

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM
WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT HAZEL SLADE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CANNOCK WOOD STREET, HAZEL
SLADE

PRESENT:
Councillors

Jillings, J. F. (Chairman)
Bernard, J. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Collis, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Mawle, D. L.
Bullock, L.W.	Todd, Mrs. D. M.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. D. Hoare, Director of Service Improvement
Mrs. W. Rowe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Cannock Police
PC Luke Norman, Cannock Police
County Councillor J. Rowley, Staffordshire County Council
David Wright, Staffordshire County Council Highways
Michelle Lucas, Cannock Chase Chamber of Commerce
and Industry
Representative of the Press

16. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

17. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 8 September 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

18. Questions for Staffordshire Police

A Ward Member asked for an update regarding the problem with motorbikes in

Prospect Village. Inspector Shannaghan advised that there had been no recent reports of any problems. In October one motorbike had been seized going to Castle Ring. Operations would continue in conjunction with Police Officers from Heath Hayes and Wimblebury.

A Ward Member commended the Police on the action taken last week to shut down the small scale cannabis factory which was being run from a property in Hednesford Road. Residents had been experiencing problems with drug activity and were thankful to the Police. Inspector Shannaghan advised that the action had been taken in conjunction with a number of agencies. As the property had been a rented property the Police were still trying to trace the tenants. He confirmed that the landlord had been unaware of the drug activity within the property.

An update on the shotgun activity in Wimblebury was requested. PC Norman reported that the person using the firearm had been tracked down and it had been ascertained that all was in order with the Firearms Department and that permission had been gained off the landowners. The resident who had raised the item initially had been informed accordingly.

19. Safety Issues – Cannock and Hednesford Roads, Heath Hayes and the Wimblebury Road – position with respect to Zebra Crossings being erected on John Street and on the Cannock Road

David Wright, Staffordshire County Council Highways informed the Forum that a pedestrian count for Cannock Road had been undertaken and the results had been received today. The results for John Street were still awaited. Once these were available they would be assessed together to ascertain whether there was any justification for crossings to be installed.

A Ward Member stated that Councillors had been pressing for crossings to be installed for a while. Residents had spoken to the Officers who had been undertaking the count and they had been surprised by the volume of traffic and how difficult it was to cross the roads. There was concern that due to the time of year and to the weather conditions less children would have been walking to school. Therefore, the figures from the count may not give an accurate picture.

David Wright advised that a weighting could be applied to the outcome of the count in order to take into account the weather conditions.

David Wright confirmed that he would provide details of the outcome of the count to Committee Services who would circulate this to Ward Members and to the Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Clerk.

20. The position with respect to Bye Laws being introduced to prevent parking on grass verges

The Director of Service Improvement informed the Forum that he had met with Wayne Mortiboys from Staffordshire County Council Highways. It was considered that Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase District Council and Staffordshire Police would jointly deal with the issue. It was proposed to submit a report in the

new year to the Joint Parking Committee outlining the options and making a recommendation to Staffordshire County Council's Parking Committee on how to take this issue forward. There were a number of examples throughout the District of inappropriate parking on verges and there were a number of options available. Individual locations would be looked at and the most appropriate solutions would be applied.

A Ward Member suggested that there should be consultation with the public, Parish and District Councillors regarding this matter. The Director of Service Improvement confirmed that consultation would take place to assess what was required locally.

Reference was made to a development on Cannock Road/Cleeton Street. It was noted that delivery vehicles to the site had been seen blocking the access to Cleeton Street and vehicles had been parking on the grass verges. Members questioned whether there had been any conditions placed on the planning permission for this development. It was considered that the developer should be made to reinstate the grass verges. Inspector Shannaghan advised that he would request PC Dean Cooper to visit the development and speak to the Site Manager. The Director of Service Improvement stated that he would ask the Planning Services Manager to look into the conditions of the planning permission.

