

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CANNOCK COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.**  
**AT CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Alcott, G. (Chairman)  
Kraujalis, J.T. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Morgan, C. W. J.
Green, M.R.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Mitchell, C.	Thomas, D.

Staffordshire County Councillors:

County Councillor J. Rowley

Cannock Chase District Councillors:

Councillor M. Sutherland

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mr. S. Brown, Chief Executive  
Mr. T. Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager  
Mrs. K. Cooper, PR & Marketing Manager  
Miss K. McBey, Marketing Officer  
Ms. K. Wright, Community Safety Officer  
Mrs. W. Rowe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present

Mr. J. Rhodes, BIFFA Waste,  
Mr. C. Logan, SLR Consultants  
Mr. M. Grundy, Staffordshire County Council's Development & Waste Management Unit  
Mr. G. Allen, Staffordshire County Council's Development & Waste Management Unit  
Inspector P. Shannaghan, NPU Commander, Cannock Police  
Mr. W. Mortiboys, Staffordshire County Council Highways  
Representative from the Press  
Local Residents (approximately 13)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chief Executive advised the Forum that Cannock Chase Council was required to make budget savings in the region of £2 million. This was a huge challenge and some difficult decisions would have to be made. The views of the public were considered to be important. A copy of the "Chase Matters" publication had been distributed at the meeting and he asked Forum Members to complete the survey contained within it.

### **13. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. D. Bennett, Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis, County Councillor P. Corfield and Oliver Greatbatch, Victim & Witness Champion for Anti-Social Behaviour.

### **14. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 15 June 2010 were agreed as a correct record subject to Minute 5 being amended to indicate that Sgt. Donna Gibbs was the new Deputy NPU Commander.

With regard to Minute 6 Members asked for an update regarding the progress of resurfacing. Wayne Mortiboys, Staffordshire County Council Highways advised that the surface dressing on Park Road, Cannock Road and Station Road had been delayed until next year. He confirmed that the work would be carried out at the expense of the contractor.

Members asked whether the installation of a cycle lane along part of Cannock Road and Huntington Terrace Road had been cancelled. Wayne Mortiboys stated that it was likely that this would be withdrawn but he would have more information when the Comprehensive Spending Review had been carried out in October. He would confirm this in a footnote on the minutes.<sup>1</sup>

[<sup>1</sup> Wayne Mortiboys confirmed that project CD.5266 Cycle Route B – Huntington Terrace Road had been withdrawn from the capital programme].

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

Maureen Freeman asked whether there were any plans for changes to the Chase Policing Division due to the impending spending review. Inspector Shannaghan advised that the Chief Constable had indicated that front line services would not be affected by the spending review so there should be no changes to the number of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers. She also asked whether there were any plans to increase the powers of the PCSO's. Inspector Shannaghan explained that the powers of the PCSO's was being reviewed and consultation was currently taking place. Mrs. Freeman then asked whether it was intended to reduce CCTV coverage in the District. Inspector Shannaghan confirmed that CCTV was seen as an effective crime reduction tool but was unable to confirm what cutbacks would be made. The Chief Executive confirmed that CCTV was in fact a discretionary budget item controlled by the District Council. Mrs. Freeman asked whether the Police intended to call a meeting to advise the public of any changes to policing following the spending review and requested that any such meeting be advertised. Inspector Shannaghan confirmed that it would be possible to communicate the information to the public by holding a public meeting.

The Chairman commented that the Comprehensive Spending Review would be completed at the end of October. It would therefore be possible to provide the Forum with an update on the

effects of the spending review on local policing at the next meeting in November.

