Lucas Building. Phase 1 would include a discount food retailer and mixed residential, retail, and leisure (pub/restaurant) uses.. A planning application was expected to be reported in December to the Council's Planning Control Committee for the Phase 1 scheme. He also reported that St Modwen Developments had purchased the former Chase Car Sales site and the units on the front of Market Street were required to be assembled (acquired) for the scheme to proceed.

Councillor R.C. Turville reported that at a previous Forum meeting he had requested that the developers consider funding of security cameras for the Hednesford War Memorial site. Mr. Phillips agreed that the developer had offered to look at the specification of the cameras to be provided for the scheme to see if they would also survey the War Memorial site. Mr. Phillips would remind the developers of their offer as part of the negotiations.

The Future of the Aquarius Ballroom

Mr. Phillips reported that because of the importance of retaining a leisure use in the Aquarius Ballroom, the Council intended to grant a lease for a further 3 years .He reported that a number of expressions of interest had been received and interviews would be taking place on 17 November 2006, following this a decision would be made. However, he was unsure when the facility would be open to the public.

6. Staffordshire County Council Updates

The Chairman welcomed John Debens to the meeting and also congratulated him on his retirement and wished him well for the future.

A number of members of the public also congratulated him for the work he had done in respect of the Forum over the years.

Stafford Lane Speed Reducing Measures

John Debens reported that toucan crossings would be installed on both the Stafford Lane and A460. He explained that the process involved a period of objections which would end on 24 November 2006 and then appointing a prospective contractor. He was hopeful that work would commence and the crossings would be operational in March 2007.

Problem with no off Road Parking in Howard Crescent

John Debens reported that Wayne Multiboys, engineer at the County was currently considering a scheme regarding the parking situation in Howard Crescent.

7. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next Hednesford Community Forum was scheduled for Tuesday 30 January 2007 and forms were available for members of the public to complete should they wish to raise items for the meeting.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported the following dates for future meetings of the Forum:-

- Tuesday, 30 January, 2007
- Wednesday, 9 May, 2007

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, NORTON CANES, CANNOCK

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members

Councillors:

Butler, R.D. (Chairman)
Ansell, Mrs. P.A. (Vice-Chairman)

Beddows, J.	Holder, M.J.
Carr, I.R.	Mawle, D.L.
Collis, C.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Hewitt, S.M.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mrs. J. Wright, Director of Policy & Public Health
Mr. S. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health
Mr. G. Winslow, Property Services Manager
Mrs. C. Bowker, Committee Officer

Also Present:-

County Councillor S. Woodward
PC Warren Saunders, Staffordshire Police
Mr. J. Debens, Staffordshire County Council
Ms G Durie, Community Development Officer, Staffs. County Council Health and Consumer Services
Representatives from the Press
Local Residents (approximately 30)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L. Bullock, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council, Councillor Mrs. J. Davies, Norton Canes Parish Council and County Councillor J. O'Leary).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman informed the Forum that Mr. J. Debens was retiring shortly and he and other members of the Forum thanked him for the work he had undertaken over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement. The Chairman also informed the Forum the Mrs. J. Wright had been appointed Director of Public Health to the new South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and wished her well.

1. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 15 August 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Police Issues

Mr. Pape, a local resident, expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic using the Littleworth Road and in particular HGVs.

PC Warren Saunders informed the Forum that he was the Beat Officer for Norton Canes and he had spoken to Luke Norman who was the Police Officer who covered that area regarding this issue. Speed checks had been carried out in the area but no vehicles had been monitored as travelling at excessive speeds. Further checks would, however, be carried out over the coming weeks.

County Councillor S. Woodward requested PC Warren Saunders to ask PC Luke Norman to contact Mr. Pape direct to progress this issue.

Concern was also expressed with regard to the speed gun which had been purchased through the County's Members Initiative Scheme which had to be shared between the residents of Hazel Slade and Rawnsley. Mr. Pape raised concern with respect to insurance matters when the speed gun was in transit from one area to another.

Mr. Pape reported that he had attended a course on the use of the speed gun and had the necessary paperwork. He considered that each area should have a speed gun.

3. Highways Issues

It was agreed that these items be brought forward for discussion as the representative from Trading Standards was not currently in attendance.

Resurfacing of Littleworth Road from Beaudesert View to Wimblebury Road

Mr. Pape asked if a proposed date could be given on the resurfacing of the Littleworth Road from Beaudesert View to Wimblebury Road.

Mr. Debens, representative from the County Council, explained that the budget had not been set for the next year. Schemes put forward included the Littleworth Road, Hill Street, Hednesford and a road in Rugeley, the cost of these schemes being approximately £740,000. Not all the schemes would be able to be undertaken due to cuts being made to the highways budget.

