

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HEDNESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**AT THE MUSEUM OF CANNOCK CHASE, VALLEY ROAD, HEDNESFORD**

PRESENT: Councillors

Burnett, J. (Chairman)

Burnett, G.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Ball, G.D.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Officers: T. McGovern, Director of Organisational Improvement  
B. Phillips, Head of Planning and Regeneration

Also present: Members of the Public – approximately 3  
Hednesford Town Council Representative  
Cannock Police

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ms W. Yates).

**18. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

There were no interests declared.

**19. Notes**

The Notes of the meeting held on 21 September, 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

**20. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

In response to a question raised by a local resident, a representative of the Police stated that he would be reviewing parking issues around the area by the Salvation Army and Co-op although he would raise issues with Staffordshire County Council's Highways Section.

**21. Update regarding Road Direction Signs in Hednesford**

A Briefing Note was available which provided an update to the Forum.

**22. Update regarding Cannock Stadium**

Mr. B. Phillips, Head of Planning and Regeneration reported that demolition works were progressing and would be completed on the main Stadium area by Christmas. The former gym building security works and refurbishment of the multiuse area would be completed

shortly after Christmas.

He stated that soiling and seeding would take place in the Spring, although opportunities would be investigated to carry out soiling earlier. Barriers would be installed to control vehicular access as part of the contract works.

Mr. Phillips advised that it was anticipated that the cost for the works would be contained within the £100K budget which was previously agreed by Council.

A Local Ward Member was keen to know when planning permission would be sought to develop the site. Mr. Phillips stated that planning policy for the site would be established through the Core Strategy and the planning position would then be considered following this process.

### **23. Updated regarding Hednesford Town Centre**

Mr. Phillips updated the Forum and advised that the Lightworks development was now complete with the recent refurbishment of the Co-op car park.

With regard to the Rugeley Road Gateway Site it was reported that St Modwen was currently in discussions with retailers in respect of establishing a discount food store. He stated that a revised planning application should be determined in December which would deal with changes required to the scheme to respond to the effects of the recession. Following this, the Council would then be in a position to complete land assembly under the approved Compulsory Purchase Order. Mr. Phillips was optimistic of seeing a start on the site in 2010.

It was reported that a large national food store had signed an agreement for the scheme at the Victoria Street/Bus Station Site. It was hoped that a planning application would be submitted early in 2010 followed by public consultation.

A Local Ward Member stated that she had received numerous telephone calls from dance instructors who had raised concern about using the Aquarius Ballroom facility due to previous closures, and the Member was keen to know how long the lease had been granted for. Mr. Phillips stated that the information was confidential between the lessee and the Council although he expected the terms to be similar to the previous lease which was for 3 years subject to 6 month notice.

A Local Ward Member was keen to know if the current lessee of the Aquarius Ballroom would have first refusal of operating the Ballroom when it re-opened following the regeneration of the area. Mr. Phillips stated that assuming the new facility was as currently envisaged, interested parties would need to make their cases if they showed interest in operating the venue. The new operators case would be supported if there was a successful track record with the current venue.

A Local Town Councillor raised concern that tiles were sliding off a building within the Rugeley Road Site. Mr. Phillips stated that he would arrange for the Building Regulation Inspectors to visit the site. The property was now in the ownership of St. Modwen Developments.

**24. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman reported that the next Forum was scheduled for Thursday 11 March, 2010 and questions from members of the public should be submitted by Thursday 25 February, 2010 on the forms supplied.

**25. Date of Future Meeting**

The Chairman confirmed the following date of the next Hednesford Community Forum:-

- Thursday 11 March, 2010

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CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.