

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2009 AT 7.00PM**  
**AT THE ROSE THEATRE, TAYLORS LANE, RUGELEY**

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members:

Councillors

Grocott, M.R. (Chairman)

Easton, Mrs. D.M.

Stanley, N.K.

Easton, R.

Williams, B.

Molineux, G.N.

Williams, Mrs. P.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. M. Challoner          Principal Committee Officer

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire Police

Staffordshire Police Neighborhood Watch

Rugeley Town Council

Brereton Parish Council

Press

Approximately 20 local residents

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.N. Davies and R.G. Meaden).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairmen welcomed young people from the Burnthill Lane Youth Forum.

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

Councillor M.R. Grocott was appointed Chairman and Councillor D.N. Davies was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Forum for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Easton, R.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Williams, B.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Williams, Mrs. P.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Woodward, C.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Rugeley Town Council	Personal
Southwell, Mrs. H.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Rugeley Town Council and Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Farnath, Mrs. H.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Fisher, P.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council	Personal
Martin, G.	Note 5 – Proposed Tesco Store Rugeley – Member had received a similar presentation from Tesco at a meeting of Rugeley Town Council	Personal

### **3. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The Notes of the meeting held on 9 March 2009 were approved as a correct record.

### **4. Chase Shaping Consultation – Core Strategy Preferred Options**

The Chairman read out the following statement:

“For anyone who hasn’t seen the Chase Shaping Consultation pull-out in the Chronicle or the smaller advertisements in the Mercury & Post, it is not too late to have your say about the future planning of Cannock Chase District to 2026. Copies of the Preferred Options summary consultation document are available to take away this evening and the full document is on the website [www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy). Comments are welcome until the end of June.”

### **5. Proposed Tesco Store, Rugeley**

The Forum received a presentation from representatives from Tesco and DLA Piper UK in relation to a proposed Tesco store in Rugeley.

Following the presentation, reference was made to the potential increase in traffic as a result of the proposed store and the impact on small businesses within the town. The representative from Tesco indicated that they would be guided by the highway authority in order to mitigate any potential impact the store may have on the level of traffic. With regard to the potential impact on small businesses, a number of those attending the Forum were of the view that the store would increase the number of people visiting the town and thereby have a positive impact on small businesses.

### **6. Progress Report – Request for Improved Signage and Road Markings Along Rugeley Bypass**

Mr. Wayne Mortiboys of Staffordshire County Council provided a progress report in respect of the request for improved signage and road markings along Rugeley Bypass. He reported that there had been only 3 reported accidents since the opening of the Bypass in September 2007 and that two of the accidents were slight, with the other serious. The last accident occurred during April 2009. He advised that independent checks were undertaken during the construction of the bypass and that an independent safety audit was carried out prior to the bypass opening. A further inspection was carried out during the dark, which recommended two changes to the highway and these had been completed.

Arising from consideration of this matter, members of the public requested an update with regard to the survey of traffic speed and volume proposed to be undertaken along Wolseley Road following the concerns of parents of Chancel Primary School.

Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that a traffic speed and volume survey had been undertaken on the approach to Chancel Primary School over 7 days, 24 hours a day which had indicated that approximately 2% of all traffic using Wolseley Road were HGVs. He also added that the new political administration at the County Council had indicated that they

wished to introduce a 20mph speed limit around all schools within the County and that discussions were continuing at the County Council with regard to this proposal.

It was agreed that:

- (A) An update be provided at the next meeting of the Forum with regard to problems with traffic along Station Road, Rugeley.
- (B) Members of Staffordshire County Council be requested to consider introducing a 20mph speed limit around Chancel Primary School.

## **7. Progress Report – Rugeley Town Centre Pedestrianisation**

Mr. Mortiboys reported that since the last meeting of the Forum a total of ten signs (five pairs) had been ordered to improve the signage to the entrance of the town centre. Six of the signs had been erected.

Concern was expressed with regard to District Council and County Council vehicles using the pedestrianised area, as well as cyclists. It was also suggested that the County Council investigate the possibility of installing bollards in the town centre. In response to the suggestion, Mr. Mortiboys explained that experience of installing similar bollards in other Town Centres in the County, most recently Burton-on-Trent, had resulted in resistance from local traders. He added that there were no plans to introduce such measures in Rugeley.

It was agreed that Inspector Ellerton of Staffordshire Police investigate the prevention of cyclists using the town centre.

## **8. Request for CCTV Improvements in Rugeley Town Centre**

The Chairman read out the following statement:

“I can confirm that following the last meeting of the Forum have written Mr. & Mrs. Hawley of the Music Box informing them that the Council has made arrangements to move the existing CCTV camera in Brook Square in order that it covers the pedestrian area towards the Music Box.”

Mrs. Marleen Dawson of the Council's CCTV and Social Alarms Section confirmed that the moving of the camera had reduced the number of incidents in that area of the town.

## **9. Request for Parking Bays, Church Street, Rugeley**

In response to the item raised by Mr. Jenkins of Church Street, Rugeley, Mr. Mortiboys reported that having visited the site, the road did not have any parking restrictions in force and that there would be scope to provide parking for residents. It would not be possible, however, to mark individual parking bays for each of the properties in Church Street.

It was agreed that Mr. Mortiboys discuss the matter with Mr. Jenkins.

## **10. Recycling**

The Chairman reported that with the agreement of Mr. Palfrayman this item has been withdrawn from the agenda on the basis that Mr. Palfrayman had received a satisfactory response from the Council.

