

**Leominster PACT meeting
7.00pm Monday 8th February 2010
Forbury Chapel, Leominster**



Present:

Chair: Rev. Nick Read, Agricultural Chaplain
Sgt Mike Doolan (WMP)
P.C. Angie Hull (WMP)
P.C. Tracy Lewis (WMP)
C.S.O. Christine Howard (WMP)
Cllr J Stone
Cllr S Bowen
Cllr R Hunt

David Shepherd – Enforcement Officer (Herefordshire Council)
Charlie Adan – Legal and Democratic Services (Herefordshire Council)
Keith Lloyd (Amey)
Rachel Davies (Amey)
Mark Watkins (Amey)
Ruth Taylor – Finance (Herefordshire Council)
Ashley Tucker – Web Services (Herefordshire Council)
Julie Gethin – Herefordshire Partnership
Jane Jones – Herefordshire Partnership
30 members of the public

Issues from Previous Meeting	Response
<p>Item 1 (Item 3 on previous sheet) Ropewalk Avenue - In respect of the erection of nationally approved warning signs to deter HGVs turning, was there now a timescale?</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: (Amey) After studies it has been decided not to put a warning sign up.</p>
<p>Item 2 (Item 1 on previous sheet) Pinsley Road – in respect of the new traffic management system</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Mark Watkins from Amey reported that a Cabinet Members' report is being proposed with an estimated completion of works on site by April 2010, subject to all planning approvals.</p>
<p>Item 3 (Item 6 on previous sheet) A question was raised in respect of a timescale for implementing prosecutions for the inappropriate display of "A" boards.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: David Shepherd responded that work had been done to contact businesses individually, and there had been a favourable response. During a number of walkabout visits in Leominster there had not been any evidence of the inappropriate display of "A" boards. A comment was made about obstructions outside Martins newsagent, and this would be pursued.</p>

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Issues from Previous Meeting	Response
Item 4 (Item 7 on previous sheet) Parking in Vicarage Street	Response at the PACT: West Mercia Police (WMP) indicated that the problem was partially resolved. A number of "No Waiting" cones had been displayed which had helped, but this was only a temporary measure and Pinsley Guest House felt this might deter their customers. A permanent answer was required. Cllr Hunt had met the Council's Lead Engineer and, although the process to rectify the problem might be lengthy, he was confident of a successful outcome. A number of comments were raised about inconsiderate / illegal parking. WMP asked residents to report obstructions as quickly as possible. First occasions to be dealt with a warning, but subsequent offences to be dealt with by Fixed Penalty Notices.
Item 5 (Item 9 on previous sheet) Cars continued to be parked outside the Post Office	Response at the PACT: As with the previous item, residents were asked to report this at the time, to enable action to be taken quickly.

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New Issues arising at the February PACT meeting	Response
<p>Item 6 A comment was made about the poor quality of pavements in Broad Street and Corn Square.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: It was acknowledged that a good deal of money had been invested on Leominster's pavements, but that over time the stone had deteriorated or been dug up by utility companies. Yorkshire Stone had been chosen for its look and character, but it was recognised that as it is not a smooth stone and can crack, it sometimes results in a less than smooth surface. The representatives from Amey would take this back for further consideration.</p> <p>Additional Response:</p>
<p>Item 7 A question was raised about the procedure for enabling an area to have Residents Parking. This was particularly relevant in South Street where local people don't use their cars because they can't find a space to park when they return home.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: It was agreed that the procedure for allocating a Residents Only parking area would be pursued.</p> <p>Leominster Town Council Response:</p>
<p>Item 8 Concern was raised over a recent incident which had occurred at night. The police response time was fast but, despite the perceived severity of the incident, local residents expressed concern that the perpetrators were only moved on.</p> <p>Separate incidents of disturbances on Friday and Saturday evenings were reported in South Street.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: WMP acknowledged the incident which had been reported by an anonymous caller and emphasised the need for people to phone them and report such incidents at the time. Callers can remain anonymous, but the more information offered at the time would assist the police.</p> <p>The police appreciated that residents might be concerned about giving their name and address but said that if a resident told the operator they didn't want an officer to call at their house, this would absolutely be respected.</p> <p>Should additional information be required, the police would do this through telephone contact only, and they asked that those present should pass this message on to other residents.</p>
<p>Item 9. Irresponsible dog owners were again allowing their animals to foul public areas and run loose. About a year ago the situation had improved after an article in Herefordshire Matters and this was requested again.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Officers present agreed to pursue the possibility of finding out about putting an article in Herefordshire Matters.</p> <p>In respect of dog bins, officers would enquire whether these are the</p>

