



**St. Nicholas & Three Elms. PACT Meeting
Thursday 28th January 2010
Action Sheet**



Cllr Andrews (Chair)
Cllr Benjamin
Cllr Woodward
Cllr Toon

Geoff Hughes, Director of Regeneration
Julie Gethin, Head of Partnership Support

PC John Westlake (WMP)

John Maddy (Amey)
Dave Osborne (Amey)
Chris Wright (Amey)
Malcolm Wallace (Amey)

Malcolm Green. Financial Services
Joanna Lindsay-Jones, Community Protection Team
Ashley Tucker, Web Content Team Leader

Chris Bucknell, Herefordshire Partnership

12 members of the public

| Issues from Previous Meeting | Response |
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| <p>Item 1 (Item 6 on previous sheet) Speeding and Parking in Ryland Street is causing concern.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: WMP had carried out spot checks on the traffic in Ryland Street and all vehicles had a genuine reason for being in that locality. They would continue to monitor it.</p> |
| <p>Item 2 (Item 8 on previous sheet) Who authorised the recent kerbing exercise in Whitecross Road and how much did it cost? It does not seem to have made any positive impact on either the road or the pavement.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: Amey would find this out and report back.</p> |

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| <p>Item 3 (Item 9 on previous sheet) Working hours of Parking Enforcement Officers and Community Protection Team.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: In addition to the response that was given on the action sheet, Cllr Toon informed the meeting that there was continuing work being done to make the service more flexible and to get an increased level of out-of-hours working. The Community Protection Team currently work out of hours if there is a known issue that needs to be addressed.</p> |
| <p>Item 4 (Item 14 on previous sheet) Cyclists riding along Penhaligon Way without lights are still causing a hazard.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: WMP have been monitoring Penhaligon Way and have not encountered any issues. It is felt this may be linked to people coming out of work in some of the major employers. WMP have asked Cargill (Sun Valley) to impress on their employees that they must use lights when cycling at night.</p> |
| <p>Item 5 (Item 15 on previous sheet) Concern regarding a high level of vandalism in the local area.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: Meetings have been held between the local policing team and the organisations/officers who manage the various sites where vandalism is taking place. The police need more information regarding these incidents so that they can map a pattern of behaviour across the locality. The community was encouraged to report issues, no matter how small, so that the police can map incidents across the area.</p> |
| <p>Item 6 (Item 17 on previous sheet) There are three trees overhanging the road by Holy Trinity Church, this causes vehicles to have to pull out unnecessarily. It was reported that a tree specialist was looking at the site but nothing has been done to address the issue. Defect number 01/42336</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: Amey have received a report from the tree specialist. The three trees are in poor condition and all have suffered from vehicle damage. The trees do restrict visibility. Now this report has been received Amey will address the issue.</p> |

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| <p>Item 7: The bottom of Holmer Street was closed for gas works for some considerable time. Why did it take so long and does the Gas Board have the right to close a road for this length of time?</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: The closure was due to the installation of a new gas main and this requires time for the roadworks to vent. British Gas does have the right to close the road in order to do their work.</p> |

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| | This work was not the responsibility of Herefordshire Council. A letter would be sent to the Gas Board requesting more information about this particular road closure. |
| <p>Item 8: There are a number of council employees parking in Mostyn Street and causing inconvenience to the residents. In addition the lights in the old Board Room (now Hereford Room) in Plough Lane are left on at night and this is causing concern to those whose houses back onto the building.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: These issues will be raised with the Premises Manager.</p> <p>Additional Response: There has been additional parking arranged at Plough Lane so the fact that officers are still using Mostyn Street is a concern. An e-mail has been sent to all Plough lane employees asking them not to park in Mostyn Street. This will be monitored.</p> <p>The lights in the Hereford Room at Plough Lane are turned off each night before staff leave the building. However, the lights are computer controlled so any movement which the sensors pick up activates the lights. The Premises Manager has requested that the custodian turns off the computer controller every night to see if that sorts the problem. HC would appreciate feedback from residents of Mostyn Street as to whether the issue has been solved.</p> |
| <p>Item 9: Cars are parking at the top end of Penhaligon Way where the buses turn. Is it illegal to park within a certain distance of a junction?</p> | <p>Response at the PACT (WMP): Car parking near a junction is not illegal unless it is causing danger to the public. The 15 meter rule is advisory only. If cars are within 10 meters of a junction at night this can be enforced.</p> |
| <p>Item 10: There are problems with parking at the lower end of Broomy Hill.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: The work needs to be prioritised as there is only limited A plan has been discussed and agreed for yellow lines at Broomy Hill. It is hoped to use Section 106 money for yellow lines and signage in this area.</p> |
| <p>Item 11: Amey have done an excellent job repairing the roads during the recent bad weather.</p> <p>What obligation has the Council got to fill in potholes? Would it be better to completely re-surface the road with higher quality materials?</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: Herefordshire Council recognise how important it is to do high quality repairs on the roads that have been affected by the bad weather. It is estimated that the cost of repairing the potholes will be in the region on £5 million and additional funding is being sought to carry out this work quickly and effectively.</p> |

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| | <p>Amey is working very hard to fill and seal potholes and has put as much resource into this as it can. Potholes are cut out and repaired in accordance with agreed standards in order to provide as permanent solution as possible although it is inevitable that some potholes will come back. Resurfacing is a more permanent solution that this would require additional resources. The community are encouraged to report potholes on streets@herefordshire.gov.uk.</p> |
| <p>Item 12: During the bad weather the underpass was blocked for some time due to flooding which caused disruption and danger to the public with people having to cross the main road. Every time it rains the subway floods and this needs to be addressed.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: The subway is the responsibility of the Highways Agency. Cllr Wilcox (Cabinet Member for Highways) has regular meetings with the Highways Agency and this will be put on the agenda. Herefordshire Council will look into whether they can provide an emergency number to help with this in the future.</p> |
| <p>Item 13: Barton Road needs a pedestrian crossing. There is no pavement on the opposite side to St Nicholas Church and this can pose a danger for the public trying to cross.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: This would be looked into.</p> |
| <p>Item 14: The security lights in the Herefordshire Council parking area behind TPG have not been working for some time. This could present a danger to those using the area after dark.</p> | <p>Response at the PACT: This will be looked into.</p> <p>Additional Information: The housing for the electric supply has been vandalised and needs replacing. The electricity board has disconnected the main supply due to the dangerous and exposed condition of the wiring. It has now been established that this is the responsibility of Herefordshire Council and this work is being progressed.</p> |
| Questions arising from the Finance Presentation | Responses |
| <p>Do the figures quoted include the whole income coming into the county?</p> | <p>The figures do not include West Mercia Police, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service and the Parish Precept.</p> |

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| Central Government is saying that Council Tax increases should come in well below 3%. Does the Council consider that proposing a rise of 2.9% is a significant reduction on this figure? | The setting of Council Tax is a political decision. The figure of 2.9% is a proposal only and has yet to be agreed at a full Council meeting. |
| How long will the Council be able to continue to make savings and efficiencies? | It is expected that public sector funding will reduce by 5% per year over the coming years. This will mean there will be considerably less funding available which will result in less expenditure year on year. The Total Place initiative will mean public sector organisations will work together to delivery services in a joined up way, thus reducing costs. Herefordshire Council are currently talking to West Mercia Police about sharing services and resources. |
| Will Herefordshire Council be considering redundancies? | There is currently a senior restructuring underway which will flow down through the whole organisations. Over three years it is expected that around 200-250 redundancies which will need to be made if essential services are to be maintained. |
| Are Herefordshire Council proactive in looking at grant funding opportunities? | Herefordshire Council has a dedicated team that give advice to internal Council departments and external organisations on how they can access and use a range of external funding sources. In the past Herefordshire has been very successful in accessing funding from Advantage West Midlands (the Regional Development Agency) and other external funding agencies. |
| The presentation talks about changes in legislation- what are these? | There are a number of changes in legislation which affect expenditure. One recent example is that changes in Landfill Tax which is linked to the Council's recycling target. The more we are able to recycle the more money we are able to save. |
| Flooding poses a significant problem in various parts of the county. What flood alleviation schemes are there and whose responsibility is this? | <p>Before the ASDA roundabout was constructed the city was effectively cut in half each year by flood water. The ASDA developments greatly helped to alleviate this.</p> <p>The primary responsibility for flooding and related issues sits with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council is currently working with Amey to work out what the priorities are for the county and how these will be addressed.</p> |

The planned presentation by the Community Protection Team had to be postponed due to illness. This would be rescheduled.