

Hereford Rural PACT Meeting: 27 January 2010



Cllr S Robertson (Chair)

Cllr K Guthrie
Cllr B Matthews

Cllr M Wilson
Cllr Mary Leonards
Cllr Ann Packman
Cllr John Beavan

Annie Faulder, HC Deputy Chief Executive
Julie Gethin, Head of Partnership Support

WPC Pam Epton (WMP)

Martin Jackson (Amey)
Rachel Rice (Amey)
Ruth Kinsella (Amey)

Anne-Louise Phillips, Head of Financial Services
Ellen Pawley, HC Knowledge and Web Services Manager
Rebecca Walder, HC Corporate Web Editor
David Shepherd, Community Protection Team
Chris Bucknell, Herefordshire Partnership

8 members of the public

Issues from Previous Meeting	Response
<p>Item 1 (Item 12 on previous sheet): The Council was in discussions with Deloitte, the administrators for the building company responsible for Meadow Way/Meridian Grange, to resolve issues relating to the adoption of the road. The response shown on the last action sheet was not complete. Has this issue been resolved?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Amey will follow this up and ensure that feedback is received more promptly in future.</p>
<p>Item 2 (Item 16 on previous sheet): There was problem with vehicles undertaking at the end of Longworth Lane heading west. There were bollards in the road and it had been agreed that diagonal lines would be painted between the bollards and the roadside, but this had</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The response from 4th December outlined the most up to date position.</p> <p>Additional Information: White lines are now considered inadequate, following further technical</p>

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Issues from Previous Meeting	Response
not yet been done. The response given on the action sheet was in direct contradiction to a response that had been given by Amey on the 4 th December. Which response was correct?	inspection and near miss report. This will be the subject of a road safety assessment. Funding and prioritisation is likely to affect the outcome of this assessment.
Item 3 (Item 21 on previous sheet): The hedges at the Lugg Flats had been cut but still needed to be taken down lower.	Response at the PACT: Amey confirmed that this would be done. Job number 01/44325
Item 4 (Item 23 on previous sheet): There was a request for an update from WMP on whether the Community Speedwatch Scheme would be reintroduced. Speeding was still an issue in the area.	Response at the PACT: This was still being discussed by Senior Officers within WMP. Local Councillors were working hard to address the issue and the community are encouraged to contact their Ward Councillor if they had concerns about speeding in their local area.
Item 5 (Item 25 on previous sheet): The delay in finalising the PACT Terms of Reference was not acceptable. Residents felt they should specify what powers the PACT meeting had, who should attend PACT meetings, and standards of service. What is the position regarding Chairing of meetings?	Response at the PACT: The existing Terms of Reference had been brought over from Community Forums and were deemed to be not suitable for the PACT meeting which were delivered in partnership with WMP. There needed to be absolute clarity about what we are going to use as TOR. This would be taken forward by the new Head of Partnership Support and would be available for the next meeting. In the meantime the section within the Constitution would be made available. There have been discussions around whether it is preferable to have independent Chairs or Ward Councillors to Chair PACT meetings. The Herefordshire Partnership Board has decided that people should be chosen for their Chairing skills rather than their position. The choice of Chair should be whatever works best in each location.
Item 6 (Item 27 on previous sheet): Has there been any progress on allowing members of the community to put issues forward in advance of the PACT meeting?	Response at the PACT: It might be possible to use the website for this and the option would be explored. Additional Response Any member of the community could e-mail issues in advance of the

