

RUBERY PACT – Notes of Meeting Held on Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.00pm at Waseley Hills High School, School Road, Rubery

Present: J Horwood, Chairman, District Councillor Christine McDonald, County Councillor & District Councillor P McDonald, PCSO Stuart Taylor and 41 residents of Rubery

Apologies were received from, P Banks, PC Tim Burling, Insp. G Keyte, R Sutton, and C Walsh

1. Regeneration Update and Other Issues

As he needed to leave the meeting at 7.20pm, Peter McDonald provided an update on the following events planned for the village.

- a) Lamp posts in New Road are to be changed to LED lighting and repainted
- b) Bollards in New Road are to be replaced with a common style.
- c) The service roads outside Barclays Bank and the Post Office are to be widened and new parking arrangements established.
- d) The car parking area outside the Co-op is to be blocked off near the Police Station, leaving only one entrance and exit point.
- e) The area next to Oulsnam's by Callowbridge Road is to be upgraded including the provision of benches.
- f) The 'Sensory Garden' next to Poplar Carpets and currently fenced off, has been placed under the management of a new body called 'The Place Team'.
- g) The car park at the side and rear of the Co-op continues to generate criticism about its surface maintenance and litter, but because it is privately owned, the Council has no power for action unless there are health and safety issues. He said Bromsgrove Council will remove rubbish if necessary.
- h) There have been no further developments concerning planning applications at the Rose and Crown and for a crematorium in Gannow Green Lane.
- i) A resident of Segbourne Road enquired about her rights when a neighbour had erected a 6ft high fence at the front of their property. PMcD said that front gardens should only have fences up to a height of one metre unless the local planning officer has approved it. Even then, the immediate neighbours can appeal to the local ombudsman. (later advised contact details are www.lgo.org.uk)

2. Police Report

PCSO Stuart Taylor gave a report covering the following points, and dealt with issues raised from the floor.

- a) Following the Grenfell Tower fire crisis local councils including Bromsgrove, have been encouraged to set up 'Local Resilience Forums' including Police, Fire, Military and Councils to prevent and if necessary manage a similar catastrophe.
- b) There has been some minor success in stopping ASB by youths on motor cycles. One offender has been caught and sentenced and his cycle has been crushed.

- c) The incidence of damage to parked vehicles has declined in recent months due partly to targeted patrols and school visits.
- d) Concern was expressed that the new 20mph speed limit in Callowbrook Lane was being ignored.
- e) It was also noted that, although it was raised at the last PACT meeting, there has been no progress with the use the Police speed monitoring equipment in vulnerable roads in Rubery
- f) Residents from Segbourne Road reported that there had been 5 burglaries in the road recently and felt the response times to incidents were protracted by Police crews having to travel from Redditch or Kidderminster. PCSO Taylor advised that 2 burglars had been caught recently and sentenced
- g) The use of drones is creating a new set of problems as the Police have limited powers as drones are regulated under rules issued by the Civil Aviation Authority.
- h) Residents reported that the drug related activity in Maple Road is continuing despite a custodial sentence being placed on one former resident. PCSO Taylor said that the Police were monitoring activity there but residents should continue to report every event including vehicle descriptions and registration numbers to help build up as full picture as possible prior to taking action.
- i) Although reported at a previous PACT meeting which stimulated police patrols in the area, residents of Brookend Drive are still troubled by cars parking on pavements and obstructing pedestrians.

3. West Midlands Fire and Rescue

Fire Officer Kevin Rousall from Northfield Fire Station attended to remind everyone of the need to check their domestic fire precautions following the Grenfell Tower fire. It was established after the meeting that the Worcestershire Fire Service operate free home fire safety checks if house holders are over 70 or vulnerable. They can be contacted on 0800 032 1155. The flats in Callowbrook lane have been checked and are not a risk.

4. New Issues Raised During the Meeting

There were no new issues raised.

5. Contribution from Waseley Hills Students

None of the student representatives were able to attend the meeting as they were away on DOE expeditions, but Andy Boot, deputy head teacher, gave a full report on school activities including the following points.

- a) Pupil numbers from year 7 to 13 are currently relatively low at 730, having been at 880 and 830 in the previous two years. The main reason for the decline is the impact of a lower birth rate, but they are expected to increase in the next few years as the effect of the birth rate increases approx. 10 years ago.
- b) The School continues to attract good six form numbers for academic subjects although some student does leave to attend local 6th Form colleges which offer vocational courses e.g. hairdressing, motor mechanics etc.

- c) 80 students from years 11 to 13 are currently away from school on Duke of Edinburgh Award activities.
- d) Other School parties have been to Berlin (history and language students), Landrigg Outdoor Adventure Centre in Snowdonia, and skiing in Austria.
- e) The School Council with representatives from all years meets regularly to discuss a wide variety of topics of concern, including uniforms, catering, toilets etc.
- f) The School has been working with members of Rubery In Bloom to improve the ponds at the back of the school with assistance from some SEN pupils.
- g) The Seniors Tea Party at the School, organised by 6th formers and the School Carol Concert at St Chad's Church are two events planned in December to which members of the public will be invited.

6. Community Announcements

a) Rubery In Bloom

Lorna Ockenden gave a resume of the progress made by the Rubery In Bloom scheme which now has 150 flower boxes placed under street signs around the village. The support of volunteers to plant and water the flower boxes has been the key to the success of the project, but more volunteers will always be helpful to share the work load. Some DoE students from WHHS have participated in a litter picking event in the village recently. The project is self-funded and a successful garden party was held on 8th July and a Barn Dance and Supper is planned for Fri 13th October at the Hawthorns Social Club.

b) Forthcoming Events

Tony Maslen announced details of three events planned in the next 3 months as follows;

1. Rubery's Got Talent on Sat 13th August at Rubery Social Club
2. Rubery Festival on Sat 3rd September in St Chad's Park, featuring the British Legion Band and stalls by local groups and charities at £15 per plot. contact Tony on 07505 174 044 for further details.
3. The local Stroke Group meets regularly at Longbridge Methodist Church and offers companionship and days out for members, and are looking for volunteers to help run activities there.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next PACT meeting will be held on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.00pm at Waseley Hills High School, please note The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, will be attending this meeting, so please make every effort to attend.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm and thanked the staff and members at the School for the use of the hall and PA equipment.