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<p>The areas around the Grange, Corn Square and the Priory are particularly dirty and a dog bin was requested at the picnic area behind the Old Priory.</p>	<p>responsibility of the Town or County Council.</p> <p>Additional Response: The Town Council is looking into this (Cllr Hunt)</p>
<p>Item 10. A question was raised over whether Herefordshire Council has any influence over utility companies. Concern was expressed over the impact of eye-sores created by unfinished jobs.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Amey requested that any such concerns should be reported to their main Reception number 01432 845900. If signs or other items left behind were deemed to be litter they would be treated as such and removed.</p>
<p>Item 11. Bollards a the end of Vicarage Street</p>	<p>Response at the PACT:</p>
<p>Item 12. The tree outside No.18 Vicarage Street required trimming.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT:</p>
<p>Item 13. Dangerous litter was reported on the Grange, particularly broken glass and tins which shred when the grass is mown. Also, the area around the Priory Church and Millennium Green require tidying an cleaning.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT:</p> <p>Additional Response The Town Council will clean up (Cllr Hunt)</p>
<p>Item 14. Herefordshire Council was congratulated on its very prompt action in clearing debris which had been left on the road between Eyton and Kingsland.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Noted.</p>
<p>Item 15. Concern was expressed over a number of recent burglaries and other crimes in the Godiva Road area.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: WMP were fully aware of these and they were part of a wider investigation. Additional patrols had been put in place and the police had identified local people who may be particularly vulnerable. Advice on locks and lighting had been offered and the police will speak to <u>anyone</u> who requires additional reassurance. As with Item 8. (above) WMP requested people to contact them with information, and that a police officer would not call at the house if they requested them not to do so.</p>
<p>Item 16. A question was raised over whether there would be more police officers locally when the 2,600 proposed new houses were built.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Whilst it was not possible to confirm this, it was hoped that the additional infrastructure required to support additional housing would be in situ.</p>

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Item 17. Feral pigeons in Leominster were becoming a nuisance. It was particularly bad by Barber & Manuel.	Response at the PACT: David Shepherd -
Item 18. Local people would like to be informed when Licenses come up for renewal.	Response at the PACT: The process by which this happens to be clarified.
Item 19. There is a considerable amount of litter around the Junior School.	Response at the PACT: David Shepherd reported that it had been cleaned once. A considerable amount of litter appears at lunchtime and officers would "visit" at that time. David would also contact the school.
Item 20. Some of the drains in Etnam Street * were not working properly. After water clears away a black sludge is left behind, creating a permanently muddy channel. * Going out of town on the right hand side between the chip shop and Bell.	Response at the PACT: Amey
Item 21. The new takeaway in Etnam Street had caused even more rubbish locally, and additional bins are needed. Also there are cigarette ends outside the pubs in that area.	Response at the PACT: David Shepherd

West Mercia Police reported on key areas on which they are particularly focussing:

- Speeding in Green Lane
- Anti Social Behaviour around Paradise Court
- “Boy racers” around the Gas Works car park (with a request for people to call the police and report registration numbers)
- Speeding in Leintwardine

P.C. Lewis also reported on a proposed shift pattern change, going from 4 – 5 shifts. This will allow an overlap to ensure handover time. Additional shifts will be directed at priority places and times.

A member of the public thanked WMP and the Enforcement Officer for all their hard work and wished it to be recorded that their role is valued and appreciated.

Ashley Tucker from Herefordshire Council’s I.T. team (web services) briefly explained that he would be happy to speak to anyone who might be interested in a forthcoming Workshop to be held in March. This would discuss the Council’s county-wide web access and services.

Rachel Davies gave a presentation about the services provided by Amey and how it works with Herefordshire Council.

She particularly asked that anyone who wish report anything to Amey should give very specific site details so that problems can be identified as quickly as possible. The contact telephone number is 01432 261800 (Herefordshire Council’s Info by Phone service).

Ruth Taylor from Herefordshire Council’s Finance department gave a presentation on its Budget for 2010/11 and Beyond and the particular challenges facing the Council, including provision of rural services, an ageing population and falling birthrate.

Item 22.

A question was raised regarding how Herefordshire’s funding allocation is arrived at, and why we receive lower levels of funding.

Response at the PACT:

Charlie Adan gave an overview regarding the process by which Herefordshire’s funding allocation is allocated. There is a complex process by which multiple deprivation indices are examined collated and funds are divided nationally.

Additional Response:

Item 23.

A question was raised regarding a recent letter in a local newspaper indicating that 26p in every pound goes in to the Local Authority’s pension “black hole” - is this true?

Response at the PACT:

It was agreed that this would need to be referred back for clarification at the next PACT meeting.

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Item 24.

There is a problem with dog fouling in King's Meadow, Wigmore.

David Shepherd