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	meeting to hfdpartnership@herefordshire.gov.uk
Item 7 (Item 30 and 31 on previous sheet): The Parish Councils were not getting regular feedback from Amey.	Response at the PACT: Some ward Councillors get a monthly update regarding issues which had been notified to Amey. This is forwarded to Parish Councillors. This doesn't appear to be universal practice.
Item 8 (Item 33 on previous sheet): At the junction of St Mary's Park with Tillington Road, there was no road sign warning of the T-Junction.	Response at the PACT: The sign had now been erected and there had been very positive feedback from the local community.
West Mercia Police Update on Issues from previous meeting Speeding Traffic through Canon Pyon – in the past 3 month period there had been 26 speeding tickets and 2 people face prosecution. Anti Social Behaviour in Credenhill – 3 offenders have been identified and dealt with. Several others have received verbal warnings. Dog Fouling in Credenhill – Regular patrols are new signage relating to dog fouling has been planned. Speeding on the A48 (Bartestree and Lugwardine) – Speed enforcement activities have been carried out but the problem continues to exist. This issue has been referred to Safer Roads Partnership. Speeding on the A4224 (Hereford to Mordiford) – Observation is continuing. Issues relating to Springfield Close, Marden – Observations continue	

Issues from January 2010 Meeting	Initial Response
Item 9 The Safer Herefordshire Report states that ASB is reduced by 9.5% in Ross and Clehonger. Why is Credenhill not mentioned in this report?	Response at the PACT: This would be taken away and reported back.
Item 10 Dog fouling remains a major problem, particularly during the hours of darkness when people are walking their dogs. Daylight hours are less of a problem. The dog wardens only work during the day which does not address the issue. The copse leisure area at Burghill is a specific issue as dogs are fouling the pitch.	Response at the PACT: Dog Wardens go out from 8.00 am and if there are issues after 6.00 pm will respond flexibly to these. There is currently a tender process underway for retrieval and collection of dogs and this will release the Dog Wardens to carry out more patrols. New signs relating to dog fouling have been erected. The Community Protection Team has been given additional powers to deal with areas that are detrimental under the Town and County Planning Act

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<p>Herefordshire Council were going to look into making Bylaws that parish Councillors could use. Could an update on this be given to the meeting?</p>	<p>and will discuss with Amey how they can work together to address these issues.</p> <p>There needs to be more dog fouling bins in areas where there are specific issues.</p> <p>The creation of Bylaws is going ahead. Dog control areas have been written up and sent out to Parish Councils but a lot have not yet responded. A report would be brought back to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Item 11 On the Whitestone to Bartestree Road, on the southern side of the bridge, there are two pieces of plastic, which are the only things stopping vehicles going over. This is inadequate and should be addressed.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The bridge is the responsibility of Network Rail. Amey would take this up with them.</p>
<p>Item 12 There was no recycling collection in Withington for 4 weeks (between 12th December 2009 and 8th January 2010). Please could collections be scheduled more carefully during other holiday periods?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: This would be noted and feedback.</p>
<p>Item 13 The metal railway bridge at the end of Barrs Court Road (at the end of College Road) needs attention.</p> <p>There is also a considerable amount of litter around the bridge.</p> <p>There are 2 potholes at the southern end of the bridge which need attention.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Network Rail had been asked (around 3 years ago) to consider painting the bridge but had not considered it a priority. Amey has no powers to force Network Rail to address the issue.</p> <p>The litter around the bridge is within the jurisdiction of Amey and this will be addressed. Amey will talk to Network Rail about litter on their land and encourage them to work in partnership to address this.</p> <p>Amey will inspect the potholes and see what can be done.</p>
<p>Item 14 There are no-drinking bans in force in Hereford City but nothing outside the city.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT; There is legislation which covers other areas of the county and the Regulatory Committee can pursue it. If an application is made for a specific</p>

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	area it will be dealt with.
Item 15 Cllr Robertson (Chair) thanked Amey for all the work they had carried out during the recent bad weather. Clearing the roads and keeping the salt bins filled had greatly benefitted the local community.	Response at the PACT; This was noted and would be passed on.