Mr. Pape reported that he had been requesting that this work be carried out for 9 years.

Councillor Mrs. P. Ansell and County Councillor S. Woodward considered that to help progress this issue a letter from the Forum should be forwarded to the Highways Department at the County and the Forum agreed that this should be done.

Reduction in Speed Limit along Cannock Road from Chapel Street to Junction with Heath Way

Councillor C. Collis requested that the speed limit of 30 miles per hour from 40 be further extended along the Cannock Road from Chapel Street to the junction with Heath Way.

The Forum was informed that a meeting had today taken place with the County Council, District Council and Parish Councils on this issue. The outcome of which was that a survey would be undertaken within the next month.

It was reported that Councillor D. Davies has presented residents letters in support of the speed reduction to a meeting of the County Council in July 2006. The Forum requested that Mr. Debens pass copies of the letters to Mr. L. Dyble at the Traffic Management Unit, Stafford Police Headquarters to help progress this matter.

4. Work of Trading Standards

Gemma Durie, Community Development Officer, Staffordshire County Council Health and Consumer Services outlined the role of Trading Standards.

She explained that amongst other services they provided advice to consumers with respect to any disputes they had until it was resolved. They also took action against shops selling such items as alcohol, cigarettes etc., to under age people and feedback from residents was important to inform them where this was occurring.

Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards 'Watchdog Scheme' was the first of its kind in the country where members of the public volunteered to act as the eyes and ears of Trading Standards in their local areas. They also reported rogue traders or consumer issues to Trading Standards which allowed them to publicise urgent warnings to protect residents. Trading Standards also collated a register of reputable traders.

Talks and training sessions on the Scheme were offered free of charge during the day, evenings or weekends to community groups and leaflets on this were available to the Forum.

The work of Trading Standards was praised by the Forum.

5. Central Networks

Mrs. Pape had requested that an item concerning power cuts be placed on the agenda and Central Networks had been invited to attend but were unable to do so. They had, however, provided an update which had been circulated with the agenda and indicated that they would attend the meeting scheduled for 5 February 2007. It was agreed that this item be placed on the agenda for that meeting.

Discussion took place on alternative means of power including solar power and better insulation. It was reported that the Warm Front Scheme had provided assistance to households in Cannock Chase for many years. Consultation was also taking place with respect to the Planning process for Cannock Chase and it was important for residents to put their views forward.

6. Hednesford Hills Raceway

Mrs. Barratt reported that she had received feedback on the monitoring undertaken at the Raceway.

Mr. Shilvock, Head of Environmental Health, explained that a monitoring exercise had taken place on 28 August and 15 October 2006 but the conditions had not been ideal as there were strong winds and heavy showers. The feedback had been forwarded to those involved in this issue.

It had been ascertained that there was no statutory nuisance but there was sufficient noise for

further monitoring and investigation to be undertaken and residents would be contacted. The trucks, coaches and caravans were not considered to be the noisiest vehicles as they were not driven at speed.

Mr. G. Winslow, Property Services Manager, informed the Forum that the Raceway did not require a licence but had a lease from the Council. A Code of Practice was attached to the lease and renewal was required in February 2008. He, in conjunction with Environmental Health, would undertake a review of the Code of Practice.

The Tenant was protected under the Landlord and Tenant Act and was entitled to have a lease similar to the one issued previously.

The residents were concerned that they had no input with respect to the Code of Practice and it was agreed that officers meet with residents and Ward Members to discuss their concerns and reflect these in negotiations with Mr. Bond.

It was pointed out that the Raceway brought tourism into the area and created both full-time and part-time jobs.

7. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available for completion for items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

The following items were requested during the meeting:-

- Central Networks proposals to stop power cuts
- Fireworks and issues with respect to their noise levels, dates and times when they were lit and who they were sold to.
- Concerns with respect to the grass verges along Cannock Road, Heath Hayes.

8. Date of Future Meeting

The Chairman advised that Forum meetings had been arranged as follows:-

Monday, 5 February 2007 – Wimblebury Community Centre
Monday, 14 May 2007 – venue to be arranged.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT REDBROOK HAYES COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. MICHAEL'S ROAD,
RUGELEY

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members:

Councillors

Grocott, M.R. (Chairman)

Davies, D.N.

Molineux, G.N.

Stanley, N.K.

Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M.

Williams, B.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mrs. S. Bard

Mr. M. Challoner

Mr. T. Walsh

Head of Organisational Development

Principal Committee Officer

Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire County Council

Rugeley Town Council

Staffordshire Ambulance Service

Press

(Apologies for absence were received from Dr. A. Wright, M.P., County Councillor G.E. Roberts and Councillors N.K. Stanley, R. Jones and R. Easton).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman on behalf of the Community Forum thanked Mr. John Debens of Staffordshire County Council for the support he had given to the Forum over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement.

1. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The Notes of the previous meeting held on 22 August 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from consideration of the notes, a local resident reported that there were still problems with litter in East Butts Road and Chaseley Road. Mr. Tom Walsh, the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Manager, explained that this particular site was a 'hot spot' for litter problems and indicated that the area was regularly picked for litter.

With regard to Note 8, grit bins in Etching Hill, Mr. John Debens, Staffordshire County Council, reported that the County Council were currently in the process of undertaking a review of grit bins.

With regard to Note 11, traffic along Penkridge Bank Road, Mr. Coath, a local resident, reported that he had spoken with Mr. John Kinsey of Staffordshire County Council, who had advised that the AONB Management Committee were not in favour of having road signs in the area.

2. Parking Problems and Request for Additional Speed Humps along Church Street, Rugeley

Mr. Jenkins, a local resident, requested that sections of yellow lines along Church Street, Rugeley be removed in order that residents can park outside their houses and that consideration also be given to the land at the Aelfgar Centre being converted into a residents parking area. In addition, he requested that consideration be given to installing additional speed humps along Church Street.

Mr. Debens reported that the removal of yellow lines from the highway was a considerably lengthy process, however, the County Council were currently in the process of reviewing parking restrictions throughout the District. He also indicated that it was unlikely that the land at the Aelfgar Centre was part of the adopted highway and could not therefore be allocated for residents car parking.

Mr. Bob Lee of Staffordshire Ambulance Service reported that there was an increasing problem of on street car parking preventing emergency vehicles from attending incidents quickly, due to there being insufficient space for emergency vehicles to pass.

Councillor Trevor Stokes of Rugeley Town Council indicated that it may be possible for the Town Council to consider allocating an area of land at the Rose Theatre for residents parking.

3. Traffic Calming Measures at Garden Drive, Rugeley

Local residents, Mr. & Mrs. Edwards, requested that consideration be given to including Garden Drive within the traffic calming measures proposed for Springfield Avenue.

It was agreed that Mr. & Mrs. Edwards provide details to Mr. John Debens at the end of the meeting and that they be included in any future correspondence regarding a proposed scheme.

4. Progress Report on the Testing of Headstones and Memorials at Stile Cop Cemetery, Rugeley

Mr. Tom Walsh reported that the testing of headstones and memorials at Stile Cop Cemetery had now been completed and that letters had been forwarded to the Registered Grave Deed Holders informing them of the outcome of the tests.

With regard to those headstones that had failed the test, the Registered Deed Holder had been advised to contact a Stonemason who was registered with the Council in order to have the necessary work undertaken.

5. Road Sweeping and Litter Picking in Rugeley

Mr. Tom Walsh reported that the District Council were responsible for street cleansing throughout Rugeley and that Main Road, Brereton was swept every 13 weeks and was litter-picked once a week.

It was also reported that Brereton Parish Council have a street cleaning vehicle that can be used to clean specific problem areas.

6. Request for the Provision of Public Conveniences in Rugeley

The Chairman reported that the public toilets at Rugeley Bus Station were managed by the Town Council but had recently been closed due to vandalism.

7. Progress Report on Housing Transfer

Mr. Ian Tennant, the Council's Head of Housing, reported that following the results of the stock transfer ballot, the Council were reconsidering the available options regarding a future strategy for its housing stock in the light of:-

- (a) a discussion paper issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the Government's future housing policy;
- (b) the current views of tenants as evidenced by a Market Research Survey of 2,288 tenants.

The two options which were being considered were:-

- (a) continue to pursue a stock transfer within the Government's current financial regime;
- (b) pursue a positive retention strategy in the short-term and undertake a further options appraisal in 2009 in the light of the Government's revised policy and financial regime to determine a sustainable strategy for the period beyond 2014.

It was also reported that following consideration of these options by Cabinet on 20 July and 21 September 2006, Council on 27 September 2006 agreed that subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a Tripartite Agreement between the Harvest Housing Group, the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Council, on matters which would in the event of stock transfer impact on the General Fund, the Council continue to pursue a strategy of stock transfer within the Government's current financial regime.

The Forum were advised that discussions regarding the Tripartite Agreement were currently in progress and would be reported to Council on 13 December 2006.

8. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

Suggestions of issues to be discussed at future meetings of the Forum were sought. It was explained that appropriate representatives would be invited to attend and debate the issues and answer any questions.

It was agreed that the following item be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

- Problems with parking in Thompson Road and the possibility of 'The Green' being allocated for residents parking.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The following dates of future meetings of the Forum were noted:-

- 7 February 2007
- 15 May 2007

CHAIRMAN