

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Mawle, D. L. (Chairman)
Jillings, J. F. (Vice-Chairman)

Beddows, J.	Bullock, L. W.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Holder, M. J.
Bernard, J. D.	Todd, Mrs. D. M.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mrs. C. Bowker, Committee Officer
Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Rhona Gudgin, Street Warden

Also Present:-

Mr. D. Botfield, Staffordshire County Council
Neil Griffiths, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
County Councillor S. Woodward
Parish Town Councillors
Press Representative

Local Residents (approximately 15)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P. A. Ansell, K. L. Bennett and I. R. Carr)

24. Notes

County Councillor S. Woodward reported that resurfacing of the Littleworth Road was to begin shortly and she asked for tolerance from residents while the work took place.

AGREED

That the notes of the meeting held on 2 December 2009 be approved as a correct record.

25. Cannock Fire Station

The Chairman had agreed that Fire Officer Neil Griffiths from Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service could attend to give a brief overview on the new Fire Station which was to be built in Cannock.

Artists impressions of what the new Fire Station would look like were on view. Mr. Griffiths informed the Forum that the present Station had been built in 1964. A key aspect of the new Station would be that it would be manned 24 hours per day, with 7 Officers being on duty at any time. At present after 9 pm Fire Officers responded after being paged, which resulted in a five minute delay. There would be 28 Fire Officers employed as opposed to the current 14, with resources being relocated from other Stations.

The Station would be built on the present site and some adjoining land. Site security would commence on 14 September and the ground work in October 2009, with the present station being demolished in December. It was anticipated that the new Station would be completed in June 2010.

The Fire Officer requested that if residents had any questions on the new Station for them to speak to him after the meeting.

26. Safety Issues raised regarding the Cannock and Hednesford Roads, Heath Hayes and the Wimblebury Road

A local resident expressed concern with respect to safety issues on the Cannock and Hednesford Roads, Heath Hayes and the Wimblebury Road. He reported that a lady had been killed and that nothing had been done with respect to speeding. The resident requested that a Zebra Crossing be erected on the Wimblebury Road.

A speed watch had taken place on the Cannock Road and during a 1 hour period, 904 cars had been recorded, 90 of which had been speeding.

Mr. Botfield from Staffordshire County Council informed the Forum that the Cannock Road had been investigated and a 30 mile an hour speed limit had been imposed between the five ways island and Golds Garage. A reduction on the remainder of the road had been reviewed and turned down following an initial speed review. Another review would be requested.

The resident reported that 3 accidents had occurred in January 2009 on the 40 mile per hour area of the Cannock Road. It was requested that speed cameras or traffic calming measures be installed. Mr. Botfield explained that there were fixed rules relating to where cameras could be located and if accidents had not occurred it would be difficult to justify their installation.

Mr. Botfield informed the Forum that he would add the Wimblebury Road to the list for further investigation. A resident reported that a pedestrian crossing had been requested two years ago but nothing had been done. It was considered that having a crossing would help reduce speeding along the Wimblebury Road. Mr. Botfield reported that he would investigate this matter.

Mr. Botfield informed the Forum that the County Council had to prioritise road schemes and where accidents were occurring had to take precedence.

Councillor J. Jillings reported that he had witnessed learner drivers or their instructors exceeding the speed limit along the Cannock Road and had written to the Driving Standards Agency on this matter.

27. **Could Officers please give a progress report on the new Code of Practice for the Raceway that was promised for the beginning of the year. The noise produced by the meeting held on 11 January was extremely loud and began before 9.00 a.m. Why was this?**

The Director of Service Improvement reported that negotiations were still ongoing between the District Valuer and the Solicitors representing Incarace with respect to the rental of the site. It was considered that Incarace would, however, abide by the new Code of Conduct as this had been negotiated with them.

On 11 January 2009 competitors had brought their vehicles on to the site in the morning, which was permitted, but had started the engines of the race cars which was not allowed before 12.00 midday. This condition was contained in both the new and old Code of Practice. The Legal Section had advised that before the lease could be revoked a systematic breach of the Code would need to have taken place. Officers would monitor what was taking place and be on site for the next two meetings to make sure stewards were present. It was explained that Incarace was responsible for managing competitors and ensuring engines were not revved before the allotted time. A firm stance would be taken by Officers from the Environmental Health Department.

Officers of the Council could be contacted during normal office hours on 01543 462621. Evidence gathered from Officers and local residents would be used if the conditions were not adhered to. The new Code of Practice, which would be issued once the lease had been agreed, contained contact details for both the Council and Incarace and these would also be included on the websites. It was considered that the management of the site would be effective.

A Liaison Committee was to be established made up of representatives from residents, the operator, and Cannock Chase Council, meetings being held quarterly. County Councillor S. Woodward requested that the County Council be also represented.

A local resident commented that the Raceway also brought employment and revenue into the area.

28. **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.

29. **Date of Future Meeting**

The Chairman reported that the date of the next meeting of the Heath Hayes, Norton Canes & Rawnsley Community Forum was scheduled for Tuesday, 23 June 2009.