

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

HEATH HAYES, NORTON CANES AND RAWNSLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

AT NORTON CANES HIGH SCHOOL, BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

PRESENT: Councillors

Bernard, J. D. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Spicer, Ms. A.
Gilbert, P.	Sutherland, M.
Jones, Ms J.L.	Todd, Mrs. D.
Rowley, J.	

Other District Councillors in Attendance

Councillor R. Todd

Cannock Chase Council Officers

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director
Miss. J. Tunnicliffe, Senior Committee Officer

Also Present:-

Sgt. J. Browning, Cannock Police
PC L. Spicer, Cannock Police
PC D. Norman, Cannock Police
Mr. J. Commins, Highways Dept, Staffordshire County Council
Ms. V. Singleton, Staffordshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch
Parish Councillors
Press
Members of the public - 4

9. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.T. Kraujalis and M.J. Holder and Mr. L. Bullock.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

11. Notes

The Notes of the meeting held on 7 June, 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

12. The Establishment of a Credit Union across Cannock Chase

The Chairman welcomed Janet Bamber from Fusion Credit Union to provide information to the Forum.

Mr. T. McGovern, Corporate Director read out the following statement:-

Discussions had been underway for some time regarding the opportunity to establish a Credit Union within the District as part of a local response to the effects of the recession. The rationale underlying the proposal was to provide a means for responsible saving and borrowing at a time when levels of debt have increased markedly in local communities.

Initial discussions were held with Staffordshire Credit Union (SCU) which has been operating in North Staffordshire for approximately three years. SCU made a presentation to Cabinet in October 2010. However, Members deferred consideration of a report which had been prepared on the subject due to cost implications.

The Council were approached by Fusion Credit Union (FCU) in early 2010. FCU had been operating across Lichfield District for approximately 6 years and were reliant upon volunteers rather than paid staff in contrast to the operation of SCU. As a consequence the funding support required to increase the geographical coverage of FCU to embrace the CCDC area was much reduced (£5k pa). FCU were keen to expand their operation to cover Cannock Chase District and were currently working with officers to establish the level of local demand for a Credit Union, and to demonstrate that a 'common bond' exists between the two Districts which would allow a logical expansion of the geographical area covered by them. This information would be needed to support a Business Plan which would be considered by the Financial Services Authority.

It was anticipated that the formal proposal to extend FCUs area of operation would be sent to the Financial Services Authority in the autumn of this year. Members would be kept informed of the outcome".

Janet Bamber reported that the Fusion Credit Union intended to extend out to the Cannock area; however they would first need to apply to the Financial Services Authority. The Union was a savings co-operative which also offered low cost loans and members would be issued with a passbook.

She reported that junior savers were welcome and two schools were currently involved which was run by 31 volunteers who were all trained. She then reported on the products offered by the Credit Union which included loans which enabled some customers to pay existing debts which were at much higher rates.

13. Questions for Staffordshire Police

Speeding Issues in Norton Canes

Sgt Browning, Cannock Police reported that work had been undertaken in the area and further speed operations were planned in due course.

Co-op

Local residents reported on the gathering of youths around the local Co-op and also drug related problems by the funeral directors. PC Spicer reported that this was one of the hot spot areas which would be monitored and the drug related problems would be looked into.

Police Open Day

It was reported that the Police were considering holding an open day at Wimblebury Community Centre and were keen to hear from the public how it should be advertised. Suggestions from the public included advertising in the library and post office and the Forum also discussed the best time to hold the open day.

Ms. V Singleton, Neighbourhood Watch commented that the open day could also be advertised through Neighbourhood Watch.

Chasewater

Concern was expressed by Councillor P. Gilbert that young people were gathering and drinking alcohol around Chasewater. The Police advised that they would look into this.

At this point the Chairman agreed to change the order of the Agenda.

