

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
CANNOCK COMMUNITY FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2005
AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Council Forum Members

Councillors: Freeman, M.P. (Chairman)
Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Mitchell, C.
Allen, F.W.C.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Dixon, D.I.	Thomas, D.
Kraujalis, J.T.	Toth, J.

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. W.L. Trigg (Director of Resources)
Miss K. Bradford (Head of Leisure Services)
Mr. D. Parker (Streetcare Manager)
Mrs. W. Rowe (Chief Executive's Secretariat)

Also present, representatives from the following organisations: -

Staffordshire County Council
Press
Local Residents (approximately 30)

Also present:

Councillors: Grocott, M.R.
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.

(Apologies for absence were received from Dr. A.W. Wright, Councillor B. Faulkner and Staffordshire Police.)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman referred to the death of Councillor Reg Cooper and a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

2. NOTES

The notes of the meeting held on 19 January 2005 were approved as a correct record.

3. HIGHWAYS ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Resurfacing of Cemetery Road

John Debens, the Staffordshire County Council representative, advised that the contract for the resurfacing of Cemetery Road had been awarded to Wrekin Construction and it was anticipated that work would commence in September 2005.

Arising from this, concern was expressed regarding the condition of the road surface in Fallowfield, Cannock and despite several repairs, the road remained in a poor condition. Mr. Debens explained that he would investigate this matter and respond directly to the resident concerned.

Update on Proposed Bus Shelters – New Penkridge Road

Mr. Debens advised that, despite the concerns raised by the Forum local residents, Councillors and Dr. Wright, MP, Staffordshire County Council were still intending to erect the bus shelters along New Penkridge Road.

A local resident advised that residents had received confirmation that the two bus shelters were to be erected. She further advised that Central TV were recording a programme “Save Our Street Campaign” with an emphasis on Cannock.

4. LEISURE ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Update of Leisure Village Proposal and the Review of Leisure Facilities

Miss Karen Bradford, Head of Leisure, explained that, following the request at the last Forum, a plan showing the Chase Leisure Centre site outlining the park area, golf course, the land covered by the CISWO agreement and the land outside of the CISWO agreement was displayed at the meeting.

She updated the Forum on the progress of the proposal explaining that, since the last meeting of the Forum, the Cannock Stadium development was ongoing and a final report was due in mid May 2005. A report would then be submitted to the next meeting of the Culture and Sport Select Committee for consideration.

With regard to the Health Centre proposal, Karen Bradford would be attending the next Health Select Committee to discuss this matter. It was also explained that a meeting was due to take place between the Chief Executives of the Primary Care Trust and Cannock Chase Council when this proposal would be discussed.

There was then a lengthy debate regarding the proposals and implications of the development of the Leisure Village and the proposals for the Cannock Stadium site.

Arising from this, a discussion took place regarding the land covered by the CISWO agreement and the restricted use imposed upon it. Concern was expressed regarding the use of the land covered by the agreement and residents considered that the land should be protected from development. It was explained that the Council's Chief Executive was meeting with representatives from CISWO in the near future.

5. OTHER ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Fortnightly Refuse Collection and Green Waste Collection

Mr. Dave Parker, Streetcare Manager explained that, with regard to the collection of green waste, an order had been placed for the supply of 38,000 brown bins. 8,000 of these had been delivered week commencing 4 April 2005 with the remaining 30,000 due to be delivered week commencing 11 July 2005. Leaflets had been delivered along with the 8,000 bins explaining what should be placed in each bin. It was acknowledged that some households had not received the leaflet and this was being addressed. As a result of this, self-adhesive labels would be attached to the remaining 30,000 bins that were to be delivered during July.

With regard to the collection of the 8,000 green waste bins delivered during April no final decision had been made as to when collection was to commence. However, it was anticipated that collection of the green waste bins which were to be delivered during July would commence during August/September. It was explained that alternate weekly refuse collections would commence when the green waste collections commenced. A weekly collection of waste would be resumed during the four-week period over Christmas/New Year and that the green waste collection would cease during this period.

Mr. Parker confirmed that plastic bottles would be included in the blue recycling collection box with immediate effect. A press release was to be issued regarding this matter.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the issue of a fortnightly refuse collection during the course of the debate. Arising from the discussions, the need for householders to be sensible with recycling was highlighted and that the fortnightly refuse collection and the green waste collection would be kept under review in order that any problems could be addressed.

6. CANNOCK PARK

Tennis Courts/Paths/Graffiti

Concerns were expressed regarding Cannock Park, in particular relating to the park gates that were due to be replaced and to the condition of the two tennis courts that had not been in use as tennis courts for four years. Concern was also expressed with regard to the bad state of repair of the paths and steps and that employees within the Town Centre were parking in the parking bays at the park and the entrance from Park Road was blocked with parked cars, causing a safety issue.

The Forum was advised that the car park was due to become a long stay pay and display car park and it was anticipated that this would commence June/July 2005. Karen Bradford explained that the park gates would be re-erected in line with the introduction of the pay and display car park.

Miss Bradford advised that there was no money in the budget for refurbishment of the tennis courts. However, the paths/steps had been repaired and further work to the rails was planned.

A security person had previously been employed and was working with the Police and Park staff to combat the anti-social problems within the area. An issue regarding the role of the security person was raised.

Arising from the discussions, it was agreed that an update be provided at the next meeting regarding the following issues:

- update on this issue regarding the use and refurbishment of the tennis courts;
- update on the security measures including whether the security person is paid by CCDC;
- the situation with s106 monies from the Kelvestone House development and the demolition of the toilet block.

7. ARRIVA BUS SERVICE FROM CANNOCK-STAFFORD

A local resident raised an issue with regard to the bus service to Cannock Hospital and the lack of facilities for disabled persons on this service. John Debens agreed to investigate this issue with the Staffordshire County Council Passenger Transport Section and report back to the resident direct.

8. LACK OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN CANNOCK AFTER 6.00 PM

A local resident expressed concern regarding the lack of public conveniences within Cannock Town Centre after 6.00 pm when the In-shops Centre closes. She raised further concern that the disabled toilets situated by the Prince of

Wales Theatre were being used by traders. The Director of Resources advised that he would request the markets Section to investigate this matter.

The Chairman explained that Council's Cabinet would be advised of the Forum's concerns regarding the lack of public conveniences within the Town Centre.

9. FORWARD AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Suggestions of any issues to be discussed at the next meeting were sought. Appropriate representatives would be invited to attend to debate the issues and answer questions or, alternatively, a report on the issues would be made available for the meeting.

It was agreed that the following items be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Forum and that appropriate representatives be requested to attend to respond to these items:-

- Plans for additional speed humps within the area
- Old Fallow Avenue – Highway issues
- Maintenance works on the Railway – debris dropping onto Girton Road
- The role of the West Midlands Regional Chamber
- Update on Street Lighting in Price Street
- Update on Traffic Calming Measures – Wolverhampton Road, Newhall Street, Victoria Street
- Update on Cannock Park issues – tennis courts, security, use of Section 106 monies from Kelvestone House development.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was reported that the next meeting of the Forum was to be held on Tuesday, 28 June 2005.