

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Jones, R. (Chairman)

Bennett, K. L.
Kraujalis, J. T.

Jillings, J.
Mawle, D. L.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. W. Bullock, M. R. Green, Mrs. D. M. Todd and B. Williams).

13. Minutes

It was reported that the visit to the CCTV Centre by Members had proven to be most informative. The Portfolio Leader for Safer & Stronger Communities explained that the staff at the Centre had requested more feedback from the Police and assurances had been given that this would be provided.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2008 be approved as a correct record.

14. Developing a Strategy for Addressing Anti Social Behaviour

The Chairman agreed that this item be brought forward on the agenda.

The Committee received a presentation from Lydia Harper, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. The Committee were informed that she had only recently been appointed to the post.

It was explained that Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) was difficult to define due to people's differences of opinion and tolerance levels. The Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 defined ASB as 'behaviour likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to members of the public not of the same household as the perpetrator'. Police definitions included, amongst others:-

- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Street drinking

- Littering
- Begging
- Nuisance phone calls
- Inappropriate use of fireworks

In Cannock Chase between October 2007 and September 2008 there had been 5,685 ASB incidents reported to the Police, 69% of which related to 'rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour'. Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS) showed that 43% of the public perceived that there was a high level of ASB in Cannock Chase. Tackling ASB and addressing the public's perception was a priority set in the Local Area Agreement.

It was explained that part of the Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator's role would be to work with partners to attain a co-ordinated approach in tackling ASB. Information would be shared and 'hot spots' identified in order that energies and funding could be focused on those areas and specific cases, with special circumstances being recognised quickly, such as family or health related issues. Duplication of work would be avoided and a co-ordinated approach taken to promote the success of initiatives carried out to tackle ASB.

The Committee was informed that Cannock Chase's ASB Strategy would incorporate existing good practice, utilise government guidance and involve extensive consultations which would be carried out with key stakeholders. The following agencies would be involved in the Strategy's development:-

Councillors	CCTV
Police	Housing
Fire Service	Registered Social Landlords
Street Wardens	Schools
Youth Offending Service	Educational Welfare
Environmental Health	Social Services

Workshops would take place during December 2008 and January 2009, the first draft of the Strategy being produced in February 2009, and consultations with stakeholders would be carried out in February and March 2009. The final draft document, to which partners would be asked to sign up to, would be produced in March 2009, with the final Strategy for Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour being published in April 2009.

The Partnership Development Manager explained that the figures of ASB for Cannock Chase were normal compared with other similar areas. The Staffordshire Police Authority's policy was to issue Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Orders (CRASBOs), rather than ASBOs.

The Portfolio Leader for Safer & Stronger Communities informed the Committee that a 'Safer Chase Shop' would be opening on 6 December 2008 at No.4 High Green, Cannock, which would provide residents with information and provide them with the opportunity to speak to Police Officers and other partners. A briefing note would be forwarded to all Members, flyers would be given out to the public, and information would be displayed on the pillars in the town centre, to promote awareness of the Shop. The public would be requested to complete a short questionnaire to provide feedback on their concerns. The Shop would remain open until sometime in the New Year and it was hoped to repeat the scheme in the future. It was reported that the facility had been provided at a peppercorn rent from Pritchard Holdings plc and Members welcomed this support.

It was reported that a Family Intervention programme would be undertaken by Barnardos which would provide families with intensive support either on a voluntary or compulsory basis. Those families who refused to participate could potentially have their benefits reduced.

Concern was raised regarding the problem of boy racers and the apparent lack of Police presence. The Portfolio Leader indicated that he would relate the matter back to the Police.

It was explained that Scrutiny Committee had increased powers to scrutinise partner agencies and the Committee may need to determine whether issues raised should be considered by the County or District Councils. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, a statutory body, also had powers to scrutinise performance and other issues.

15. 2009/10 Community Safety Priorities and Refreshing the Partnership Plan

The Partnership Development Manager informed the Committee that Katy Snelgrove, the Partnership Officer (Community Safety) was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. A briefing note was circulated at the meeting.

The Committee requested that Katy Snelgrove be invited to attend a future meeting.

AGREED

That the Partnership Officer (Community Safety) be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

16. Work Programme 2008/09

Discussion took place on the Work Programme. It was recognised that there were many issues to be considered and that it may be that some issues may need to be considered in the next Municipal Year.

It was explained that the need for the District to have its own Alcohol Strategy document was being investigated, as it was considered that this may not be required.

It was requested that an additional meeting of the Committee be arranged in February 2009.

AGREED

That an additional meeting of the Committee be arranged in February 2009.

CHAIRMAN