

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

HELD ON MONDAY, 5 MARCH, 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J. D. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Rowley, J.
Gilbert, P.	Spicer, Ms. A.
Holder, M.	Todd, Mrs. D.

Other District Councillors in Attendance

Councillor R. Todd
Councillor J. Toth

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Sgt. A. Richards, Staffordshire Police
Ms. V. Singleton, Staffordshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch
Parish Councillors
Members of the public - 12

(The Chairman informed the Forum that he had agreed to the order of the agenda being changed to allow the Police to leave to carry on with their duties)

19. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. H. Holder, Ms. A. Spicer and M. Sutherland. Apologies were also received from Mr. T. Withington a local resident and Mr. W. Southall from the Fire and Rescue Service.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

21. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 19 September, 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

22. Matters Arising (not otherwise covered on the agenda)

Members said that they were disappointed with the consultation process recently undertaken with respect to the Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes and John Street, Wimblebury traffic calming schemes. It was reported that residents in Chapel Street and Bank Street had not received letters regarding the consultation and that notices were not put up in the village nor on notice boards. Residents were angry and it was considered that the consultation period should be extended in order that those who had not had the opportunity to express their opinion, could do so. The Chairman indicated that he would report the concerns to the Highways Department the following morning.

Concern was raised by a local resident with respect to the Wimblebury and Cannock Roads and he considered that a 30 mile an hour restriction should be imposed on the full length of the roads. The Highways Department had explained that as there were no houses on the side of the road by Golds Garage a 30 mile restriction had not been imposed. However, the resident reported that other similar areas in Cannock Chase did have the 30 mile an hour speed limit.

23. Questions for Staffordshire Police

The Police were congratulated on recent events in the area particularly relating to drugs issues. Sergeant Richards reported that initiatives carried out had proven to be successful and people were now serving prison sentences for drugs offences.

A Member expressed concern relating to a white van being parked on a grass verge near Cleeton Street/Cannock Road and that numerous complaints had been made as it was causing visibility problems for drivers. It was reported that the highways department would be contacted to ascertain if a bollard could be erected on the verge.

The Police were thanked for organising the 'honour guard' at the cenotaph in Cannock town centre over the 3 day period of the Remembrance Service weekend. Money had also been collected for the poppy appeal.

It was reported that the Heath Hayes Remembrance parade had grown over the years and had been attended by in excess of 250 people, including those of a young age. The Police explained that they worked with the Parish Council to ensure the parade ran smoothly and the relevant support structures were in place.

24. Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mrs. Carole Howard, an elected Governor for the Cannock Constituency on the Council of Governors at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, gave an overview of her role. Mrs. Howard explained that with the major problems at Stafford Hospital she had become an elected Governor and invited anybody who had an interest in the running of Cannock and Stafford hospitals to also consider becoming a member. It was confirmed that membership was free and open to anyone aged 16 or over resident within the area covered by the Trust. Members received regular newsletters keeping them informed of news and developments at the hospitals and information on meetings and talks which they could attend. Members also had voting rights at the Annual General Meetings and could stand to be a Governor.

Governors were involved in five committees and could challenge the Board who had to provide answers.

It was explained that the Accident and Emergency Department was to be closed at night due to problems with recruitment and associated safety issues and that this decision had not been taken lightly. It was anticipated that it would be closed for a three month period. Residents would be taken to Walsall, Burton or New Cross Hospitals during these hours and repatriated as soon as possible. It was explained that Ms. Lynn Hill Tout, Chief Executive of the Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust was carrying out a restructure of the Department. The reduction in patients had an affect on the amount of funding that the hospital received. The hospital was also carrying out intensive training of staff to raise skill levels. Surveys had indicated that complaints were now falling and staff attitude was improving. It was reported that it would be difficult to remove the stigma attached to Stafford hospital, however it was important to move forward.

The Armed Forces doctors that were presently working at Stafford Hospital would be leaving in January, 2012. The PCT would be writing to everyone in their area with information relating to where to go for treatment.

It was reported that Cannock hospital was being run extremely well and the rheumatology section had a very good reputation.

Mrs. Howard explained that she would leave membership application forms for anyone who may be interested in joining the Trust.

25. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings

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

26. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Forum had been arranged for Monday, 5 March, 2012 at Norton Canes High School.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm