

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY, 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J.D. (Chairman)
Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.

Green, M.R.

Staffordshire County
Council Members:

Corfield, P.
Davis, D.J.

Martin, G.
Rowley, J.

By Invitation:

Sgt. Chris Rogers, Staffordshire Policy NPU (Rugeley Station)
Ms. C. Bevan, Staffordshire County Council Road Safety Officer

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Councillor J.D. Bernard was appointed Chairman and Councillor A. Williams was appointed Vice-Chairman for the municipal year.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

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

No declarations of Interests were declared.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2010 be approved as a correct record.

5. Joint Staffordshire Parking Board

Consideration was given to the Report on the Prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. D. Wright, Community Highway Liaison Manager, detailed the eight new requests that had been received. The Committee gave consideration to the requests and agreed which ones should be progressed. Members considered that the requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders for Springfield Rise, Hednesford and Hagley Road, Rugeley should be approved for further investigation.

With regard to Hillside Close, Hednesford it was requested that a letter be sent to parents in September to outline the problems with inconsiderate parking. Councillor Mrs. D. Grice had made this request and County Councillor D.J. Davis stated that he would liaise with her and report back to the Committee if necessary.

Following consideration to the requests outlined in the report a Councillor. A. Williams raised further concern with regard to the parking problems surrounding St Peters School, Church Hill/Littleworth Road and asked for further investigation. County Councillor P. Corfield outlined the problems associated with on street parking in Spring Street, Cannock due to the new GP surgery. Officers would investigate and report back to the Committee.

County Councillor P. Corfield informed the Committee that he had received a petition from residents in Ulswater Place, Cannock requesting parking restrictions. The petition was handed to Mr. D. Wright for action.

Councillor M. Green raised concern with regard to parking around Longford Primary School, in particular the parking along Longford Road between Langdale Green and Ascot Drive. County Councillor P. Corfield explained that the parked vehicles in this area made it awkward for motorists and actually slowed the traffic speed down to approximately 15 mph. Officers agreed to review the area.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the new requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders for Springfield Rise, Hednesford and Hagley Road, Rugeley be approved for further investigation.
- (B) That the new requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders for 523 Littleworth Road, Rawnsley, 352 Hill Street, Hednesford, Hillside Close, Hednesford, Baltic Close, Cannock, Norton Terrace, Norton Canes and Cannock Road, Hednesford should not be progressed.
- (C) That further investigation be undertaken in respect of the parking problems associated with St Peters School, Church Hill/Littleworth Road.
- (D) That further investigation be undertaken in respect of on street parking in Spring Street, Cannock.

(E) That a review of parking around Longford Primary School be undertaken.

6. Cancellation Rates: Staffordshire County/National

Mr. C.Thomas, Parking Services Manager, explained that it had been requested at the previous meeting to provide the Committee with details of the national and Staffordshire County cancellation rates. He showed Members slides which detailed the following information:

National Cancellation Rates

	On Street	Off Street	Average
07/08	25%	20%	22.5%
08/09	27%	21%	24%

Staffordshire County Cancellation Rates

Lichfield	30	South Staffs DC	20
08/09National Average	24	Newcastle	20
Tamworth	23	Stafford BC	18
Cannock	23	Staffs Moorlands	16
Stoke	22	East Staffs	15

Mr. Thomas explained that the main reason for cancelling a ticket was due to disabled badge holders displaying their badge incorrectly. The County Policy states that where a blue badge holder displays their badge incorrectly the first offence would be cancelled. He commented that more information in relation to this was contained in the CPE Progress Report which would be discussed later in the meeting.

He mentioned that the four Tranche 2 authorities were looking at the blue badge scheme and he would advise them of his concerns in relation to the scheme.

Councillor Alcott commented that a number of blue badge holders did not read the leaflets issued with their badges and were therefore unaware of how to display the badges correctly. He suggested that the offence codes could be included on the PCN so offenders were aware of the reason they have been issued with a ticket.

Mr. S. Schofield, Senior Technical Assistant explained that there were around 50/60 offence codes and it would therefore be difficult to include them on a PCN. Members suggested that an advert could be placed in the local newspaper outlining the offence codes or alternatively a leaflet could be issued along with the PCN. The Officer commented that he would give consideration to these suggestions.

Members noted that Social Services issued the blue badges in this area along with a booklet giving instructions on how to correctly display the badge. However, in the South Staffordshire area the District Council had started to distribute the disabled badges instead of Social Services. County Councillor P. Corfield stated that he would liaise with Social

Services on behalf of the County regarding this matter.

7. Details of Enforcement Action Taken – Huntington Terrace Road Area

Mr. Schofield outlined the following enforcement action taken in relation to Huntington Terrace Road between April 2009 and June 2010:

	No. x PCN's	Beat No.
Eskrett Street	38	4 to 9
Stafford Lane	1	5
Cannock Road, Heath Hayes	4	6
Cannock Road, Blackfords	6	6
Cannock Road, Hednesford	1	5
Huntington Terrace Road	0	6

County Councillor D.J. Davis commented on the parking problems that existed in Eskrett Street. The Police were aware of the problems and PCSO's patrolled the area regularly. The Chairman asked the Police representative to increase the patrol of the area.

8. CPE Progress Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. J. Presland, Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report and advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) issued and cancelled were summarised in Annex 1 of the report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2010. For comparison the results of the Penalty Charge notices (PCN's) were summarised in Annex 5 for the period 1 April – 30 June 2010. Members were informed that the main concern was the rate of cancelled tickets in relation to failing to display a disabled badge. It was the highest in Staffordshire.

Members noted that a disabled person may be allocated a number of disabled badges to issue to car owners who transported them around. It was the car owner, not the badge owner, who was issued with the ticket and it was considered the system was open to abuse. Members requested that they be provided with information at the next meeting outlining how many blue disabled badges have been issued in the Cannock Chase area.

Mr. Presland confirmed that the number of cancelled tickets in relation to disabled badge holders displaying their badge incorrectly had risen since the last quarter.

The Officer was asked to confirm how many tickets were issued in relation to a disabled badge and not a vehicle. Mr. Schofield stated that he would look into this but was of the opinion that the tickets were issued to vehicles and not badge holders.

County Councillor P. Corfield commented that a person could now self certify themselves and did not have to go to a Doctor to confirm their disability.

It was agreed that information be submitted to the next meeting outlining the number of cancelled tickets in relation to disabled blue badge holders failing to display their badge

correctly.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (B) That information be provided at the next meeting outlining how many blue disabled badges have been issued in the Cannock Chase area.
- (C) That information be submitted to the next meeting outlining the number of cancelled tickets in relation to disabled blue badge holders failing to display their badge correctly.

9. Ziggy Zaggy Scheme for Schools

Carolyn Bevan, Staffordshire County Council Road Safety Officer for Cannock and Rugeley outlined the Ziggy Zaggy Scheme for Members information.

She explained that the Ziggy Zaggy Scheme was an initiative which involved Staffordshire County Council, the Police, PCSO's and local schools to try and tackle the issue of inconsiderate parking around schools to make it safer for everyone.

Street Wardens, Staffordshire County Road Safety Team and PCSO's work with Year 6 students to highlight road safety issues around schools. Some of the children work with the wardens and PCSO's to identify dangerous and inconsiderate parking and issue warning postcards. They identify vehicles parked on footpaths, zig zag or yellow lines, blocking driveways or parked opposite or within 10 metres of a junction.

Motorists will be given an advice postcard filled in by the children to warn them of the dangers posed by their hazardous parking. The class will keep a log of the number of postcards handed out during each visit and registration numbers so that pupils can record any improvements during the course of the scheme.

Following this warning week, civil enforcement officers and police go out and enforce road traffic regulations around the schools.

Members supported the initiative and considered it would be beneficial in tackling inconsiderate parking which existed outside the majority of schools within the District. A programme of schools involved in the project was to be established.