## **16. Proposed Incinerator at Poplars Landfill Site**

Jeff Rhodes, Company Planning Manager from BIFFA Waste gave a presentation to the Forum outlining the proposals to develop an Energy Recovery Facility on the Kingswood Lakeside site. The proposal was to use residual waste to produce electricity and to supply heat to local businesses and homes. He outlined the services currently provided by BIFFA and the key drivers for change. He made reference to the Anaerobic Digestion plant at the Poplars Landfill Site that had recently been given planning consent. He explained the reasons for selecting the Kingswood Lakeside site and outlined the traffic benefits that would occur should planning consent for the facility be approved. He made reference to the noise, odour and visual impact issues and explained that there were stringent regulations to ensure the safe operation of the facility. He advised that the planning application for the facility had been submitted to Staffordshire County Council yesterday.

Mike Grundy, Staffordshire County Council's Development & Waste Management Unit confirmed that the planning application had been received and once it had been validated it would go out to consultation.

The Chairman then asked Councillor J. Kraujalis to outline his concerns with regard to the proposed facility. Councillor Kraujalis raised concern that waste was being brought to the site from outside the district and being dumped in Cannock. He had received many complaints about smells, flies and vehicle pollution due to the Poplars Landfill site. He considered that should planning permission for the ERF be granted the Landfill site would remain there longer as it wouldn't be used as much. Vehicle pollution would increase through Bridgtown and the A5 corridor. He had further concern regarding emissions from the ERF and commented that although the agencies considered the emissions safe at the moment would they be considered safe in 20 years time. He considered that as the Landfill site was in Greenbelt land it should be returned to Greenbelt.

Jeff Rhodes stated that should BIFFA be unsuccessful in obtaining planning permission for the ERF the Landfill site would be able to continue for a number of years. Additional traffic would not be generated as a result of the proposal as the traffic was coming through at the moment.

In response to further concerns raised with regard to emissions from the facility Jeff Rhodes commented that these would be strictly monitored and controlled to safe limits and any breaches would result in the facility closing. Numerous studies had been carried out which had concluded that there would be no effects on health. Emissions from an ERF were low when compared to landfill gases that were emitted.

Jeff Rhodes was asked to confirm how many sites BIFFA operated in the County and why Cannock was so attractive to BIFFA. He stated that there were 6 operational sites within the County and the Landfill site formed a strategic resource in the District. The Kingswood Lakeside site was an attraction to BIFFA as it was adjacent to the Poplars site enabling BIFFA to build on an existing business already located within the District. It presented BIFFA with an opportunity to develop a modern facility and reduce the amount of vehicles going to the Landfill site.

Further information was sought regarding the amount of profit BIFFA would be making from providing electricity. Jeff Rhodes commented that the provision of the ERF was a £200 million investment and BIFFA would be required to finance the project externally. Discussions were

taking place with Sainsburys and DHL Unilever to provide their electricity.

Jeff Rhodes was then asked how the development would benefit the residents of Cannock. He explained that should the facility be approved there would be a reduction in the amount of waste going to the Landfill site and traffic would be redirected away from Lichfield Road. Additionally there would be the benefit of the Community Funding Arrangement whereby BIFFA would contribute up to £80,000 per annum.

The Chief Executive asked whether there may be an opportunity to close the Landfill site and bring the land back into green use should planning permission for the ERF be granted. Jeff Rhodes explained that this would be dealt with through the planning process.

The Chairman asked Jeff Rhodes to confirm the type of waste that would be burnt. He explained that the facility would be aimed at non hazardous trade waste but it was capable of dealing with household waste as well. The Chairman asked for further information regarding the ash that would be produced and the risk of it getting into the atmosphere. Jeff Rhodes explained that there were two types of ash produced; one was a solid which would not enter the atmosphere and would be dealt with off site.

The Chairman explained that the proposal to provide an ERF at the Kingswood Lakeside site had been discussed at the Scrutiny Committee earlier today and they would be making recommendations to Cabinet. Mike Grundy from the County Council confirmed that Scrutiny Committee considered a policy document on the emerging Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy. The County Council would consult the District Council on the planning application formally through the planning process.

The Chairman thanked the Officers from BIFFA and Staffordshire County Council for attending the Forum meeting.

