

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HAYES GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEATH HAYES

PRESENT: Councillors

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

Ansell, Mrs. P. A.	Rowley, J.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Sutherland, M.
Collis, C.	Todd, Mrs. D.
Gilbert, P.	

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Mrs. C. Bowker, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Cannock Police
Mr. D. Wright, Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council
Parish Councillors
Press
3 residents

20. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor L. Bullock and from Staffordshire Police based at Rugeley.

21. 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>
Bernard, J. D.	Is appointed to the Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee	Personal

22. Notes

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

23. Issues Arising from the Notes

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

Inspector Shannaghan was asked if letters had been sent out to companies with respect to heavy goods vehicles being driven through the village. Inspector Shannaghan explained that letters were only sent out to particular companies when problems arose with their HGVs being driven through the village. He would, however, ensure that a letter was sent to TNT as concern had been raised at the last meeting relating to that company.

Travellers removed from Norton Hall Lane

Officers were asked if the site at Norton Hall Lane had been cleaned up following the removal of travellers. Unfortunately no Officers in attendance were able to confirm this.

24. Kingswood Lakeside Site

Mr. D. Wright from the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council informed the Forum that he had plans which the Forum could view, showing the status of the various roads at the Kingswood Lakeside Site. Some roads were adopted, others could not be until utility companies were satisfied with what lay under the road and a statutory 12 month maintenance free period had elapsed. The sewers had not been adopted under one of the roads, however, the County Council was in discussions with Severn Trent Water and it was considered that progress was being achieved.

25. Questions for Staffordshire Police

The Chairman explained that in the year 2000 the Community Partnership in Norton Canes had sent out a survey seeking the views of residents on what they wanted in the area. The results of the survey had indicated that the community considered that a Police presence was of utmost importance. However, he considered that recently there had been a lack of Police presence in the village. The Chairman requested that Police Officers returned to using the Norton Canes Community Centre and attending Parish Council meetings.

Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that PC Lucy Spicer and PCSOs Neil Griffiths and Andrew Turnock were the dedicated Officers to the Norton Canes village. A PCSO post at Heath Hayes had been lost due to the funding by Staffordshire County Council being withdrawn and sometimes cover was needed at that location. An increase in car crime had recently been experienced in Heath Hayes. A person had been apprehended, however the necessary background work still had to be carried out.

Inspector Shannaghan reported that he would liaise with the Police Officers regarding the use of the Parish Office.

Concern was raised that PC Lucy Spicer had appeared on a film with Special Constables in Cannock town centre. Inspector Shannaghan explained that the footfall in Cannock town centre was considerably more than in the villages due to the number of clubs and pubs, and problems arose with public order. Safer night projects were carried out and PC Spicer would have been on rota to take part in that operation.

There were currently 20 Special Constables who were carrying out innovative work to tackle under age drinking and alcohol related incidents in the villages. The Police worked closely with Cannock Chase Council and the Staffordshire County Council Youth Service to highlight where problems arose.

Councillor C. Collis commended the Police for the way the Remembrance Parades held throughout the district had been policed without their presence being notable. He asked that the comments of the Forum be reported back to those concerned, which Inspector Shannaghan agreed to do.

Councillor Collis also commended the work that the Special Constables (SC) were carrying out. Inspector Shannaghan informed the Forum that after carrying out their normal employment the SCs sometimes then went on duty and could be on until the early hours of the morning.

26. Overgrown Hedges, Footpaths, Roadsides etc.

Mr. D. Wright informed the Forum that Highways Inspectors were continually carrying out inspections and anything causing an obstruction was removed. The process of tracking down the ownership of land could prove complex as prior to 1970 there was no formal way of gaining this information. The County Council sometimes had to seek local residents knowledge as to who they considered owned the land. Post 1970 the Land Registry could provide this information. A polite letter was sent out to owners where a problem existed and they had 28 days in which to carry out the remedial work. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) advised farmers to only cut their hedges every 5 years, unless otherwise advised, as they considered that they played a key role in wildlife conservation.

The resident who had raised the item expressed concern with respect to overgrown habitation in Newlands Lane and the number of cars using it to access the back of a company. Mr. D. Wright reported that the County Council had contacted the Land Registry to ascertain who owned the Lane. Concern was also raised with respect to an area close to The Rag Public House where habitation was overgrown.

Councillor Ansell asked who was responsible for replacing street signs when they were in need of refurbishment. The Director of Service Improvement explained that this was the responsibility of the District Council. However there was no money in the budget for this, and there was no requirement for the Council to repair street signs or replace them.

Concern was raised that the County Council did not appear to be delivering the same level of service as previously with respect to street signs being cleaned and paths being swept. Mr. Wright explained that this type of work had in the past been withdrawn but was now being undertaken again. The Forum considered that if the highways teams approached the Parish Councils they could offer advice to them.

Concern was also raised in relation to the road markings near to the Ramada Hotel and the nearby roundabouts. Mr. Wright explained that the A5 was a trunk road and was therefore the responsibility of the Highways Agency. He would report the Forum's concerns back to them.

27. 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:-

- Kingswood Lakeside site
- Update on pedestrian crossings at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury
- Energy Recovery Facility – Kingswood Lakeside Site

Concern was raised that the emissions from the proposed Energy Recovery Facility which would burn non hazardous commercial waste could be a health hazard. Members considered that they needed to work together with the Parish Councillors and others to build a case to oppose the scheme. Concern was also raised with the impact the building and chimneys, which could be seen for miles, would have on the area.

28. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Forum would be held on Tuesday, 8 March 2011 – venue to be confirmed

CHAIRMAN