

Hereford Rural South PACT Meeting – Much Birch 13th May 2010
Action Sheet
Version 1



Chair: Wendy Coombey
Note-taker: Chris Gooding (Herefordshire Partnership)

Cllr Richard Smith
Cllr Jo Fishley

Present
Richard Ball HC (HC Asst Director Environment and Culture)
Ruth Kinsella (AMEY Watchman in Chief)
Donna Watkins (HC Community Protection Team)
Rachel Rice (AMEY Performance and Compliance Manager)
Andrew Bundy (West Mercia Police)

Parish Councillors:
John Jones
Mike Morley
Len Evans
Menna Swift

17 members of the public

Previous Issues	Response
<p>Item 1 (Previous sheet Item 1) Although the requested presentation was not forthcoming a memo addressing the issue of ESG Consultation was circulated in the meeting. The Chair pointed out that if this response is not considered to be satisfactory we would try to get a presentation at the next round of PACTs.</p>	<p>Cllr Smith – unfortunate that ESG plus a cabinet member could not have attended to answer the meeting direct, as this is an important issues in this area. The memo should also have gone to parish clerks in advance of the meeting. Mike Morley said the previous minutes didn't reflect what was said on this subject.</p> <p>Following further discussion it was agreed that the PACT officers would try to arrange a special meeting where the issue could be fully discussed in the presence of a cabinet member and an official from the ESG team. The meeting would be advertised via a memo to the local parish clerks.</p>
<p>Item 2. (Previous sheet Item 2) There is still a strong feeling that cabinet members should attend these meetings to address local issues – in the view of the meeting it</p>	<p>Response given at meeting:- Will ensure that the strength of feeling on this issue is fed into the PACT Review process, and that the result of the PACT Review is</p>

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<p>is the only time they have a chance to ask them questions. There was also a need to ensure issues that cannot be responded to between PACT meetings are carried forward and not lost; e.g. Review of Pacts</p>	<p>fed back to this forum at the appropriate time.</p>
<p>Item 3. (Previous sheet Item 4) Is the Jet Patcher (Pothole Filler) working?</p> <p>Why has only half of Tump Lane been resurfaced, although the whole road seems to have been marked up for repair?</p>	<p>Response given at meeting: The Jet Patcher has helped us provide quick fixes where they were needed but we now need to move onto providing more permanent routine repairs. You will see a stepping up of repair and re-surfacing activity over the next few months. The Jet Patcher will be a valuable standby in the future when we have further spells of bad weather.</p> <p>Response given at meeting: The road repair markings have different meanings and are graded. Although it would appear to make sense to do a whole stretch of road, we currently need to prioritise the worst areas of carriageway across the county. So although a whole stretch of road may have surface problems we are currently only doing those parts that are ranked highest on the inspection results and will return to the rest when we have cleared the backlog of priority work.</p>
<p>Item 4. (Previous sheet item 5) Have the Winter Gritting contracting routes been looked at? Still need to know what those maintenance contracts are at a very local parish level. The website information is not easy to access or understand.</p> <p>Grit boxes often became empty during bad weather but responded quickly to requests to have them re-stocked.</p>	<p>Response given at meeting: Winter Service routes are checked annually and any changes incorporated as necessary. There is a scrutiny review taking place on Friday 21st May 2010 and further recommendations may be made there. The feedback regarding the website information will also be fed back so that this can be considered. We are happy to liaise with the Parish Clerk to provide any further localised information that is required.</p>
<p>Item 5. (Previous sheet Item 6) Unfortunately both a representative from Highways Agency and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation were unable to attend the meeting but Richard Ball was in attendance to address any issues. The chair then read out a letter of apology from Serena</p>	