14. When are positive steps going to be implemented to reduce permanently the excess speeding by vehicles on Wimblebury Road (by 80%+ of vehicles using the road)

Concern was expressed with the number of speeding vehicles travelling along the Wimblebury Road, Cannock. The Forum discussed this issue and also weight restrictions and noise caused by HGVs. The Police reported that they would place Wimblebury Road on the Police Strategy and also look into the issues surrounding weight restrictions and noise.

Ms. Singleton reported that there was an active speed watch in the area which had proved successful, however this was volunteer based only.

A member of the public asked why there was not a mobile speed detector on the Wimblebury Road and on the High Street, Heath Hayes. Sgt Browning reported that the Police targeted areas where research had been undertaken which proved there were higher rates of accidents.

15. Norton Hall Lane/Church Road, Norton Canes

Mr. J. Commins, Highways Dept, Staffordshire County Council reported that a number of schemes were proposed however there was nothing planned for Norton Hall Lane. He advised that there had been no accidents and the percentile speed was not high, although this information was based on figures published 2 years ago.

Mr. Commins advised the Forum that he would check with the County Council in relation to S106 money being used for traffic calming measures on Norton Hall Lane.

The Chairman agreed to take items 7 and 8 together.

16. Proposed Traffic Calming Measures for the Village of Heath Hayes – B4154 and Items requested at the last Meeting to be included on the Agenda (Items 7 & 8)

(i) Pedestrian Crossing at John Street and Cannock Road, Wimblebury.

Mr. Commins provided the Forum with a number of possible options in respect of traffic calming measures for the village of Heath Hayes.

The Forum then discussed the proposals.

Option 1 – Hednesford Road

Mr. Commins stated that conventional traffic calming such as the 'gateway' treatment could be implemented and additionally signs, dragons' teeth and speed cushions could be used.

Option 2 – Near Chapel Street

It was suggested that the section between the Five Ways roundabout and Chapel Street could be changed to accommodate buses only, and parking could be made available on one side of the road.

Concern was raised that the road was very busy and Councillor P. Gilbert asked if anyone had consulted with local businesses.

Mr. Commins stated that data had been collected from alongside the road by engineers to support the options and advised that all Parish/Town Councils and the District Council would first be consulted with. He indicated that any comments made from the Forum would be included as part of the initial consultation before going out into the public arena.

Option 3

Mr. Commins advised the Forum that John Street and Wimblebury Road could benefit from dual and triple speed cushions and a raised zebra crossing near Glover Street. He also commented that a structural maintenance scheme was due to commence between October to March, 2012 on the Hednesford Road, Cannock.

A member of the public commented on problems with traffic on Cannock Road, Heath Hayes and asked if there would be any traffic calming measures implemented. The Chairman reported that 2 surveys had been undertaken however it appeared that the criteria was not met and therefore a zebra crossing could not be installed.

Councillor Mrs. D. Todd advised the Forum that she had suggested that a midway island be installed where Cannock Road was wide enough, however Mr. Commins advised that this would cost somewhere between 5-12K to install and stated that the schemes mentioned were currently priority, given the limited resources available.

Concern was also raised amongst the Forum with regard to the crossing on Wimblebury Road which was considered to be located in the wrong place and traffic issues along Lyndhurst Road.

It was raised by a member of the public that local neighbours and shopkeepers had raised concern that both Wimblebury Road and Cannock Road could be used as 'rat runs,' and traders had also expressed concern that it was possible that visitors to the town centre may not shop and business could be lost.

Mr. Commins then discussed with the Forum different options of consulting with the public and the possibility of involving County Council engineers. The Forum appeared keen to have a meeting in order that local people could attend and it was also suggested that Heath Hayes Library be involved in order that visual boards could be displayed.

(ii) What are the regulations with respect to Trade Boards/Trailers used for advertisement purposes which are considered to be a distraction for motorists and an eyesore.

Mr. Commins advised the Forum that legislation required that trade boards/trailers were required to be a certain distance and size away from the motorway. He also stated that there could be some involvement with planning enforcement in respect of trailers.

17. 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.

18. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman reported that meetings of the Forum have been arranged for

- Tuesday, 15 November, 2011
- Monday, 5 March, 2012

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm