

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEDNESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**THURSDAY 11 JUNE, 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**AT THE MUSEUM OF CANNOCK CHASE, VALLEY ROAD, HEDNESFORD**

PRESENT: Councillors

Burnett, J. (Chairman)  
Burnett, G. (Vice-Chairman)  
Ball, G.D.                      Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.  
Grice, Mrs. D.

Officers:                      T. McGovern, Director of Organisational Improvement  
                                      B. Phillips, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
                                      J. Tunnicliffe, Senior Committee Officer  
                                      D. Wright, Staffordshire County Council  
                                      Press – 1  
                                      Members of the Public – approximately 7  
                                      Hednesford Town Council  
                                      Cannock Police

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. L.J. Pearce).

**1.                      Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Councillor J. Burnett was appointed Chairman and Councillor G. Burnett was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Hednesford Community Forum for the municipal year.

**2.                      Notes**

The Notes of the meeting held on 18 March, 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

**3.                      Update regarding Hednesford Town Centre**

Mr. Bob Phillips, the Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration reported that the Lightworks had opened on 23 April, 2009 and Prichard Holdings were now seeking lettings. He stated the scheme was aiming to provide a combination of retail and service businesses with services apartments above the ground floor.

A Local Ward Member raised concern that existing Hednesford businesses were taking up lettings at the Lightworks. Mr. Phillips stated that the scheme was about getting new investment into Hednesford and expanding what Hednesford had to offer. Any decisions of existing businesses to take advantage of the new scheme should be seen in that context.

Mr. Phillips reported that discussions had been held between the Council and the developer in respect of the Rugeley Road Gateway scheme. He stated that to respond to the changed circumstances of the recession, the financial arrangements had been reviewed and there would be some changes in respect of the financial and configuration of the space. Revised plans were awaited which would then be subject to planning approval.

A Local Ward Member referred to the scheme and asked if it was likely that there would be a reduction in the height of the buildings. Mr. Phillips stated that the revised plans would propose a 2 storey and not a 3 storey scheme on Market Street which was not considered to be detrimental to the presentation of the scheme.

Members were keen to know when the scheme would commence. Mr. Phillips stated that he could not provide a definite answer given that there were a number of processes to go through first. It was hoped that the scheme would commence autumn time following the receipt of plans and planning approval and following assembly of the site with the approved Compulsory Purchase Order.

Mr. Phillips reported that negotiations were continuing between both the developer and a large food store operator in relation to the Phase 2 Victoria Street scheme.

With regard to the Aquarius building Mr. Phillips reported that an advert had been placed for expressions of interest to run the Aquarius and 4 expressions had been received. He stated that the next stage of the process was to provide those interested with relevant information on the terms and to arrange viewings of the building.

**4. Cannock Stadium**

Mr. Phillips reported that the bat survey was ongoing and would hopefully be complete in 4-6 weeks. He stated that the results of the survey would be available for the next meeting of the Forum in September.

**5. Stafford Lane Speed Reducing Measures**

Mr. David Wright, Staffordshire County Council reported that based on the feedback of the informal consultation with residents at the end of 2008, preparations have been made to formally advertise speed tables. The formal consultation process would be advertised in the local press by the end of July and there would be a 28 day objection period. By the next Hednesford forum in September, it would be known if formal objections had been raised. If objections had not been raised, the County Council would then be able to provide details of the proposed construction dates at the next meeting.

**6. Question – Raised by Councillor G. Burnett**

Mr. Tony McGovern read out the following statement in respect of the question.

“The Park continues to act as a hub for Football with all three pitches been used beyond the end of the normal season. This was necessary to ensure all teams in the local leagues were able to finish their season. The posts have now been removed and the goalmouths top soiled and re-seeded and the pitches deep tined to remove sub-surface compaction. In addition the improvements/extension to the footpaths as part of the Chase Heritage Trail,

the path in front of the former Bowling greens have been levelled and improvements made to reduce the gradients.

The Council is continuing to try and source a contractor to repair the damaged fencing along Victoria Road that was damaged by a Road Traffic Accident, The fences age, design and current condition is making this difficult and the Council will be making an interim repair using fencing from elsewhere. We continue to progress chase Severn Trent on the flooding issues in the Park as the drains are their responsibility.

The Park staged the Hednesford Lantern Parade prior to moving onto the Town Centre last December and will host Stokes Funfair 18-22 June this year. A litter/dog waste bin has been installed at the Rugeley Road side of the old mineral line and the Council's Environmental Health Officers have continued to monitor the Park for dog fouling/littering.

The old pavilion off Victoria Road entrance to the Park has been removed and a new waste bin has been delivered following an arson attack. The park is still been staffed 7 days a week. Two meetings of the Friends of Hednesford Park have occurred at the Museum of Cannock Chase and suggestions have been made for improvements such as improved quality of pitches, better play area facilities, improved maintenance, upgrading of bowling greens etc.

The Friends of Group will be advertising a date for the next meeting sometime in July and members of the public will be welcome to attend this if they wish to provide suggestions and be involved in the future of the Park. The Friends of Hednesford Park will play a critical role in the future development and improvement of this park.

Tom Walsh  
Parks and Open Spaces Manager  
Cannock Chase Council".

Members of the Forum asked questions with regard to vandalism at the park. Inspector Shanaghan, Cannock Police reported that there had been few incidents at the park, but none associated with vandalism. He also stated that the Police in conjunction with the partnerships were consulting on facilities for young people within the District.

A Hednesford Town Councillor asked if the car park would be used in respect of the stage 2 development for Hednesford. Mr. Phillips stated that the car park would not be used for the development and that the army cadets would be located next to the park entrance.

**7. Question – Raised by Mr. Dolphin Local Resident**

The following statement was attached with the Agenda in response to proposals to introduce parking charges at Hednesford Train Station and Co-op Car Parks.

"Following a number of complaints from the public and local Councillors regarding commuters parking on the shopper's car park at the rear of the Co-op store in Hednesford, it was proposed to introduce a maximum stay of 3hrs on this shopper's car park (free) with a view to making the commuters use the nearby station car park. At the same time it was proposed to introduce charging at the Hednesford station car park, as a number of commuters were parking free in Hednesford to avoid paying at Cannock station car park.

The charge proposed is in line with rates charged at Cannock station car park. These proposals were agreed in principle following consultation with Hednesford Town Council and notices were posted accordingly to advertise a Parking Order allowing for a consultation/objection period. During this notice period, three objections were received, this included a letter of objection from Mr. Dolphin, which was read out at the last meeting of Hednesford Community Forum on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Cannock Chase Council has written to the three objectors acknowledging receipt of their objection. These objections will now be considered in line with Council Policy at a Cabinet meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009. In the meantime, it should be noted that these two car parks were withdrawn from the New Parking Order for the district. There will be no further action until the matter has been resolved, at which point a separate parking order will be made, if required. This means that until further notice there will be no change to the current parking arrangements on both of these car parks in Hednesford”.

In response to questions from Local Ward Members, Mr. McGovern stated that if the proposals were agreed then appropriate enforcement arrangements would be made.

**8. Chase Shaping Consultation**

Mr. Phillips reported that the Council were happy to receive comments until the end of June with regard to the Chase Shaping Consultation which was about the future planning of Cannock Chase District to 2026. He stated that further information was available in the Preferred Options summary document which was available to all members of the public at the meeting.

**9. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for Wednesday 22 September, 2009 and questions from members of the public should be submitted by Tuesday 1 September, 2009 on the forms supplied.

**10. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman confirmed the following dates of the Hednesford Community Forum:-

- Wednesday 22 September, 2009
- Thursday 10 December, 2009
- Thursday 11 March, 2010