**17. Issue from previous meeting – Update on speeding traffic and on street parking along Huntington Terrace Road**

Wayne Mortiboys, Staffordshire County Council Highways Officer advised that two traffic counts had been carried out at either end of Huntington Terrace Road in response to concerns raised by Councillor Mitchell and local residents. The results of the traffic count were that average speeds were under 25/27 mph and the average mean speed was less than 27 mph. The road was a 30 mph zone and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 31/32 mph. In view of these results the road did not rank high compared to other locations. The traffic calming measures already situated along the road were functioning well and the on street parking assisted in slowing traffic down.

Councillor Mitchell and residents in the area remained concerned regarding vehicle speeds along Huntington Terrace Road and she made reference to a recent accident involving a bus. She thanked the County Council for writing to her after receiving the petition which was handed in at the last Forum meeting. However, she was concerned that, despite several telephone calls, there had been no communication from Staffordshire Police who had also been forwarded a copy of the petition. Inspector Shannaghan explained that he had not seen the petition and apologised for not contacting Councillor Mitchell. However, he would liaise with officers regarding this matter and inform Councillor Mitchell of the outcome. He advised that eight speed operations had been undertaken in the area which had resulted in one driver being stopped. The view of the Beat Officers in the area was that the traffic calming along the road was working.

Mrs. Bagnall, a local resident reiterated her concerns regarding speeding along the road and considered that as the traffic counts were undertaken whilst the schools had closed for the summer holidays the traffic volume would have been less. Wayne Mortiboys confirmed that the traffic count was undertaken between 27 July and 3 August during the school holidays and therefore traffic volumes would have been lower which would have actually increased the opportunity to speed.

Wayne Mortiboys suggested that a Community Speed Watch was a possibility in the area which may help to reduce speeding traffic. The scheme enabled volunteers to help control the problem locally using radar speed guns under the supervision of the County Council.

The Chairman suggested that residents monitor the situation and should there be no improvement they should request that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**18. (A) Removal of Litter Bin from Westbourne Avenue, Cannock – Litter Problem escalated**

The item had been requested by Mr. Taylor who was unable to be present at the meeting. Tom Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager explained that he had spoken with Mr. Taylor regarding his concerns. The litter bin had not been removed it had been relocated to the corner of Westbourne Avenue/Stafford Road following consultation/agreement with Environmental Health who had responded to a number of enquiries regarding litter. The bin had been relocated in June and there had been a reduction in the amount of littering.

**(B) Fence Guards Around Trees in Westbourne Avenue require re-alignment and missing bolts replaced**

Wayne Mortiboys explained that the neighbourhood highway team had undertaken remedial works to re-align the fence guards and replace missing bolts. Unfortunately the tree directly opposite Mr. Taylor's property had been missed and therefore action would be taken to address this.

**19. "Check the Label" (Video Presentation)**

Ms. Kerry Wright, Community Safety Officer explained that a short video would be played which had been co-produced between Cannock Chase District Council, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Police. The video called "Check the Label" aimed to challenge stereotypes, particularly the negative ones, surrounding young people and promote positive perceptions of what young people were involved in. It was explained that less than 1% of Staffordshire's young people were involved in offending.

Everyone involved in the campaign lived in Staffordshire and examples were given of what they did in their daily lives.

A Forum Member asked whether the views of different generations had been sought. Kerry Wright explained that it had been recognised that there was a need to undertake inter generational projects to assist in breaking down the barriers between the young and older people.

**20. Victim Support**

Oliver Greatbatch, Victim & Witness Champion for Anti-Social Behaviour had submitted his

apologies for the meeting. Leaflets providing information regarding the services offered by Victim Support were available at the meeting.

**21. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman explained that suggestions for issues to be discussed at future meetings of the Forum were sought and a form was available for this. It was explained that appropriate representatives would be invited to attend and debate issues and answer any questions.

The following item was agreed at the meeting:

- update on the effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review on local policing

**22. Date of Future Meetings**

The Forum noted that future meetings of the Cannock Community Forum would be held as follows in the Council Chamber:

- 24 November 2010
- 16 March 2011

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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CHAIRMAN