The Committee was advised that anyone wishing to contact Carolyn Bevan should do so by contacting David Wright at Staffordshire County Council.

Concern was raised regarding the parking problems around Churchfields School, Sandy Lane, Rugeley. David Wright commented that Churchfields School was included in the 20 mph zone initiative and would therefore be assessed at the start of the next term in September 2010.

10. 20 mph zone update

David Wright circulated a list of schools who would be involved in the 20 mile per hour zone initiative. He explained that Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) are temporary vehicle activated signs which detect and display real-time vehicle speeds. They are to be installed at various school sites from the start of the next school term, September 2010 with the aim of reducing vehicle speeds around the school sites.

11. Any Other Business

Items raised by Council Members:

Councillor M.P. Freeman had requested that the following items be considered by the Joint Parking Committee:-

Bideford Way Shops

Members were shown photographs of the problems with parking along Bideford Way outside of the row of shops and Mr. Presland outlined the problems being experienced by inconsiderate parking. It was explained that there was a Council owned car park on the right hand side and a lay by on the left hand side. Motorists were choosing to park in a herringbone pattern in the lay by and this was causing a safety issue as the rear ends of the vehicles were jutting out into the road.

County Councillor Corfield advised there had been parking problems in this area for a long time. In order to increase parking spaces the County Council was giving consideration to extending the lay by towards Banbury Road and imposing a waiting restriction on the car park. It was explained that a number of motorists were leaving their vehicles in the car park all day and catching the bus to Wolverhampton. Members were advised that the land involved belonged to both the County and District Council's and therefore a transfer of land would be required to enable any improvements to be undertaken.

The Committee confirmed their support to the proposals being suggested. Officers from the County and District Council would liaise in order to move this forward.

British Legion Deliveries

Members were advised that a drainage clearing service vehicle had received parking tickets for parking on the double yellow lines in the Stafford Road cul-de-sac whilst undertaking his duties. Mr. Schofield advised that vehicles were allowed loading and unloading time; however, a ticket would be issued if the vehicle was left unattended. A Member reported that the British Legion was currently closed and it was therefore considered that this item be deferred until it had re-opened.

The Chairman asked whether there were any further items. Councillor A. Williams raised the issue of waivers and dispensations. He explained that the Staffordshire Parking Board had approved the introduction of a charge for the issuing of parking waivers. He considered that District Council's in Staffordshire should agree to set a standard charge.

Councillor M. Green raised the problem with parking outside the One-Stop shop and

Bargain Booze on Longford Road, Cannock. There was some debate on whether the land was private and it was agreed that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the issue of British Legion Deliveries be deferred until the British Legion had re-opened.
- (B) That the issue of parking problems outside the One-Stop shop and Bargain Booze, Longford Road, Cannock be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Future Meetings

The Chairman advised that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 4.00pm. It was reported that a meeting of the RA Group was also scheduled for 20 October and this meeting was attended by Members of the Joint Parking Committee. The Committee Clerk would liaise with the Chairman to agree a suitable alternative date and advise Members accordingly.

13. Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – 09/10 Annual Report Progress

Members received the Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – 09/10 Annual Report Progress report for information.

David Wright presented the report to Members and stated that the final version of the 09/10 Annual report would be finalised by 1 October 2010.

Steve Schofield explained that he and Joss Presland had submitted the required information to Nick Miller.

14. Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – Key Performance Indicators

Members received the Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – Key Performance Indicators report for information.

David Wright presented the report to Members and the Key Performance Indicators as detailed on Appendix 1 were noted. Members also noted that District Councils and the County Council would indicate performance against the KPI's in future CPE Annual Reports.

15. Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – Waivers and Dispensations

Members received the Staffordshire Parking Board 12 July 2010 – Waivers and Dispensations report for information.

David Wright presented the report and Members noted the introduction of charging for the issuing of parking waivers (dispensation and suspension notices) at a rate of £15 per vehicle first day and £5 per day thereafter.

The Committee considered that all District Council's in Staffordshire should discuss the charge being introduced and agree to set a standard charge.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.

CHAIRMAN