

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Jones, R. (Chairman)
Green, M. R. (Vice-Chairman)

Kraujalis, J. T. Todd, Mrs. D. M.
Mawle, D. L.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. L. Bennett, L. W. Bullock and J. Jillings).

25. Minutes

The Chairman informed the Committee that he was pursuing a Gating Order relating to an alleyway near to the Somerfield store on the Springfield Estate, Rugeley. Mr. N. Hackney, Partnership Development Officer, explained that there was no provision in the Council's budget for the supply of gates. The Committee considered that there may be Section 106 monies available to address this issue and that all avenues should be explored to overcome resource implications.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2009 be approved as a correct record.

26. Local Policing Plan for 2009-10

The Committee received a presentation from Inspector Pat Shannaghan, Commander of the Cannock Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU).

He informed the Committee that Staffordshire Police had a good performance record, however, it was considered that the needs of the community were not always being met. Chris Sims, Staffordshire Chief Constable had adopted a different approach to policing, the aim of which was to deliver a service more in line with the type of policing the community wanted. The strategy aimed to:-

- Reduce crime
- Protect people
- Understand the needs and delivery of the Police service

The Police targets were to reduce personal crime by 10%, violent crime by 56% and business crime by 5%. It was, however, reported that due to the current economic recession business crime was increasing, i.e. shop lifting.

It was reported that the majority of crimes were committed by 5% of the population. A Prolific and Other Priority Offender Scheme had been developed which focused on the rehabilitative requirements of drug using offenders. Programmes were run to increase offenders chances of gaining employment with support being given by such organisations as the Prison, Probation, and Police Services, Drug Intervention Teams and Local Authorities. Rigorous drug testing was carried out throughout the programmes.

Cannock Chase had been identified as being in the top 50 areas highlighted as having a high alcohol related crime problem and additional funding had been provided to address this issue. A Matrix Team had been established to provide mobile support to deal more effectively with those causing problems. Door and bar staff at pubs, clubs etc., had received SIA training (Security Industry Authority) and based on the feedback received to date it was considered that progress was being made. Anti Social Behaviour issues would be responded to within 1 hour and updates provided to residents on action taken. It was explained that part of the role of PCSOs was to provide reassurance and that, together with the Youth Service and other partners they endeavoured to get young people off the streets and involve them in sporting activities. The Partnership Development Manager reported that initiatives were also being undertaken to address problems relating to Cannock Park with the possible use of the Leisure Centre being explored.

With regard to road traffic incidents, Cannock Chase was considered to be a relatively safe area in relation to the number of fatalities from road traffic incidents. Individuals considered to be a danger were targeted and appropriate enforcement action taken. A 'Crash Course' was being run which vividly portrayed the effects of accidents on victims, families and friends and on the lives of convicted drivers.

Members were also advised that Staffordshire Police had undertaken reviews to reduce bureaucracy and appointed other staff to support front line officers, thereby enabling them to focus on criminal matters.

The Committee expressed concern relating to cars being parked illegally and causing obstructions around schools and that this could lead to accidents occurring. It was explained that this issue would now be dealt with under the Civil Parking Enforcement regulations.

The Committee asked if when Chris Sims took up his new post as Chief Constable of the West Midlands, the new Chief Constable was likely to change policing policies. Inspector Shannaghan explained that Staffordshire Police was at the forefront of modern policing and he did not consider that policies would change dramatically.

The Chairman, Councillor R. Jones, enquired how Members could assist the Police. Inspector Shannaghan informed the Committee that they could assist by relating the information back to Parish Councils with respect to policing policies and as many Members were also School Governors they could influence policies being made.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Shannaghan for attending the meeting.

27. Work Programme 2008/09

Nick Hackney, Partnership Development Manager explained that for the meeting scheduled for 28 April 2009 it was intended, with the Committee's agreement, to receive presentations from:-

- P. C. Gordon Scott, Architectural Liaison and Strategic Crime Reduction Officer for Chase Division, Staffordshire Police on the Secured by Design programme;
- Lynne Smith from Barnardos on the Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service (SIFS).

AGREED:

That the Committee receive presentations at their next meeting on:-

- (A) The Secured by Design programme;
- (B) The Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service.

CHAIRMAN