

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT 7.00PM**  
**AT ROSE THEATRE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, TAYLOR'S LANE, RUGELEY**

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Councillors:

Jones, R. (Vice Chairman) In the Chair

Allt, Mrs. A.	Molineux, G.N.
Easton, R.	Williams, A.
Grocott, M.R.	Williams, Mrs. P.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mr. K. Lawlor	Head of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Partridge	Democratic Services Manager

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire Police	(Sgt. J. Browning)
Staffordshire County Council	(SCC Cllr. G. Martin)
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service	
Staffordshire Police Neighbourhood Watch	(Ms. V. Singleton)
Town / Parish Councillors	

Approximately 10 local residents

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Brown; P. Fisher; D.N. Davies; R. Easton; B. Williams; Insp. C. Ellerton (Police); W. Southall (Staffs Fire & Rescue Service)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**3. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 6 June, 2011 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **4. Matters Arising (Not Otherwise Covered on the Agenda)**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. The Establishment of a Credit Union Across Cannock Chase District**

The Vice Chairman welcomed Mrs. Janet Bamber, Treasurer of Fusion Credit Union, who spoke about credit unions in general and Fusion Credit Union, in particular. She explained that credit unions are:

- Community based, not for profit, savings and loans organisations owned and operated by its members.
- Regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).
- Managed by a volunteer Board of Directors, drawn from and elected by members.
- Required to hold compulsory insurance to protect against fraud and theft.

And:

- Any profits generated are retained for the benefit of all its members.
- Savings remain members' own, and may be withdrawn in part or in full, subject to seven days' notice.
- Savings are guaranteed by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
- Loans can be from £10 to £7,000.
- The credit union can loan up to 75% of what it holds in savings

Fusion was looking to ascertain the potential level of demand in the Cannock Chase area.

Various questions were asked for clarification, including how long it would take to set up a credit union in the area if there proved to be sufficient demand. Mrs. Bamber advised that, as the credit union would be an extension of Fusion's Lichfield operation, it would take very little time to complete once the decision was made to go ahead.

#### **6. Economic Development Updates**

The Vice Chairman requested that the Economic Development Manager provide a brief update to the forum in respect of the Amazon and Tesco developments in Rugeley.

##### Amazon

The Economic Development Manager advised that Amazon was currently in the process of recruiting to its distribution centre, and hoped to have up to 1,000 people working on site in the lead up to Christmas. Of these, it was hoped that between 400 and 500 would become permanent positions. For information, the recruitment hotline telephone number was 0844 257 8293, and interviews were being held in the Rose.

It was noted that there had been some delays for people getting through the first stage interviews, but it was believed that this was something to do with problems with Amazon's referral process.

The Economic Development Manager advised that, in addition to direct employment opportunities, the distribution centre would bring other associated opportunities for local business e.g. catering.

### Tesco

The Economic Development Manager advised that, while Tesco had delayed starting on site, this was due to drainage problems, and the company remained committed to development in Rugeley. Nonetheless, it was hoped that they would start before the end of the year with an opening anticipated by October, 2012.

## **7. North End Park, Rugeley – Fencing Repairs / Upgrades**

Mr. Gary Grant of Watson Close, Rugeley had submitted the following question:

“I and many other people use North Park, Rugeley. I note a deterioration of the border fence to the Wolseley Road (A51/A460) elevation. (Looking to the east; opposite the “Bloody Steps” walk, and South Staffs Pumping station (listed building).) Some of the timber arris rails are broken and the wire mesh is in a bad state of repair.

As there is a new housing development of approximately 50 houses adjacent to North Park in progress, would it be possible to improve and upgrade the front of this park and make it look special, or effect a repair ?”

Although Mr. Grant was not present at the meeting, the Vice Chairman read out the following response which had been provided by Officers of the Council:

The Parks & Open Spaces Manager advised that he had had someone look at the fence and it was acknowledged that some repairs were required. These would be effected in the next 4-6 weeks.

