

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY 16 MARCH, 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEATH GREEN, HEATH HAYES

PRESENT: Councillors

Jillings, J. F. (Chairman)
Bernard, J. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Holder, M.J.
Beddows, J.	Mawle, D. L.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Todd, Mrs. D. M.
Bullock, L.W.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Miss. J. Tunnicliffe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Cannock Police
County Councillor J. Rowley, Staffordshire County Council
Mr. D. Wright, Staffordshire County Council Highways
Mr. R. Smythe, Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council
Councillor T. Williams

26. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Collis and K.L. Bennett and Mr. Rees, Staffordshire County Council on behalf of VOICE.

27. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contacts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

There were no interests declared.

28. Notes

Arising from the Notes, Inspector Shannaghan of Cannock Police advised that PC Luke Norman was in fact from Rugeley Police and not Cannock Police.

Arising from Minute 19, Mr. D. Wright, Staffordshire County Council Highways reported

that the results from the pedestrian count did not justify the need for crossings to be installed. He stated that the levels on the day were low and the count had been undertaken between the hours of 7.30-9.30 a.m. and again between 3.00-6.00 p.m. on 19 November, 2009.

Residents and Ward Members were surprised by the result and raised concern due to the fact that it was a very busy road which was used by not only local people but also children walking to school. Ward Members referred to the 'Safer Routes' scheme and asked if the County Council could review this again and look into how the road could be made safe for people to use.

Mr. Wright advised that he would take this back to the County and report back at the next meeting in June.

Arising from Minute 20, Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement advised the Forum that work was still ongoing and regular meetings were taking place with Officers at Staffordshire County Council. Although with the current budget position following Council and the review of the Street Wardens and Environmental Enforcement, a report would be produced which would be submitted to the next Licensing and Public Protection Committee. Mr. Hoare advised that this item would be placed on the next Forum Agenda.

Arising from Minute 21, paragraph 2 the Chairman reported that the Minute stated that the youth club at Wimblebury was part of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council, however he advised that the Youth Club was in fact separate to the Parish Council.

Arising from Minute 22, paragraph 5 Ward Members asked if there had been any progress in respect of the establishment of a Community Speed Watch scheme.

Mr. D. Wright advised the Forum that a meeting was taking place tomorrow to discuss this. Inspector Shannaghan also advised the Forum that a request had been made for a speed camera in the area.

The notes of the meeting held on 25 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

29. Questions for Staffordshire Police

A District Councillor reported that he had recently met with residents of Cannock Wood concerning horse riders acting irresponsibly in the area. He explained that residents had expressed concerns with horses fouling, riding on pavements etc. He advised the Forum that he would liaise with the Council's Environmental Health Department to write to the owners of the stables and he also suggested that there was a need for Police presence in the area especially at weekends.

Inspector Shannaghan advised that he would liaise with Inspector Ellerton of Rugeley Police to raise the concerns of those residents.

A local resident expressed concern that there was an unofficial racecourse used by bikers in the Heath Hayes area. He suggested that the bikers were in operation on Sunday mornings between the hours of 8-10 a.m. and riding at speeds in excess of 100 mph. The resident was keen to know what the Police could do to tackle this.

Inspector Shannaghan stated that recently the casualty partnership had been in operation together with covert traffic enforcement and 80 bikers had been caught on one Sunday. He advised that further covert and overt together with education and enforcement would be taking place. Although he stated that this was mainly targeted at 'boyracers'.

A member of the public raised concern relating to the helmets with a light on worn by cyclists. He stated that this could be dangerous given that the light on the helmet was fairly dazzling and asked if there was any law relating to the use of these type of helmet. Inspector Shannaghan advised that the Road Traffic Act related to motorcycles although he would liaise with cycle clubs in the area.

Inspector Shannaghan then updated the Forum on what Police activity had taken place in the area. He advised that there had been a series of vehicle crime in Wimblebury and stated that the culprit had now been apprehended. Furthermore, additional patrols have been located in the area overnight due to the problem occurring again. He also advised that there had been a number of burglaries prior to Christmas, although an arrest had now been made.