21. Meadow Way Play Area

This item had been requested by a local resident, Hilary Green who was not present at the meeting. The Director of Service Improvement stated that the access to the play area opposite this lady's home was a metal vehicular access. It would be costly to remove this and provide it elsewhere. Moving the access would not solve the problem it would just move it to a different location. He considered it was the behaviour of the youths that needed addressing. There had been input from Street Wardens, and the Staffordshire Police through Operation Matrix. The Police had not recently received any reports of any problems.

The Chairman stated that a youth club had recently been established at Hayes Green Community Centre on a Thursday evening between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. This was attracting between 30 and 40 youths and a pool table had been purchased for their use. This was assisting in keeping youths off the street and giving them something positive to do. He thanked Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council for their support with this project. Additionally, it was hoped that there would be a youth club at Wimblebury Community Centre, again on a Thursday evening. Discussions were taking place with the Clerk to Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council to get the project up and running. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the County Councillors for their help in funding the establishment of these youth clubs.

A Ward Councillor commended the multi agency approach being used to tackle the problems being experienced by Mrs. Green. He considered that the public use of the Meadow Way play area would help in reducing any anti social behaviour.

The Director of Service Improvement explained that he would arrange for a letter to be forwarded to Mrs. Green to confirm the up to date position.

- 22. What is the current situation re traffic calming on Norton Hall Lane and Church Road, Norton Canes. Nearly every resident in those roads signed a petition this year calling for traffic calming. We have had no feedback whatsoever (there were also many individual letters). What happened to the petition. In my opinion there is a need for a chicane on the entrance to Norton Hall Lane coming from Sainsburys/Orbital Centre direction as a reminder to drivers that they are entering a village as they come off a fast road.**

This item was raised by Janet Lee. David Wright advised that the County Council had received the letters but had not received a petition. Janet Lee explained that she had presented a petition to the Norton Canes Parish Council Chairman, who at the time was Councillor John Beddows, for him to pass onto the County Council. Councillor Mrs. A. Bernard who was now the Chairman of Norton Canes Parish Council assured Mrs. Lee that she would search for the whereabouts of the petition.

Members of the Forum expressed their concern with the speed of the vehicles travelling along this particular stretch of road and considered that some traffic calming measures were necessary.

David Wright stated that the speed data that had been obtained did not justify the implementation of a full blow traffic calming scheme. However, consideration was being given to providing a gateway feature along Norton Hall Lane. Additionally there were plans for a Speed Indication Device to be installed in the 2010 programme of works. The County Council would be setting priorities for various schemes when looking at their budget and the provision of a gateway feature would be considered and prioritised along with the other schemes. The Speed Indication Device would be installed after April 2010.

Mrs. Lee expressed concern that the proposed new development of over 100 houses along Norton Hall Lane would make the situation worse. David Wright advised that it may be possible to secure funding for traffic calming in this area through this development via a Section 106 Agreement.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of a Community Speed Watch scheme prior to the installation of the Speed Indication Device in April 2010. It was noted that those residents participating in Community Speed Watch scheme required training. The Chairman and Councillor J. Bernard indicated that they were both trained in the use of hand held speed devices and would be willing to participate in such a scheme. Members noted that a Community Speed Watch scheme had been established in Heath Hayes and Wimblebury and this was proving to be successful.

Inspector Shannaghan advised that he would put in a request for Speed Camera van to be situated in the locality and for Officers to visit the area.

23. Other Items

An update was requested on the position with regards to the resurfacing of the entrance to Nicholls Way. David Wright advised that it had been accepted that the road required resurfacing but he was not sure when this would be undertaken. He stated that he would forward an update on this matter to Committee Services for them to pass onto the relevant Members.

The Chairman advised that a Press Release was to be issued warning the public about bogus callers attempting to gain access to bank details following a recent incident in Rugeley.

24. 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.

25. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on Tuesday 16 March 2010 at Hayes Green Community Centre.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

CHAIRMAN