

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Faulkner, B.J. (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Bullock, L.W.	Easton, R.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Pearce, Mrs. L.J.
Dixon, D.I.	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Jones (Chairman), D. N. Davies, Mrs. D. M. Easton, J. T. Kraujalis, G. R. Martin and Mrs. D. M. Todd).

16. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2007 be approved as a correct record.

17. Respect Agenda

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Partnership Development Manager on the Current Activity and Future Development of the Respect Agenda.

It was explained that legislation was being introduced piecemeal with regard to the Respect Agenda Action Plan with some sections coming into effect from 1 April 2008 and others the following year. A framework was in place which detailed the additional powers and approaches local authorities and their partners should or could use to tackle anti social behaviour.

During the period April 2006 and March 2007, 5086 anti social behaviour incidents had been recorded for Cannock Chase, numbers were reducing for most categories while others were classed as 'stable'. The Select Committee requested that a breakdown of the figures by age group be provided.

Concern was expressed regarding the increasing number of inappropriate use of fireworks and whether further powers could be introduced to help overcome this problem. The Partnership Development Manager informed the Select Committee that details on current

legislation regarding fireworks would be provided to a future meeting.

Until recently an Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator had been employed by the Police but the post had now been withdrawn. It was explained that an Anti Social Behaviour Order was a seven stage process to prevent people becoming criminalised too quickly. There were four Section 30 areas, two in Cannock and two in Rugeley expiring on 1 February 2008. A reduction in incidents occurring at the Fernwood Estate, Rugeley and Hednesford had resulted in Section 30s not being renewed. It was proposed to have a single anti social behaviour hotline where advice could be provided.

Currently support to parents was provided by the Youth Offending team, the mental health service and Family Focus. It was considered that there was a need for a network of intensive family support schemes.

The Select Committee considered it important to develop an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy with schools, PCT, County Council and other partners being involved in its development. It was suggested that Members, particularly those that were School Governors, could engage with school councils to obtain feedback from those that had suffered from it and to discuss with young people how they considered anti social behaviour could be overcome. The possibility of appointing an Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator to review all that was being undertaken within the Council would be explored.

'Face the People' sessions from 1 April 2008 would be a requirement to be held at least once a year for all local authorities and their partners and it was envisaged that the current Community Forums would be used for this purpose. Present consultation services included, amongst others:-

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Joint Operation Groups
- Partners & Community Together
- Community Action Teams
- Community Forums
- Councillor surgeries

Constructive activities for children and young people were provided by the Youth Service, Junior Warden and Chase It Schemes. It was reported that a charity football tournament was taking place the following evening at Cannock Stadium between the police and youths from Chadsmoor and Councillor R. Easton as Chairman of the Council agreed to present the trophy.

It was reported that the duty on Ward Councillors and Committees to consider issues and respond within a prescribed timescale was not presently being brought in due to legal implications.

The Select Committee was given an overview of the work being undertaken with respect to the Council's housing stock which included:-

- Respect Standard for Housing Management being adopted
- 2 evictions, 8 notice of possession proceedings, 3 demotion notices, 3 notices to

terminate into tenancy, 1 notice extending into tenancy and 3 anti social behaviour injunctions had been served

- Estate walks were being undertaken with a view to improving the local environment.

The Housing Department would be encouraging other landlords to adopt the Respect Standard.

AGREED:

- (A) That a breakdown by age groups of anti social behaviour incidents recorded during the period April 2006 – March 2007 be provided to the Select Committee.
- (B) That details of current legislation regarding fireworks be provided to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
- (C) That consideration be given to the development of an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.

18. Work Programme

Consideration was given to items to be included in the Work Programme.

It was explained that the Youth Offending Service had written and advised that rather than offenders attend the Select Committee the Youth Officers would discuss any issues Members would like them to raise with the offenders. The Select Committee considered that the possibility of them visiting the offenders somewhere other than the Civic Centre should be explored.

AGREED

- (A) That the Work Programme be noted.
- (B) That a copy of the letter received from the Youth Offending Service be forwarded to the Select Committee.
- (C) That the possibility of the Select Committee visiting youth offenders be explored.

CHAIRMAN