30. Hednesford Hills Raceway

This item had been requested by local resident Mrs. Barratt.

Mr. D. Hoare stated that the lease had been signed on 9 March, 2010 which had not taken place previously as the owner spent the winter months abroad. He stated that the agreement and the Code of Practice would be publicised sometime this week and would be made available on the Council's website. He advised the Forum that and he would make a request to the Head of Environmental Health to attend the next meeting to give a presentation.

Local resident Mrs Barratt stated that the practice days had previously been an issue and was happy they had now been reduced, however she raised concern that on the Organisation's website it did not provide any details of when the practice days would take place although there were details in respect of one practice day which stated that there would be a charge to drivers and stated that the public could attend for free. She raised concern at this and asked if this was something new.

Mr. D. Hoare stated that all information was contained within the Code of Practice and he was of the opinion that one practice day was allowed which would occur on the race day and it was for the organisation to request additional operation days if required.

31. Gritting – Littleworth Road

This item had been requested by Councillor D. Mawle.

Mr. D. Wright stated that gritting would take place on all road categories. The maintenance categories were 1-6 and gritting would take place on 1-4 which were those roads with more than 75 heavy commercial vehicles a day. He advised that information had been received from the Government which stated that there was a need to reduce the amount of gritting taking place, therefore only A and B roads would be gritted and hand gritting had

taken place on essential roads.

A Ward Member raised concern that gritting had been completely missed on one stretch of Littleworth Road by the traffic lights and many other roads in the area. Concern was raised that driving conditions on these roads was treacherous when the area suffered from the recent bad weather conditions.

Mr. D. Wright stated that he could look at the routes where gritting takes place and also take a traffic count ready for next winter to try and avoid a similar problem. He advised that if the traffic count failed, a grit count would be undertaken.

A Member raised a similar concern that the lower end of Anglesey Street, Hednesford had not been gritted and commented on the state of the road between Anglesey Street and Littleworth Hill.

Mr. D. Wright stated that the problems with the state of the roads between Anglesey Street and Littleworth Hill had been placed on the work programme for the next financial year.

With regard to the yellow anti slip gravel on the Littleworth Road, Mr. D. Wright advised that the anti skid surface was applied to existing roads to enhance the skid resistance. When Littleworth Road was resurfaced a high skid resistant material was used negating the need for anti skid to be applied.

32. Zebra Crossing – Littleworth Road

This item had been requested by Councillor D. Mawle.

Mr. D. Wright advised the Forum that both a traffic volume and a pedestrian count would be required which would be carried out when the petition was received and an update would be made available at the next meeting. Members of the public however raised concern that it was possible that the pedestrian count would be low as many people would be afraid to cross the busy road.

Inspector Shannaghan advised the Forum that any complaints received in respect of speeding motorists would be responded to and Officers would be more than happy to target certain areas.

A Ward Member stated that many years ago other factors were taken into account in determining whether or not a zebra crossing could be installed and another Ward Member was keen to know if consultations happened with Ward Members to ensure they were aware of the process. Mr. D. Wright confirmed that consultations did occur with Ward Members.

A Ward Member was keen to know if the results from a survey undertaken by Hazelslade and Rawsley Community Association (speed watches) would help in trying to get the zebra crossing installed. Mr. D. Wright confirmed that the results would filter through to the County Council Highways.

On another point a Ward Member reported that he had attended an open day where it was proposed that Officers from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services would attend with

Police Officers during certain times to help tackle anti-social behaviour. Inspector Shannaghan advised that the Fire Service would take the lead on this and there were currently various types of multi-agency work taking place.

Mr. D. Wright advised the Forum that there was a policy document on how decisions were made in respect of crossings which he would supply to Ward Members.

33. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

The Chairman informed the Forum that forms were available to be completed for questions to be raised for the next meeting.

34. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on 9 June, 2010 at Norton Canes High School.

(The date of the meeting was subject to agreement at full Council).