Questions arising from the Finance Presentation	Responses
What is the reason for Herefordshire having 17% less central government funding than comparable authorities?	Local authorities are funded through a complex formula which looks at the population and other factors relating to the county. There is no separate rural factor within the funding formula. There is a heavy emphasis on deprivation. A number of national organisations are being lobbied to try and address this situation.
When will the results of the Total Place study be published? Will it end up in the public domain?	Total Place aims to bring together funding and activity that is carried out through the Police, the Council and other public bodies. It is based on the fact that all these organisations have the same customers (ie Herefordshire residents) and bringing in them together will make the sector more efficient and better able to address the needs of local people. It is still early days yet but any study done at the end of the pilot period will be made public.
Is enhanced partnership working resulting in financial savings?	Working closer together will bring not only financial savings but will help to maintain and develop high quality front line services for the community.
The presentation talked about service pressures. What kind of things are these?	Pressures on services come from a range of factors such as demographic changes, an increasing older population, safeguarding requirements, and enhanced services for children. Legislative demands also put pressure on services, for example legislation around landfill and waste. There are also issues which have come about from the economic downturn and the necessity to provide inflationary increased for providers.
Is it intended to increase charges for older people's services?	Herefordshire Council is currently reviewing the level of subsidy it currently makes in this area. Some services are statutory and there are a whole range of discretionary charges which need to be considered. This work is ongoing.
The list of expenditure does not mention pensions and	This presentation was meant to provide an overview rather than to go into a

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Questions arising from the Finance Presentation	Responses
salaries of council employees.	high level of detail. There are a number of leaflets which provide a subjective analysis of all council expenditure and these are readily available.
The presentation talks about reviewing the charge the Council makes for services. Surely taking Council Tax is already charging for services?	Council Tax does not cover all services. Some, such as planning, are currently subsidised and this may need to change.

Questions arising from the Amey Presentation	Responses
Parish Walks had been very beneficial. It allowed the Parish Counsellors and Parish Clerks to see the local environment and understand the issues which affected their communities. Is there a timetable for future walks?	A timetable for future Parish walks would be circulated.
Who decides on the priorities for road repairs?	There is a Road network Survey carried out annually. The results of this survey are scored (red/amber/green) and the priorities worked out accordingly.
The Lengthsman Scheme was currently looked after by Herefordshire Council but has not been taken over by Amey. Will this mean any changes for the scheme?	It is only responsibility for the finance which has been transferred to Amey. Funding is available each year for the Lengthsman Scheme. The Lengthsman is employed and managed through the Parish Council.
Credenhill is a one road village and all farm traffic has to pass through the village. Often materials, feed and animals are transported by contractors and there is frequently spillage onto the highway. The local people pay for road clearing over and above the service offered by Amey. Whose responsibility is it for clearing up the debris left by these lorries and trailers? Should there not be some kind of responsibility to help keep the highway clean?	Whoever makes the mess on the highway has a responsibility for ensuring it is cleared up. If the farmer is contracting work to third parties he should ensure that they adhere by health and safety rules and do not leave debris on the highway. The Community Protection Team does not currently have the powers to deal with issues such as excessive mud on the highway. This may be something that is looked at in the future. Amey would take this issue away and report at the next meeting
The recent cold weather has resulted in an extensive number of potholes which need attention. Will this extra work affect the planned schedules?	In January 2010 all available resources were put into ensuring that potholes were dealt with speedily. This has meant that some schedules are running behind but Amey are putting all their efforts into ensuring they catch up as far as possible.

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Questions arising from the Amey Presentation	Responses
Potholes used to be filled and sealed but now they appear not to be sealed and often open up again.	On Amey roads all potholes are sealed. Only in emergencies are potholes filled without sealing but this is then rectified at the earliest opportunity. It is estimated that £5.5 million will be required to deal with all the potholes in Herefordshire.
Sometimes when hedge trimming pieces of wood fly into the roadway and can cause a hazard for the traffic.	Amey do not carry out hedge trimming; this is done by private contractors employed by local landowners. Hedge trimming carried out in May and August should always have traffic control.