## **11. Car Parking Charges**

In response to the item raised by C. Gilbert of Global Hair Limited, Mrs. Dawson reported that changes to the location of CCTV cameras in the town was dependant upon demand and undertaken in consultation with the Police. She added that the Council were currently in the process of updating some of the cameras in the town but that there was insufficient resources to provide additional cameras.

The Chairman advised the Forum that revenue generated from car parking charges was not specifically used to fund CCTV cameras, but that it contributed towards the provision of a number of Council services.

It was agreed that Inspector Ellerton investigate the claims by the police officer visiting the premises that the CCTV was not being operated at the time of the incident. He suggested that the camera may have been surveying another area at the time of the incident.

## **12. Condition of the Car Park Opposite Wilkinson Store, Rugeley**

In response to a question submitted by Mr. Murray of Bower Lane, Rugeley Mr. Mortiboys reported that the District Council had advised that the Earl of Lichfield retained ownership of the land in question (known as Back Lane) and had granted a right of access to those properties along Market Street and Anson Street, Rugeley that backed onto Back Lane. The Earl was, however, denying responsibility for the maintenance of the land indicating that it was the responsibility of the owner/occupiers.

In order for the Earl to transfer the maintenance of the land to the owner/occupiers of those properties that back onto Back Lane, it was necessary for him to service a formal notice on those concerned. The Council, in May, had written to each of the owner/occupiers seeking confirmation as to whether the Earl had served such a notice. Mr. Mortiboys provided details of the responses received to date and indicated that the Council would be sending a reminder letter later this month. Further consideration would be given what action should be taken to address the matter once the responses from the owner/occupiers had been received.

Both Members and residents expressed concern with regard to the time taken to address the problem and the Forum requested that the repair work be undertaken prior to the next Forum. The point was made that the resources necessary to undertake the work would have been considerably less than those spent in trying to address the problem.

County Councillor G. Martin indicated that he would be progressing the matter at the County Council.

### 13. Land at the Former Bow Street Play Group

In response to a question submitted by Mr. R. Robinson of Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Mr. John Heminsley, the Council Planning Services Manager reported that the land was owned by the District Council and that there were a number of outstanding legal issues that needed to be resolved. He advised that he would make arrangements for the site to be cleared and that the land had been identified for redevelopment as part of the Rugeley Area Action Plan.

### 14. Bower Lane, Rugeley

Mr. Porter of Bower Lane asked a number of questions in relation to Bower Lane.

In response to Mr. Porter's first question, Mr. Mortiboys read out the following statement provided by Mr. Bailey of Staffordshire County Council:

"Staffordshire Highways maintains a very diverse network of almost 4,000 miles of publicly maintainable highway. The condition of Bower Lane and the views of concerned local residents are well documented. But in order to ensure that best value is realised from the finite resources available for highway structural maintenance, investment necessarily has to be prioritised on objective 'asset management principles' rather than subjective local demands.

Balancing the conflict between local expectations and available resources is always a difficult task. Staffordshire Highways ask that the residents of Bower Lane continue to remain patient and understanding of the wider responsibilities of the highway authority. And that they be reassured that in accordance with the County Council's statutory responsibilities that routine safety inspections will continue, with identified safety defects prioritised for repair, as necessary.

In the longer term, when more substantial structural maintenance is justifiable in the context of managing the wider highway network, Staffordshire Highways will ensure that the residents of Bower Lane are informed of the proposals well in advance.

In the meantime, we ask that residents and highway users alike continue to report any safety defects that occur e.g. dislodged setts, potholes, blocked gullies etc. to the CLARENCE free phone number 0800 232323. Identifying such defects adds real value to the Highway Service, helping to ensure that until such time as more significant intervention is feasible, the County Council's statutory duties are properly maintained."

In response to Mr. Porter's second question, the Chairman read out the following statement provided by Mrs. Melanie Langdown of Staffordshire Casualty Reduction Partnership who was unable to attend the meeting:

"Mobile enforcement locations are grouped by area and Bower Lane is in the Rugeley/Hednesford group. Not all locations in the group will be visited each time the van is deployed to the area.

Bower Lane is receiving mobile enforcement visits on average once every month, which is in line with our current policy for community concern sites. Demand for enforcement

support at sites of community concern continues to grow but we must ensure locations with a history of personal injury collisions remain our highest priority. We will continue to provide enforcement support to Bower Lane within the constraints of our resources.”

In response to Mr. Porter’s final question, Inspector Ellerton advised the Forum that he had regular meetings with Mr. Porter and that due to limited resources he was unable to provide the level of Police presence at Bower Lane as requested by Mr. Porter and other residents. He indicated that Mr. Porter had been provided with details of the enforcement action undertaken by the Police at the site.

Mr. Porter expressed the need for Police presence during peak times of the day.

## **15. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Members of the public were invited to ask questions of the representatives from Staffordshire Police in relation to local policing matters.

### Police Presence on Saturday Evenings

A local resident enquired as to the number of Police Officers on duty during Saturday evenings and referred to the fact that there were no Police Officers on duty last Saturday evening.

Inspector Ellerton advised the Forum that the Police were on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and that the Neighborhood Police Team were also available.

Reference was also made to the recent incident of child that went missing in the town and there were no Police available to assist in the search. It was agreed that Inspector Ellerton investigate this matter.

### Mobile Camera Van Partnership

A request was made to have the mobile camera van at Wolseley Road, Rugeley. Inspector Ellerton agreed to forward on the request.

### Charter Fair

Local Councillors and residents thanked the Police for their presence at the recent Charter Fair and for the work undertaken to address anti-social behavior in the town.

## **16. 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 issues and answer any questions.

## **17. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Forum noted the dates of meetings of the Forum:

- 2 September 2009
- 1 December 2009
- 22 March 2010

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CHAIRMAN