

St Martins & Hinton PACT meeting
25 January 2010



Chair: Cllr Chris Chappell

Cllr U Attfield

Cllr Aubrey Oliver

Annie Faulder, H. Council

Julie Gethin, Herefordshire Partnership

Heather Foster, Finance, H. Council

Ashley Tucker, Website services H. Council

Ted Bannister, Forward Planning Officer, H. Council

John Maddy, Divisional Contracting Manager, AMEY

Laurette Ratcliffe, Herefordshire Housing

David Millichap, Street Scene Supervisor, AMEY

Beth Holland-Jones, Community Protection Team

Joanna Lindsay Jones, Community Protection Team

Sgt Chris Payne, WMP

DI Jon Roberts, WMP

PC Andy Varden, WMP

Hazel Lavelle, H. Council

8 members of the public

Issue	Response
Cllr Chappell asked for a minute's silence in memory of the soldier who was killed in Afghanistan recently, whose family live locally.	
<p>Item 1: A resident of Holme Lacy Road raised the issue of traffic, especially big lorries, being driven onto the footpath in Holme Lacy Road. This was where the road is single carriageway before it broadens into dual carriageway near the Gamecock pub. There was a particular problem between 8:00 and 9:00 am and 5:00 and 5:30pm. There was considerable danger to people using the footpath, especially children. It was also dangerous for drivers trying to turn right out of Oak Crescent onto Holme Lacy Road. Concrete bollards had been placed near the post office, where there was a similar situation, and residents asked whether that might provide a solution.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The local policing team will carry out extra patrols in this area and speak to drivers who were caught using the pavement to try to educate them. The local policing team would also liaise with the Council's Highways Department to see whether there were any measures that could be taken in terms of the road layout to prevent the problem. John Maddy, the Divisional Contracting Manager for AMEY, would work with PC Varden to seek a solution.</p>
<p>Item 2: There was a similar traffic problem at the junction of Belmont Avenue with Belmont Road, approaching the traffic lights, where drivers thought there were two traffic lanes but, in fact, there is only one. This was dangerous because traffic was driven up the inside of traffic waiting at the traffic lights.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The local policing team would liaise with AMEY and the Highways Department to address this problem.</p>

**St Martins & Hinton PACT meeting
25 January 2010**

Issue	Response
<p>Item 3: There was a problem with cars parking outside garages in Belmont Avenue and obstructing the access to the garages for residents.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Laurette Ratcliffe, Herefordshire Housing, said that if the cars were parking on Herefordshire Housing land, it would be a matter for the Housing Association. However, if they were parking on the road or pavement, that was a matter for the police. She will investigate the matter and take any necessary action</p>
<p>Item 4: There was a problem with cars parking on Belmont Avenue and the corner of Springfield Avenue, making it difficult for residents to negotiate the road to and from their homes. It was thought that this traffic was associated with activities at the school, which took place all day. Some cars were parked on the roadside all day. The Head of the school had been very co-operative in trying to address the problem, but it continued.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: The local policing team said that there was a similar problem near the school in Hollybush Walk. They periodically patrolled the area and spoke to the offending drivers, which seemed to help for while, but then the problem returned. They would investigate, in liaison with the Council, to see what could be done.</p>
<p>Item 5: There was an overgrown tree overhanging the pavement in Springfield Avenue near the phone box. This was thought to be a Herefordshire Housing property,</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Laurette Ratcliffe outlined Herefordshire Housing's "Untidy Gardens Procedure". She said that the Association took such matters very seriously and currently had four court cases pending. She would ask the Housing Officer to investigate to ascertain whether this was a HH property and, if so, to deal with the problem.</p>
<p>Item 6: There was a similar problem with a property in Springfield Avenue, where overgrown leylandii trees were causing a problem overhanging the alleyway.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Laurette Ratcliffe thought that this problem was already in hand and being addressed by Herefordshire Housing, but would check to make sure.</p>
<p>Item 7: Cllr Oliver asked for an update from AMEY on the state of the roads following the recent snow and ice. All the roads were in a poor state of repair with potholes.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: John Maddy reported that they had concentrated resources on repairing damaged roads and had put extra resources in, with teams working weekends and longer hours to do the work as quickly as possible. They acknowledged that patching the roads was not a long-term solution, and that longer term improvement would need investment.</p>
<p>Item 8: Cllr Attfield reported that the grassed area in Belmont Avenue was being used by some residents to park cars.</p>	<p>Response at the PACT: Beth Holland-Jones, for the Community Protection Team (CPT), reported that they had carried out a letter-drop recently asking people not to park on the grassed area and advising them that cars were</p>

**St Martins & Hinton PACT meeting
25 January 2010**

Issue	Response
	causing criminal damage. Residents could take the registration numbers of offending vehicles and report them to the CPT.
Heather Foster, the Technical Accounting Manager, for Herefordshire Council Financial Services, gave a presentation about the Council's budget for 2010/11.	
Item 9: Was the 2.9% increase in Council Tax below the rate that the government had said should not be exceeded, and why was it more than the rate of inflation?	Response at the PACT: The government had not specified the rate at which Councils would be capped, but had indicated that rises should be kept below 3%. The increase was above the rate of inflation because of service pressures, particularly in the areas of social care and children's services. Heather Foster explained that 2009 had been a particularly difficult year because of the recession, including exceptionally low interest rates on investments, which had necessitated using reserves to balance the budget. These reserves are being paid back in 2010/11.
Beth Holland Jones and Joanna Lindsay Jones gave a presentation about the work of the Community Protection Team.	
Item 11: A resident suggested that there could be designated "graffiti walls" at specific locations, such as the skateboard park, as had been seen in other towns.	Response at the PACT: The Community Protection Team were already exploring this, and would be speaking to the owners of the new skateboard park about it.
DI Jon Roberts, WMP, outlined the changes that would be implemented as a result of the recent review of policing in Herefordshire. There would no longer be a manned front-counter service at Peterchurch and South Wye police stations, but resources would be deployed to provide better responsive policing. There would be no changes to the local policing teams.	
Item 13: Cllr Chappell was concerned that when the local policing teams were off duty, the responsive police officers were unfamiliar with the local areas.	Response at the PACT: DI Roberts explained that the changes would result in improvements in policing in the area generally.
Ted Bannister provided information about the current consultation on shaping the future of the county.	