The Planning Services Manager advised that the housing development referred to by Mr. Grant was the Taylor/Wimpey scheme of 79 units. The S.106 requirement for open space on the development related solely to provision on the development site and future maintenance thereof, so there was no funding available from that source to improve North End Park.

The Democratic Services Manager agreed to send a copy of the response to Mr. Grant.

## **8. Questions for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)**

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for SCC (Highways), consequently no representative had been sent to the meeting. (The forum was advised that Wayne Mortiboys, who had previously attended to deal with these questions, had been promoted to a new role.) Nonetheless, Members and the public raised a number of concerns for forwarding to SCC Officers. These included:

- Cllr. Tony Williams advised that he had sent e-mails on 27 June, 2011, to both the Highways Department and the Portfolio Leader in respect of disregard of the 1 way system in operation on Flaxley Road. At that point, he was still awaiting a reply.
- There was general criticism of the amount of utilities and highways works being undertaken at the same time in the town – Sandy Lane, Wolseley Road, and Queensway were all mentioned.
- A particular concern was raised about the timing sequence on the temporary traffic lights on Sandy Lane, which didn't appear to allow sufficient time for the quantity of

traffic coming up the road, resulting in tailbacks further down the hill / onto the roundabout etc.

SCC Cllr. G. Martin advised that he had been told that some of the works were to be undertaken at night to speed up completion and reduce interference. Unfortunately, the situation had been worsened by British Gas contractors delaying the start of the works on Wolseley Road.

Sgt. Browning advised that she would get the local PC's to keep an eye on the situation in Flaxley Road.

#### **7. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

Cllr. Tony Williams advised that he still had concerns re the nuisance issues as notified at previous meetings.

Sgt. Browning confirmed that she would raise the matter again with the Operation Matrix team.

Parking on Sandy Lane outside the school was also raised as a concern, particularly in light of the works going on further up the road.

#### **8. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services**

No questions had been submitted in advance.

Firefighter Shelly, who was present, confirmed that it was planned to build a new fire station in Rugeley.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

##### Friends of Etchinghill

Mr. Geoff Brookes advised the forum of the ongoing success of the group, which had started with just a few like minded individuals taking care of the area, but had now grown to a recognized group with a core of over 20 people. A litter pick had been held in February, with about 50 people turning out altogether, and another was planned before "Community Day" (October?).

The group would also like to investigate how to get Etchinghill designated as a no alcohol zone, which might help to overcome some of the particular problems associated with youths drinking alcohol and littering with the empty bottles.

Concerns were also raised that was no receptacle available to deposit dog faeces in. The Head of Environmental Services advised that he would investigate getting a bin installed, and would speak to the Head of Environmental Health about the zoning issue.

Sgt. Browning advised that, while it was an offence to bag up dog faeces and then not dispose of them properly, i.e. dump the bag, it isn't actually an offence to leg a dog foul on the Chase.

Cllr. Tony Williams suggested that the Friends make contact with the AONB Team

(based at Shugborough?); although it was only a small team, they were extremely enthusiastic and keen to get involved in projects across the district.

### Real Man Campaign

The Vice Chairman advised that there some leaflets available publicising the “Real Man” campaign, the idea of which is that domestic violence is not just about women, but affects everyone, and is everybody's business. The campaign particularly wanted to convey the message that the majority of men do not abuse women, and encourage them to work in communicating the message that violence against women is never acceptable. There was to be an awareness raising event involving a ‘journey’ through Staffordshire on Friday, 16 September, 2011, including a gathering of supporters at Rugeley Rose Theatre and Community Centre between 3.00 and 4.00 pm..

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The Forum was asked to note the date of the next meeting as Monday 21 November, 2011 at the Rose Theatre and Community Centre.

#### **11. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman reminded those present that pro formas were attached to their agendas for questions / items to be raised at the next meeting.

The Democratic Services manager advised that Mrs. Carole Howard, an Elected Governor at the Mid-Staffs NHS Foundation Trust, was due to attend to talk about her role and the benefits of membership.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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CHAIRMAN