

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HEATH HAYES LIBRARY, HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES

PRESENT: Councillors

Beddows, J. (Chairman)
Bernard, J. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P. A. Rowley, J.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F. Todd, D.
Gilbert, P.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer
Ms. K. McBey, Marketing Officer
Mr. N. Hackney, Community Safety Manager

Also Present:-

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Cannock Police
P. C. Norman, Cannock Police
Mr. D. Wright, Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council
Ms. C. Shrubbs, Staffordshire County Council
Parish Councillors
Press
8 residents

10. Apologies

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor C. Collis. Councillor Mrs. P. Ansell apologised for having to leave early to attend another meeting.

11. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contacts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No declarations of interest were received.

12. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 9 June, 2010 were agreed as a correct record

13. Issues Arising from the Notes

Traffic Calming on Norton Hall Lane and Church Road, Norton Canes

Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that Norton Canes Parish Council had made an initial enquiry concerning a speed device. The Police had carried out a number of speeding operations in the area and had issued 14 Fixed Penalty tickets and 21 warnings to drivers since the last meeting. Mr. D. Wright from the Highways Department, SCC, explained that it was intended to erect yellow backed 3ft x 6ft signs informing motorists that they were entering Norton Canes and to 'please drive carefully'. The Chairman reported that when he travelled to Wales he often saw flashing speed warnings which acted as a reminder to drivers and he did not consider that they were costly.

A resident expressed concern with respect to the number of heavy commercial lorries being driven through the village, particularly those going to TNT. Inspector Shannaghan explained that he was not aware of this issue and would draw it to the attention of his Police Officers. A letter would be sent out to companies in the area with regard to this matter

Concern was raised with respect to the camber in the road around the junction with Church Road and Washbrook Lane, Norton Canes. Accidents had occurred due to this, particularly during bad weather. Mr. Wright undertook to investigate this matter.

A resident enquired whether it was intended to make roads around schools 20 mile an hour areas. Mr. Wright informed the Forum that the County were working through a programme with respect to this. There were 400 schools to be dealt with and those on 'A' roads were being done initially.

Concern was raised by a resident in relation to the camera van operated by Staffordshire Safer Road Partnership which he considered was always parked in the same area in Hednesford. Mr. Wright reported that he would look into this issue.

Please see link below

<http://www.staffsaferroads.co.uk/how-we-use-our-cameras/mobile-camera-routes>

Councillor P. Ansell thanked the Highways Department for the work that was being carried out on Gilwell Road, Cannock Wood.

14. Challenging Stereotypes – particularly the negative ones – surrounding young people

Mr. N. Hackney, the Community Safety Partnership Manager, CCDC, explained that a short video would be played which had been prepared with the help of Katie McBey from CCDC and Chloe Shrubbs from SCC. The video was called 'Check the Label' which aimed to challenge stereotypes and promote positive perceptions of young people and the positive activities they were involved in. It was explained that less than 1% of

Staffordshire's young people become involved in the criminal justice system.

Everyone involved in the campaign lives in Staffordshire and are positive role models for their peers and within their community. They included an elite athlete, a young carer, an aspiring actor, a PCSO and a trainee firefighter.

A resident commented that the local papers did not report good news in relation to young people. Katie McBey explained that Officers from Cannock Chase Council and Staffordshire County Council had held meetings with editors of the local papers with regard to this issue and positive feedback has been received. The campaign has been well supported by the press. The representative from the press explained that they welcomed stories and pictures from local schools.

Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that the Police had supported inter generational projects to try to break down barriers between the young and older people.

The Chairman of Norton Canes Parish Council considered that it would be beneficial if Parish Councils were contacted with respect to this campaign. It was reported that a list of organisations that young people could contact were on the website 'youfind.me.uk', and this was well used.

15. Questions for Staffordshire Police

Concern was expressed that Ashley Crowther who had been a highly valued PCSO in the Heath Hayes area was no longer in post and Inspector Shannaghan was asked if it was intended to replace him. Inspector Shannaghan explained that the post had been funded by the County Council and that funding was no longer available. Stoke on Trent were now funding PCSOs and posts would be replaced. All public sector organisations were being reviewed, but it was considered that any cuts made, would not affect front line services.

Inspector Shannaghan was asked why it had taken so long for travellers to be removed from a site near Norton Hall Lane and it was reported that some vehicles did not display a tax disc. The site was presently owned by the County Council who had endeavoured to block off all access to the site. Inspector Shannaghan explained that the Kingswood Lakeside road was not adopted and the Police had limited powers. Mr. Wright informed the Forum that the Police could not take any action under the Road Traffic Act due to it not being adopted and before it could be, all the estate had to be completed and no remedial work carried out for 12 months. Residents raised concern regarding the mess that was left behind by the travellers and that they had broken fencing down to access the site. Inspector Shannaghan explained that the Police worked closely with the District and County Councils with regard to these issues.

Mr. Wright agreed to seek further information on the Kingswood Lakeside site.

The Chairman requested that an item be placed on future agendas with respect to this matter.

16. Victim Support

The Chairman informed the Forum that unfortunately Mr. Oliver Greatbatch, Victim &

Witness Champion for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was not able to attend the meeting. The Community Safety Manager explained that Oliver had been appointed with Home Office funding as an ASB Victim and Witness Champion for Cannock Chase district and was based at the Civic Centre. Similar posts had been piloted in a few areas, but with Government cut backs it was considered that it may not continue. His role involved:-

- Providing a high quality support and outreach service to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour.
- Ensuring more victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour receive the level of care and support they expected from agencies and challenge those agencies if this was not the case
- Guaranteeing all victims and witnesses attending court had comprehensive and tailored support before, during and after the trial.
- Promoting and raising awareness of the needs of anti-social behaviour victims whilst improving the level of service they received from the criminal justice system and related agencies.

Oliver worked 20 hours per week and was not a first point of contact for victims of ASB, but sought remedies from agencies if a problem was not being solved appropriately.

17. Council Services

The Head of Service Improvement informed the Forum that copies of Chase Matters were available which contained a schedule of services provided. Residents were requested to rate the schedule as to how they rated the importance of each service. The information would be used when the Council's budget was being set and cuts to services being considered.

18. 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.

19. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that future meetings of the Forum would be held on -

Tuesday, 23 November 2010 – Hayes Green Community Centre
Tuesday, 8 March 2011 – venue to be confirmed

CHAIRMAN