

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010



Chair: Cllr Pat Morgan

Jonathon Bretherton, Chief Executive of ESG, Herefordshire Ltd
Leonie Burton (Playbuilder)

Cllr Roy Stockton
Cllr Peter Watts

Ruth Kinsella, AMEY
Ross Garbutt, AMEY
Chris Roden, AMEY

Sgt Emma Freer
PC Paul Hunter
PC Dan Pilkington

21 members of the public

Policing Update

Sgt Emma Freer introduced the new local policing team, which consisted of herself, PC Paul Hunter (Ledbury Town), PC Dan Pilkington (Ledbury Rural) and two Community Support Officers. Support teams covering Ross on Wye, Leominster, Ledbury and Hereford were always available to respond to incidents.

Questions on Local Policing Matters

Response

As there are only 3 police officers in the Local Policing Team, when leave and sickness are taken into account there will often be less than 3 in the locality. There should be some kind of pool of officers who can be allocated to towns to cover staff absence. Ledbury needs to be covered at all times and in the past has experienced significant periods without a local policing team. What is the response time for officers to come from (say) Ross on Wye?

WMP feel that having a local policing team supported by a response team covering Leominster, Ross on Wye, Hereford and Ledbury is a strength. This system ensures that there is always a team of officers who can respond to incidents. The response time depends on the nature of the call and where individual officers are when the call comes in.

Each individual officer has a mobile but when they are off duty calls go through to an answering machine. Could phones not be

The LPT do carry mobiles but incidents should be reported through the call centre number 0300 333 3000 where there are always officers on

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

<p>passed between officers on duty so that incidents (not 999) could be reported?</p> <p>Local businesses do not always know the call centre number, could there be some awareness raising done?</p>	<p>duty who can deal with issues there and then.</p> <p>This number has been active for over 12 months and has been well publicised so local people should be familiar with it. The use of this number will be reinforced where possible.</p>
<p>There are police cars and vans parked all around the area by the police station making access to the police houses difficult.</p>	<p>This will be addressed.</p>
<p>Update on ESG, Herefordshire Ltd by Jonathon Bretherton, Chief Executive of ESG, Herefordshire Ltd</p> <p>ESG Herefordshire Ltd is an economic development company established by Herefordshire Council and Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency. It was well recognised that plans needed to be put in place to ensure Hereford could grow and prosper; ESG is tasked with delivering a part of that plan. ESG has responsibility for building 800 new homes, the new road (to access homes and take traffic off inner ring road), cinema, department store, offices and various other developments in the inner city area.</p> <p>Work has already started to join High Town to the ESG development; this phase will be followed by the flood alleviation project. Work has also started on the new livestock market. Planning permission for the inner ring road was secured last March and work will start on that in due course. Later this year, planning will be put in for a multi screen cinema, restaurant, shops, small department store, and supermarket (possibly Waitrose). Work on that is due to start in 2012.</p>	
<p>Questions on ESG Update</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>How long will all this take?</p>	<p>The work will be phased over a number of years. The houses will be started in around 2 years time with a completion date about 10 years from now.</p>
<p>The centre of Hereford is very depressing with many empty shops. Will the centre revive when new development is finished?</p> <p>.</p>	<p>That is exactly the reason why we need to do this. If you live in Hereford you may shop in the city but those who do not live in the city tend to go elsewhere. The idea of ESG is that it will provide the right sort of shops which will bring people into the city. Encouraging them to spend a day there and enjoy things city has to offer.</p> <p>We are delighted that part of Chadds has been let the Entertainer which is a high quality toy shop. They own a chain of retail outlets around the county and are going to spend half million refurbishing the premises.</p>
<p>There are around 50 retail units empty in the city centre. Would it</p>	<p>It is true to say Hereford has around 50 units empty but this is typical of</p>

