

Kington PACT meeting
3 February 2010



Chair: Richard Quallington, Chief Executive, Community First
Cllr John Hope
Sgt Colin Smith, WMP
PC Jo Ellis, WMP
PC Tony Shaw, WMP
David Powell, Director of Resources. Herefordshire Council

Ruth Kinsella, Watchman in Chief, AMEY
Andrew Lee-Jones, Lead Engineer, AMEY
Julie Gethin, Head of Partnership Support, Herefordshire Partnership
David Shepherd, Enforcement Officer, Community Protection Team
Ashley Tucker, Web Content Team Leader, ICT Services, HC
Hazel Lavelle, PACT Organiser, Herefordshire Council
13 members of the public

Issue	Response
<p>Item 1: There had been incidents of people taking grit from the grit bins in Staunton-on-Arrow, loading it into their cars, and driving to other locations. Was there any guidance on this?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Grit was intended for use on the public roads and not for private driveways. If people were known to be misusing the grit it should be reported to AMEY via the Streetscene number (01432 261800), or e-mail: streets@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Item 2: A question was raised about the changes to policing and how they might impact on the police service in the Kington area.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Sgt Colin Smith outlined the changes which took effect from 1 February. The service at Kington police station would not change.</p>
<p>Item 3: A freighter had appeared at Eardisley a few weeks ago, but because it had not been publicised in advance, it may not have been used as much as it would have been.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The Parish Council was responsible for obtaining the freighter and they would normally advertise it locally. However, the issue would be referred to the waste management team for comment.</p>
<p>Item 4: Traffic was travelling too fast in Church Street Kington.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The police were aware of this and were doing as much as they could to address the problem</p>
<p>Item 5: There was a problem with parking on double yellow lines in Church Street.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Illegal parking was a matter for the council. Enforcement officers would take action to address the problem. Where there was dangerous parking, it was a matter for the local policing team, and they would continue to deal with incidents.</p>
<p>Item 6: The parking enforcement officers were never around at the times</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Officers tried to be in the area around 3:00pm. They would look again</p>

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they were most needed – when children were going to school and coming out in the afternoon.	at this. The police would also try to be visible, where their duties permitted, to act as a deterrent to illegal parking.
David Powell, the council's Director of Resources, gave a presentation on the councils budget for 2010/11 and beyond. The following three questions relate to that presentation:	
Item 7: In view of the need for economies, would it not be better for Herefordshire to merge with Worcestershire again, or to merge certain services?	Response at the PACT: There were no plans to consider merging with Worcestershire again. However, the council was already working with other councils, for example, by sharing staff and some admin functions. The county had more in common with Shropshire than Worcestershire, since Shropshire had recently become a unitary authority. It was crucial that the merger of Herefordshire Council with the PCT should work. In any future local authority reorganisation, counties with small populations would be vulnerable.
Item 8: How did the council propose to make the necessary £5.6m savings?	Response at the PACT: Some of the savings would be made from cuts in support services. The Resources Directorate had already made a start on this, for example, by not replacing staff who left the council, and making savings on contracts. The Children's Services Directorate was also economising by managing vacancies. No radical cuts were proposed, and there should be minimal impact on the service to users.
Item 9: Was there scope for the council to return to competitive tendering and contracting out services?	Response at the PACT: Competitive tendering no longer existed, but there was considerable scope for contracting out support services such as Finance, HR and Property functions.
David Shepherd, one of the Enforcement Officer's in the council's Community Protection Team, gave a presentation about the work of the team. The following questions relate to that presentation:	
Item 10: A resident who was a magistrate cited a case that demonstrated how seriously the courts took fly-tipping. A recent case had been referred to the Crown Court, which could impose very heavy fines.	Response at the PACT: Acknowledged.
Item 11: A local environmental group was active in Kington, and could offer assistance to the Community Protection Team by notifying them of incidents in the town.	Response at the PACT: Acknowledged.

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Item 12: If residents reported neighbours for dog-fouling, it would be very difficult for them to have to testify in court against their neighbours. It would be much better if the dog warden patrolled more frequently.	Response at the PACT: Members of the public could provide information to the Community Protection Team, such as the time of day when incidents occurred and the type of dog involved, and the team could then try to attend when the offence was likely to occur.
Item 13: There was a problem with dog-fouling in the recreation ground in Kington, and in some of the lanes.	Response at the PACT: The by-laws covering particular areas would shortly be extended to cover all public areas. The Community Protection Team would deal with this issue.