

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**MONDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 2011 AT 7.00PM**  
**AT ROSE THEATRE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, TAYLOR'S LANE, RUGELEY**

PRESENT: Cannock Chase Councillors:

Davies, D.N. (Chair)

Allt, Mrs. A.  
Fisher; P.A.

Molineux, G.N.  
Williams, Mrs. P.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

Mr. K. Lawlor  
Mr. S. Partridge

Head of Environmental Services  
Democratic Services Manager

Representatives from the following organisations:

Staffordshire Police	(Sgt. J. Browning)
Staffordshire County Council	(SCC Cllr. G. Martin)
Staffordshire Police Neighbourhood Watch	(Ms. V. Singleton)
Crimestoppers	(Mrs. P. Hadley)
Town / Parish Councils	

Approximately 11 local residents

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G. Brown; R. Easton; M.R. Grocott; R. Jones; A. Williams; and B. Williams.

Apologies were also submitted on behalf of A. Burley, M.P.; Insp. C. Ellerton (Staffs. Police); W. Southall (Staffs. Fire & Rescue Service); and a number of Town / Parish Councillors.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**3. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 6 September, 2011 were accepted as a correct record.

#### 4. **Matters Arising (Not Otherwise Covered on the Agenda)**

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. **Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Carole Howard, Elected Governor for the Cannock Constituency on the Council of Governors at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. Mrs. Howard spoke about her own role as an elected Governor, and invited anybody who had an interest in the running of / future plans for Cannock and Stafford hospitals to also consider becoming public members. She confirmed that membership was free, and open to anyone aged 16 years or over, resident within the area covered by the Trust. Members received regular newsletters keeping them apprised of news and developments at the hospitals, and information on meetings and talks which they could attend. Members also enjoyed voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

Mrs. Howard agreed to leave membership application forms for anyone who might be interested in joining the trust.

#### 6. **Questions for Staffordshire County Council (Highways)**

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for SCC (Highways), consequently no representative had been sent to the meeting. However, in response to questions and comments raised at the previous Forum, Mr. John Commins, Project Manager, had provided the following updates, which were read out by the Chairman:

- Cllr. Tony Williams advised that he had sent e-mails on 27 June, 2011, to both the Highways Department and the Portfolio Leader in respect of disregard of the 1 way system in operation on Flaxley Road. At that point, he was still awaiting a reply.
  - ◆ *It would be helpful if the name of the officer to whom the email was sent could be provided.*
  - ◆ *The one-way system is generally used correctly, unfortunately as with a lot of estate one way systems residents on occasions will take risks/short cuts. This is really an enforcement matter for the Police.*
- There was general criticism of the amount of utilities and highways works being undertaken at the same time in the town – Sandy Lane, Wolseley Road, and Queensway were all mentioned.
- A particular concern was raised about the timing sequence on the temporary traffic lights on Sandy Lane, which didn't appear to allow sufficient time for the quantity of traffic coming up the road, resulting in tailbacks further down the hill / onto the roundabout etc.  
SCC Cllr. G. Martin advised that he had been told that some of the works were to be undertaken at night to speed up completion and reduce interference. Unfortunately, the situation had been worsened by British Gas contractors

delaying the start of the works on Wolseley Road.

*This work is planned essential Gas main renewal. The contractors have come across many issues during the various excavations (mains in wrong place / depth) etc which has added frustration to the project.*

*We are working closely with the Contractors in an attempt to keep the traffic flowing and disruption to a minimum. Because of the type of work involved (Carriageway excavation) it is inevitable there will be delays and disruption.*

*A meeting has been held with National Grid and the following agreed:*

- ◆ *The ongoing works on Sandy Lane/Hednesford Road/Queensway and the three way temporary signals that are in place will be completed and removed by mid November 2011. This will include half of the road crossing on Queensway that has already been dug out. Investigation works will continue on Hednesford Road in the footway with no traffic management up to Christmas and will also include some tidying up works on the grass verge where the governor works will be done next year.*
- ◆ *Works will recommence from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 on Hednesford Road at the junction of Queensway where the other half of the road crossing will be completed using three way temporary signals. Once this junction work has been completed (about one week), the signals will progress up Hednesford Road.*

A Member confirmed that the sequence of the traffic lights on Hednesford Road had changed shortly after the last Forum meeting.

No other matters were raised for referral back to the County Council.

## **7. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

A Member commented that, whilst feedback from the Police indicated an overall reduction in incidents of local crime, the trend appeared to be bucked in Brereton and Ravenhill, where the number of incidents had increased. He asked if this correlated to a reduction in Police patrols in the area.

Sgt. Browning advised that there had been no reduction in patrols and she was not aware of a noticeable increase in offences; however, she would speak to the local beat officers to see if there was an apparent reason or pattern to any offences.

A Member advised that there appeared to be an increase in offences in rural areas and enquired if local policing policy was to favour town centres over rural areas in terms of density of coverage.

Sgt. Browning advised that this was not the case, and that the Police responded to incidents as required; wherever that might be. However, the Chase was a large area and it would simply not be feasible to cover to the same extent as the more densely populated and condensed urban areas.

Ms. Singleton advised that, in addition to the urban-based Neighbourhood Watch schemes, several other more specialist groups were available for interested parties to

sign up to and participate in. These included: Poacher Watch; Rural Watch; Farm Watch; Horse Watch; and Canal Watch. She also commented that, while there was a noticeable increase in incidents of poaching at this time of year, this was due to the conditions (shorter days; deers being active for longer etc) and, to the best of her knowledge, the situation was no worse this year than in previous years.

**8. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services**

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for the Fire and Rescue Services, consequently no representative had been sent to the meeting.

No other matters were raised for referral back to the Fire and Rescue Service.

**9. Any Other Business**

No other matters were raised.

**10. Next Meeting**

The Forum was asked to note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 21 March, 2012 at the Rose Theatre and Community Centre, unless notified to the contrary.

**11. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

The Chairman reminded those present that pro formas were attached to their agendas for questions / items to be raised at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

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CHAIRMAN