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

not be better to focus on filling these?	cities up and down the county and is below the national average. Cities change and need to change to keep surviving. Hereford is actually more vibrant and healthy than many others and needs to be talked up. There are around 10% of units empty and as the economy moves these shops will be re-let.
300 houses are being built on the Merton Meadow car park. Where is the car parking going to come from when this space is no longer available?	Herefordshire Council is adopting a new parking strategy for whole area. The Merton Meadow area will become housing but there will be a lot more car parking on the cattle market. A park and ride system will be implemented shortly. The council is also considering building a multi story car park.
Ruth Kinsella, Watchman in Chief at Amey Herefordshire gave a presentation on the winter roads programme. Cllr Morgan explained that Herefordshire Council's Overview and Scrutiny committee is to hold a full review on the impact of the severe winter weather on communities within the county. The committee members will be looking at how the council, schools, NHS Herefordshire, police and the voluntary sector were affected by the winter weather. Councillors will look at what lessons can be learnt, what was done right and what can be improved.	
Questions on Winter Roads Programme	Response
<p>During the snow last winter the pavement from the railway station into centre was dangerous as were pavements in the town centre. Do you have any policy about gritting pavements? During the bad weather no-one made any attempt to clear pavements in the town.</p> <p>It seems that over the last 20 years priorities have changed. Pavements were a high priority and gritted. This year priority was on roads. It is crucial that the priority is moved back to pavements which are vital to people's livelihood and independence.</p> <p>More salt bins are needed in and around Ledbury so that the community can clear areas themselves.</p>	<p>In severe weather events the salt is controlled by central government and priority is then given to major roads. As a result we are now looking at alternative methods of ice clearance away from the Highway as we appreciate that there are still issues surrounding people getting out and about. This review is taking place county wide.</p>
What contingency budget and funding will Amey have for next cold winter?	What needs to be carried out for the winter services is always funded by Herefordshire Council in line with the Winter Service policy. Therefore it is not possible to give an exact amount.
What do Amey employees do when there is no gritting and salting to be carried out?	All employees are fully employed working on the network as a whole and can be transferred between posts eg resurfacing, fixing roads.

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

<p>Other countries do not seem to suffer in the same way when the weather is bad. Can some research be done as to how these countries organize their winter programme? What lessons have been learnt to prevent this happening again?</p>	<p>This will form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Review which will result in a report containing recommendations for the future.</p>
<p>It has been said that priority must be given to major roads but how can people use these roads when they often cannot get out of their drives? Billions of revenue is gained from road tax and tax on petrol. Could this not be used to improve things?</p>	<p>Road tax and fuel tax goes to central government and is not available to be spent at the discretion of the local authority. There hasn't been a comparative period of severe weather in the last 20 years. If the authorities knew that every year there would be extreme periods of severe weather there would be a different level of investment. As it stands the authority as a whole cannot plan year on year.</p>
<p>Just before the bad weather the Malvern road out of Ledbury was surfaced by the pothole filling has not lasted. When will road through Ledbury be made good?</p>	<p>Amey will look at the roads programme and report back.</p>
<p>Presentation on the Playbuilder Project by Leonie Burton Children should have a right and the opportunity to play in their community. We need to reflect on how children play and the barriers they face eg use of cars. Although the bad weather may have inconvenienced many of us, children loved it with schools closed and fewer cars about. There are other things to consider such as parental pressure and how children can access play spaces. With a growing use of technology there is a changing dynamic about how children play and how they spend their leisure time.</p> <p>Ledbury has recently been awarded £50k through Playbuilder (in total Herefordshire had £1 million) which will be used to increase opportunities for children and improve their lives. This funding will be used to improve the recreation ground. Funding is also available for Deer Park where Herefordshire Council will be putting in new equipment. New Mills has missed out but Herefordshire Council is looking at how it can access funding to improve what is on offer in that area.</p>	
<p>Questions on Playbuilder Project</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>It is excellent news about Deer Park as there are a lot of children and young people in that area. What is the timeframe for completion of the work?</p>	<p>All activity has to be finished by March 2011 which is in line with the Play Strategy funding framework. Herefordshire Council is working with one contractor to have continuity and is committed to finishing the work as soon as possible.</p>

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

<p>The local football club is in a serious position as the landlord has recently put the rent up from £10k to £24k. It is felt that there is a move towards building houses on the ground. Will Herefordshire Council look into whether the football ground has to be kept as a play area? Children cannot go across the road to the rugby ground.</p> <p>As part of a recent consultation children asked if they could have nets. This was referred to the Town Council but nothing has yet happened.</p>	<p>The Town Council want to raise funds to save the Football Club which goes back to 1893. The Town Council was told by Herefordshire Council that the funding had to be spent on the Recreation Ground otherwise it would be lost. It is well recognised that facilities are also needed on Deer Park.</p> <p>The Town Council have got nets but the problem is that the goal posts on Deer Park and the Recreation Field are not full size so the nets are too big.</p>
<p>There is a nice playground at Deer Park for nursery age children that is hardly ever used. There are anti social behaviour issues at both recreation areas. Money shouldn't be spent on those areas without dealing with the housing, safety and policing issues.</p>	<p>It needs to be recognised that young people have a need for recreation as well. There is an element of trouble causers in every community but most young people are just hanging out. The local policing team knows there is an issue out of hours and will keep a presence in that area.</p>

