

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY, 7 JUNE, 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.**  
**AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEATH HAYES**

PRESENT: Councillors

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

Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Sutherland, M.
Jones, Ms. J.	Todd, Mrs. D.
Gilbert, P.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Rowley, J.	

Other District Councillors in Attendance

Councillor R. Todd  
Councillor J. Toth

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director  
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

PC Dean Cooper, Cannock Police  
PC Lucy Spicer, Cannock Police  
PC Luke Norman  
Mr. D. Wright, Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council  
Mr. J. Commins, Project Manager, Staffordshire County Council  
Parish Councillors  
Press representative  
2 residents

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

Councillor J. D. Bernard was appointed as Chairman and Councillor J. Beddows was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Community Forum for the forthcoming Municipal Year

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor M. Holder and Mr. L. Bullock.

**3. 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>
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Parish Council Member of Heath Hayes Parish Council	Personal

**4. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Concern was raised that Police Officers were seldom seen in the Norton Canes area. It was explained that changes had been made to the Rugeley/Cannock Police and Officers were being relocated. PC Lucy Spicer, together with PC Neil Griffiths were the Officers who normally patrolled Norton Canes. However, PC Griffiths was currently off on long term sickness. PC Spicer informed the Forum that she patrolled Norton Canes as often as possible. Response Officers worked 24 hours a day across the county and therefore they were always available to deal with any issues that arose.

PC Luke Norman explained that he could spend all day walking around estates knocking on doors, however residents could also associate this with bad news being delivered. Mobile Police Surgeries were held in the Hazel Slade, Westgate estate and Cannock Wood areas to enable residents to report their concerns. The Police's main priority was to reduce crime of a violent nature which was mainly carried out in town centres. PC Spicer explained that she sometimes patrolled in an unmarked Police car in order to apprehend those committing inquisitive crimes, such as burglaries, thefts from cars etc.

Concern was raised that Police Officers had not attended Norton Canes Parish Council meetings for some time. It was explained that Police Inspectors had informed Officers that they were not to spend too much of their time attending meetings. Should specific items arise at which a Police response was needed, Officers would make every effort to attend. When certain incidents occurred, this could involve Officers having to carry out the necessary background work and that this could take up many hours of their time.

PC Spicer informed the Forum that she visited the Parish Offices when possible and left cards in order that residents could contact her directly. Officers were criticised if they spent too long at one location. The Chair of Norton Canes Parish Council was concerned that reports concerning any issues that had arisen had not been received for some months and there was some unease in the community with respect to this. Lucy Spicer undertook to email reports to the Chair of the Parish Council. It was reported that in 2000 a survey had been undertaken in the Norton Canes area and the top priority for residents was a Police presence in the village.

The Police Officers agreed to report the concerns of the Forum back to their Inspector.

**5. Notes**

The Notes of the meeting held on 8 March, 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

**6. Items requested at the last meeting to be included on the agenda**

Planning Applications for Antennas to be erected

The Corporate Director reported that the planning application for the erection of a 14 metre high 3G antennae with base station being erected close to a children's play area in Heath Hayes near to the Tesco supermarket car park had not been approved.

Kingswood Lakeside Site

Mr. D. Wright reported that Hickling Way had now been adopted. However there was a problem with other roads in the area being adopted as the pumping station had flooded which had created problems. Repair work was being carried out but not, as yet, completed. Street lighting had now been commissioned.

Mr. Commins explained that he had recently taken over the project due to the person previously responsible, passing away suddenly and another Officer being made redundant.

Pedestrian crossing at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury

Mr. Commins informed the Forum that engineers had drawn up a traffic management scheme, which included traffic calming measures, which would be considered by County Councillors and then put out for consultation purposes. Should objections be received these would need to go through the necessary process. It was considered that it was a good scheme and that it would be implemented during the current year.

Energy Recovery Facility – Kingswood Lakeside Site

It was reported that County Councillors had asked for a site visit with respect to the Energy Recovery Facility and this would be taking place on Thursday, 23 June, 2011.

Bus Services

The views of the Forum with respect to the possibility of the No. 32 bus service running earlier in the morning and later in the evening had been reported back to the County Council. It was explained that the Heartlands bus service was a short term contract and would be up for renewal in August/September, 2011. The Forum was informed that with respect to platforms being able to be lowered for ease of access to buses, companies did not have to meet this requirement until 2015. However, this issue was being taken into consideration when the new contract was being drawn up.

### Update on Potholes

Mr. D. Wright informed the Forum that the gangs programme for dealing with potholes had been extended by six weeks. Category 1 potholes which were the most dangerous were dealt with immediately, however it could appear that work was being done twice as the initial repair may only be a temporary solution with a permanent repair being carried out at a later date.

### Ways to overcome poor attendance by members of the public at the Forum

The press representative considered that press releases to all papers and local radio stations would assist in publicising Forums and agenda items listed. Concern was raised that when roads were listed on agendas, such as, John Street , a map should be included, as not all residents were aware of their location. It was reported that residents did attend Forums when issues of particular note to them were being considered.

The Corporate Director advised that ways of addressing this issue would be explored.

## **7. 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.

It was requested that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting:-

- Pedestrian crossing at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury
- What are the regulations with respect to Trade Boards/Trailers used for advertisement purposes which are considered to be a distraction for motorists and an eyesore

## **8 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman reported that meetings of the Forum have been arranged for

- Monday, 19 September, 2011
- Tuesday, 15 November, 2011
- Monday, 5 March, 2012

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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CHAIRMAN