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<p>Carmichael from the Highways Agency, who also said that a review of the A49 had been started including the Much Birch section, and this was confirmed by Richard Ball.</p> <p>A number of issues were then raised regarding the A49 and related side roads. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who makes the decisions on safety improvements on the A49? • Driving on A49 is appalling – police need to be more vigilant. • The main problem is the congestion outside the school on the Kingsthorpe Road when parents drop off and collect their children. Because of this congestion some parents park in Tump Lane and then have to cross the A49 with their children – Mrs Sharon Davies recounted her and her child’s “close encounter” with an HGV whilst crossing the main road. Her child was nearly pulled under a speeding HGV. Mrs Davies leaves her car in Tump Lane to relieve congestion outside school, but the complex junction (need to look 5 ways) is difficult for pedestrians to negotiate. Police presence has helped on occasions. Mrs Davies thinks there should be safety barriers on either side of road plus a pedestrian crossing. This is not the first time this has happened. PC supported her concerns but some PC members not keen on pedestrian crossing, thinking that proper parking facilities at the 	<p>Richard Ball - HC and Amey keep HA informed of safety issues on the A49 and try to influence what they do. Because of the concerns of HC and local communities we have, for the first time, secured a meeting with their regional director.</p> <p>Police – it is a priority area for police who are monitoring 3 times a week, but as they often use unmarked cars residents may not be aware of their presence. Cllr Smith – the problem is a toxic mix of vehicles; local traffic, commercial cars, HGVs and tractors, along with some dangerous junctions. The only junction which HA has modified is near Pengethley Hotel where there is only a history of minor accidents!</p> <p>Richard Ball – Highways Agency getting Safety Partnership to put together a package of measures to assist speed enforcement. Police -Some unmarked vehicle enforcement is happening.</p> <p>Richard Ball - All of these issues will be fed into the review, including; crossing, speed enforcement, railings, etc. Hope to come up with a solution but will also give reasons if some options are not considered to be viable.</p>
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<p>school is the better solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is needed is a car park near the school. The local Convent has agreed to lease a piece of land for a peppercorn rent, and the application to convert to a car park is currently with the Planning Dept. This will solve many of the problems but will cost £60-£70K. • The situation is made worse by the school buses all arriving at the same time and from all directions. Also the Number 38 bus has been put back 10 minutes which means it also clashes with the school run. • Many vehicles drive recklessly past the school even when children are arriving and leaving. Kings Thorn road is used as rat-run – lots of speeding. Who has responsibility for the Kingsthor road and has a road safety audit been done? <i>(Note-taker:- Contacted by Richard Jones of Kingsthor who could not attend meeting but wanted to register his concern. Being local he takes extra care when driving past the school and recently spotted a young child attempting to cross the road between parked vehicles and was able to take avoiding action. A less aware driver would probably not have reacted so quickly. Mr Jones also supports the need for off-road parking by the school).</i> • From Ross, the 50 mph speed limit ends before Pengethley which means traffic speeds up endangering the people of Pengethley. • What about speed camera through Much Birch? • Lorries driving carelessly down Tump Lane – parishioner nearly hit by an HGV on a blind bend. 	<p>Chris Gooding - Will contact HC's Project Development Officer regarding potential grants. (Update:- Project Development Officer is in contact with Menna Swift and discussing options. Although the planning application has been submitted and registered the planning officer is seeking significant clarifications before it is progressed – awaiting further update from Colin Birks.)</p> <p>Police: The Speed limit by the school is too short for speed enforcement, but we are monitoring. Richard Ball: HC is responsible and we will investigate. There was some limited speed investigations done by HC. Needs to be bundled up regarding school speed and route safety. We will ensure the investigation is done during term-time.</p> <p>Police: Will monitor HGV usage of Tump Lane.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot understand why crossings cannot be installed on trunk roads but if it is not possible, speed enforcement becomes even more important. • We've been talking to Clive Hall for more than 3 years – nothing has happened in that time. • We have a new MP and new transport minister – why not try them <p>When I have rung Highways they are always very helpful</p>	<p>Richard Ball: It is difficult to get quick action from HA, as it has been a low priority in terms of their regional responsibilities. That is why this review is considered to be an important opportunity.</p> <p>Richard Ball: Will try Regional HA Director and then escalate if necessary. Tonight has been really useful for finding out all the issues that need to be included in the review with HA.</p> <p>We will be talking to all members prior to the review with HA. The review will be completed by early June.</p> <p>It was then agreed that a special meeting would be arranged on the A49 issues following the completion of the Review. The meeting would combine with the ESG issues mentioned at Item 1 above.</p>
<p>Item 6. (Previous sheet Item 9) The response in the minutes regarding prudential borrowing is very mechanistic and doesn't really address the issue of why we are spending all this money. It further reinforces the need for cabinet members to attend these meetings to explain themselves.</p>	<p>Chris Gooding: This will be fed into the PACT Review as an example of the need for better member attendance.</p>
<p>Item 7. (Previous sheet Item 10) I tried reporting an incident of fly-tipping, but got a call centre response – the operator didn't seem to know who to put the call through to or have any local knowledge. It also took them far too long to answer. Impressed with the litter pick undertaken along the A49 at Grafton.</p>	<p>Donna Watkins: The call centre people work for Herefordshire Council. They do take our calls and then refer them onto the Community Protection Team. This gives us more time to be out in the field rather than answering the phone. We will get the CPT manager to review processes with the INFO in Herefordshire call centre.</p>
<p>NEW ISSUES</p>	
<p>Item 8. The road markings on the B4348 between Wormelow and Kingstone need re-doing</p>	<p>AMEY: Will investigate</p>