Local Issues brought up at the meeting	Response
<p>Issue 1: There are problems with infrastructure in Ledbury (Knapp Lane, Top Cross etc). What plans are there for Ledbury? More and more heavy traffic is coming through town. What plans are there for continuation of the by-pass? 20 years ago an extension of the Ledbury ring road (by-pass) was agreed. Could something not be done to start it?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The Council is investing in Ledbury but cannot answer the point about the bypass at this stage.</p>
<p>Issue 2: Ledbury needs much more car parking space. The double yellow lines outside new hospital and cottage hospital are not necessary. Ledbury has a taxi rank but no taxis but this area is not available for parking. Many disabled spaces are situated in the wrong place which also restricts parking. The bollards outside the Bye Street toilets need removing.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Responsibility for traffic issues has been transferred from Herefordshire Council to Amey. Putting in or removing traffic orders can be lengthy businesses, normally taking around 12 months although temporary orders can be completed in 6 months. There needs to be a consultation period with the views of local people taken into account.</p> <p>The Town Council has a car parking committee which is looking into the whole issue of parking in Ledbury. The Town Council is having discussions with Herefordshire Council to see what lines can be taken away and what need to remain. There is a bus stop outside the</p>

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

Local Issues brought up at the meeting	Response
	<p>Cottage Hospital so those yellow lines need to remain.</p> <p>Disabled parking normally has to be provided in every car park. Amey will look at specific areas and report back.</p> <p>The bollards in Bye Street were originally put there to stop people parking and if they are removed that area may be blocked. The situation regarding this will be checked.</p>
<p>Issue 3: Just before bad the bad weather the Malvern road out of Ledbury was surfaced but the pothole filling has not lasted. When will roads through Ledbury be made good? There needs to be some high quality top dressing done on a number of roads in the town.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Amey will look at the winter roads programme and report back.</p>
<p>Issue 4: (issue 8 from the last meeting): There are still a number of drains which are blocked.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The drain by the railway has been cleared. If there are others Amey ask that they be reported and they will be cleared.</p>
<p>Issue 4: The road coming off Bye Street (by Youth Club) is in bad repair. What is happening with it?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The Town Council over years has spent money trying to find out who owns that land; the conclusion is that it is unclaimed land which used to belong to canal people. Herefordshire Council is looking into it to see if they can lay claim to the land, allowing repair work to begin.</p>
<p>Issue 5: The Community Hospital in Ledbury is brilliant, especially the A&E department. The problem is trying to see a doctor out of hours. There is a good walk-in facility in Hereford. Are there plans to have one in Ledbury?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Everyone is entitled to see a doctor when they need one. At the moment this means calling a number which will take you to a health professional who will take your history and ascertain level of response (ambulance, home visit, doctor next day etc). There was only enough funding for one walk-in centre and the agreement was that it should be in Hereford. There is no immediate plan for walk in centre in Ledbury as there is not the resource to do it. There is a need to make best use of what we already have and to learn more about the needs of local people across the county.</p>

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

Local Issues brought up at the meeting	Response
<p>Issue 6: There is under-age drinking under the bridge on Woodley Road and on Lawnside. This has been a problem since last summer and there is a need for a better response.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Issues such as this need to be reported so that WMP are aware of the individual problems. The community need to make the police aware of the issues. WMP will look into the areas mentioned.</p>
<p>Issue 7: What are the regulations on underage drinking and proxy purchase of alcohol and cigarettes?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The regulations will be looked into and reported back.</p> <p>Safer Ledbury Group. Are doing a Roadhow go give out information on a range of issues including proxy purchasing. The Crimestoppers number is 0800 555 111 and the WMP Call Centre is 0300 333 3000.</p> <p>WMP and the Community Protection Team patrol what are perceived as hot spots and operate a three strikes and you are out scheme for under underage drinkers. The way forward is to educate rather than legislate – this is the way young people will learn. PACT surgeries are held at Tescos where leaflets on proxy purchase are given out.</p>
<p>Issue 8: There is a need to put in place more positive activities for young people in Ledbury. There is a problem with provision of youth clubs, football etc</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Ledbury Youth First has ceased due to lack of funding. There is a Youth Forum and a lot of other youth activities in Ledbury, some run by Churches Together.</p>
<p>Issue 9: Dog fouling on the footpath has now almost completely ceased due to the work of the Community Protection Team and the Dog Wardens. Thanks should go to the team for their work in this area.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Noted.</p>
<p>Issue 10: St Catherine's car park, which is normally the first port of call for visitors, is in bad state. The wall is unsafe. Why do we need recycle bins in main car parks? Could they be situated elsewhere?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Amey will look into this and report back.</p> <p>It was reported that Herefordshire Council are now taking over control of the wall and restoring it like for like. The Town Council had invested</p>

Ledbury PACT meeting 10th May 2010

Local Issues brought up at the meeting	Response
	£11k into finding out who owned the wall.
Issue 11: During the election one member of the public had to report an issue where a teller was engaged in conversation with member of public about to go into vote. What do the police know about law regarding polling stations?	Response at the PACT: There are strict rules governing what tellers can and cannot do at Polling Stations and all electoral staff are made aware of these rules. The electoral department would be made aware of the issue.
Issue 12: The cats eyes need replacing in Bosbury. The response had been inadequate as this is a very busy road.	Response at the PACT: Amey will look into it.