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<p>Item 9. Is the Neighbourhood Watch scheme still going?</p>	<p>Police: -Yes they are but we have also developed more informal neighbourhood contacts; e.g. Email contacts sent out on a regular basis backed up by parish newsletters. This is a more instant approach, exploiting the potential of new technologies.</p>
<p>Item 10 The new initiative to recruit Emergency Planning Officers at local level – are they utilising existing neighbourhood watch activists?</p>	<p>It is down to PCs to identify the right person, and that may include in some instances existing NW volunteers.</p>
<p>Item 11. The stretch of road between Kiverknoll and the Rhydd towards Locks garage is heaving up at the edges, which makes it particularly dangerous for cyclists.</p>	<p>Amey: Will investigate.</p>
<p>Item 12. Speeding in Much Dewchurch in the vicinity of the Steiner Academy. Flashing signs are being installed at either end of village but not yet done because Amey want £4K to dig 2 holes.</p>	<p>Amey: Will investigate</p>
<p>Item 13. A lot of the work being done by Amey could be done more quickly for a lot less money; e.g. potholes, drains, etc. An example is the amount of time it took to stop water running across road between Much Dewchurch and Kilpeck.</p>	<p>Richard Ball We continuously monitor the performance of Amey – we have a contract management process to scrutinise everything Amey does. Amey – We are not in the business of delivering a poor service – the particular issue mentioned will be investigated.</p>
<p>Item 14. Gulley emptying – it is ridiculous the amount of cost and time spent taking gulley water to central points for disposal.</p>	<p>This is an Environment Agency requirement to protect the environment.</p>
<p>Item 15. Waldorf School bus parks on corner of a blind bend in Much Dewchurch by the war memorial. This is dangerous and unnecessary.</p>	<p>Cllr Fishley – current situation is not satisfactory – planning application for new car park at back of school will solve problem. MB Car Park application not yet registered. Police – will investigate</p>
<p>Item 16. Much Dewchurch - parents are reversing cars by the school and have knocked over the “Pool Meadow” street sign.</p>	<p>Amey:- Wil investigate.</p>
<p>Item 17. Resident of Poole Close concerned that although Much Dewchurch Waldorf School comes out at 3.30, the school bus comes much</p>	<p>Police: Will investigate.</p>

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<p>earlier and causes obstruction and a road safety hazard. It should park up safely further from the school and then arrive at school at appropriate time.</p>	
<p>Item 18: Poor road surface between Callow and Belmont (Haywood Lane). Problem made worse by HGVs using it as a rat-run</p>	<p>Amey: Will investigate.</p>
<p>Item 19. Hereford Times and Journal – HC has lost a high court case in Leominster – how much did it cost?</p>	<p>Chris Gooding: Will investigate. Update:- A part claim for costs has been filed by the petitioner and is currently with the Returning Officer's insurers for consideration. Awaiting release of cost details once they are available.</p>
<p>Item 20. Cllr Smith thanked Wendy Coombey for the professional way in which she chaired the meeting – this was endorsed by those attending.</p>	