RUBERY PACT - Notes of Meeting Held On Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.00pm

At Waseley Hills High School, School Road, Rubery

Present: John Horwood, Chairman, Councillor Peter McDonald, Councillor Christine McDonald, P.C. Marc Ginder, Rev Ian Ring and 31 Rubery residents

1. Apologies: J Chatwin, C Welsh and R Sutton

2. Police Report

The crime data supplied by our local West Mercia Police team has changed from data for the 3 Rubery beat areas (Beacon, Waseley and Centre) to data for the larger area covered by our Safer Neighbourhood Team of Rubery, Lickey, Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green, which is the level currently reported to the Home Office. We have therefore lost the local detail specific to Rubery village only.

The following chart shows that total key crimes fell by 3 (2.4%) to 121 for the quarter, The two major areas of change were residential burglaries increasing by 11 (84.6%) and theft and handling crimes reduce by 21 (38,2%)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crime Description | Qtr 3 to  30/09/18 | Qtr 4 to  31/12/18 | Change  Q4 - Q3 | Comments explaining changes |
| Burglary Residential | 13 | 24 | 11 |  |
| Burglary - Other | 7 | 8 | 1 |  |
| Criminal Damage | 13 | 15 | 2 |  |
| Drug Offences | 2 | 4 | 2 |  |
| Public Order Offences | 8 | 5 | (3) |  |
| Violent Crimes | 23 | 29 | 6 |  |
| Theft & Handling | 55 | 34 | (21) |  |
| Other Key Crimes | 3 | 2 | (1) |  |
| **Total Key Crimes** | **124** | **121** | **(3)** |  |

P.C. Marc Ginder made the following comments.

Since an individual was arrested in the Rednal area there has been a 90% drop in burglaries in the surrounding areas. There has been a recent increase in theft from vehicles with a man being spotted in Cofton trying car doors to see if they have been left open, succeeding in around 1 in 20 cars. PC Ginder reminded residents to ensure their cars are locked up and belongings secured and out of sight. There has also been a spate of thefts of high performance vehicles, but an individual has been remanded in prison on suspicion of these thefts.

There were no further updates on the recent egg throwing youths in the village, although some CCTV had been viewed and one of the residents attending the meeting was able to provide more information to PC Ginder.

Inconsiderate parking was discussed, with PC Ginder being shown photos of the constant offenders in Brookend Drive, and Lorna Ockendon raised the issue of a car parking on the footpath at the junction of Rednal Hill Lane and Eachway, blocking the path and obscuring the view of oncoming cars. It was agreed later in the meeting that Peter McDonald would make enquiries as to whether yellow lines could be painted on the road junction of Rednal Hill and Eachway to try and prevent such offences, although it could take at least 12 months before any lines would be painted.

PC Ginder had some leaflets and security marker pens available for the residents to help themselves to.

3. Waseley Hills High School Report

Lily Green and Tom Busby talked through a number of community initiatives the students have been working on recently including Hampers for Age Concern, Christmas Tea Party for local residents, which is becoming more popular each year, saving Rubery library including writing to Sajid David, with him replying that no concrete decisions had been made yet.

Some sixth formers are about to start to volunteer their time at the Primrose Hospice book and music shop in the village (near to Harrisons) to help the sole individual who currently runs the shop. One of the teachers often frequents the shop for their musical collection of CDs.

Finally, Lily and Tom said they are continuing to assist the Rubery in Bloom team with renovating the flower boxes around the village, for which Lorna Ockendon is extremely grateful.

4. Action Points From Previous Meetings

a) ASB by off road motor cyclists - nothing noted since the original problems occurred

b) Parking in Brookend Drive - see comments above, no action has been taken as yet

c) Potholes in the car park at the rear of the Co-op - Mrs Anny Richardson had taken in upon herself to make contact with the car park owners after making enquiries with the Co-op Store amid concern the car park would only get worse during the winter weather. L&C Investments, Kingswinford Managing Director Mick Burgess confirmed that improvements would be starting on the car park on the 28th January, and would take place half of the car park at a time. Nothing has been mentioned as to whether the car park will become chargeable in the future. The residents gave Anny a round of applause for such a great achievement!

5. Other Ongoing Issues

a) Crematorium - Peter McDonald advised that an appeal had been started by the developers, but that nothing had reached the planners as yet, although he felt that the planners could throw the appeal out if one was to be received.

b) Rose & Crown Development - no further planning applications have been made, Christine McDonald believes there are issue with drainage at the site which may prevent any further applications at this time.

6. Rubery Regeneration

Cheryl Welsh the project officer, was not in attendance, although Peter McDonald did advise that the service roads by the Post Office and Special Times will be widened during the first week in March. The concern with BT requesting 30k to make alterations outside of Special Times is being looked at with a view to an alternative arrangement being made.

The improvements to "Rubery Green" (by Oulsnams) had been completed and new furniture and planting will be installed when the better weather comes. It was noted however that a white van is consistently parking on the grass to the side of the buildings making a mess of the new grass. Peter McDonald did say they were looking at installing bollards or moving the fencing closer to the road to prevent this from happening. Yellow lines will be painted on the road at the corner of the Green to allow better access for the waste collection lorries.

A discussion then ensued concerning the disregard of yellow lines throughout the village, and Peter McDonald did say that the traffic wardens are definitely issuing penalty notices for some of these offences and that evidence of these had been seen by him. It was agreed however, that as Rubery does have free car parking throughout and it is one of the few local areas which still encouraged cars to come in to park and be near to the shops.

Peter McDonald advised the residents that yellow lines will soon be painted at the junction of Beverley Road and Leach Heath Lane in an attempt to stop a car salesman from advertising his cars for sale there and to improve visibility at the junction

7. New Items Raised For Discussion

Peter McDonald asked PC Ginder if there was an update on the availability of smart water for all of the Rubery residents.

Susan O'Leary from Polly Put the Kettle On asked how much disruption would be likely when the service roads are widened? It was thought some of the work will be done overnight.

Susan also asked about the defibrillator which had been purchased for the Social Club - this was ready to be installed.

8. Any Other Business

a) Rubery In Bloom - Lorna Ockendon raised the issue of the lack of a water sources for watering the village flower boxes. Peter McDonald advised that a water fountain will soon be installed in the park, and that this water source could possibly help Rubery in Bloom. Flower boxes are soon to be installed outside of Holywell School.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Jim Duggan asked anyone who wishes to be a local neighbourhood watch coordinator to contact him..

c) Rubery Drama Group - Ian Ring advised that the drama group will be performing ‘Stepping Out’ from 11-13th April, which includes the cast tap dancing for the first time! There will also be a play reading on 22nd June as part of the Enjoy Rubery programme of events.

d) Love Rubery - Susan O'Leary from Polly Put the Kettle On explained that they were promoting an initiative again this year with all of the Rubery shops to display a red heart in their windows around the Valentines period 11-18 February to encourage ‘Love Rubery’. Large red hearts have been made and if shops would like to display these a contribution of five pounds was being requested to cover their costs, although shops could use last year's hearts if they still had them. Susan said she would love for the schools to be involved and Nathan Baker suggested a ‘tree’ for hearts to be hung upon, which the School could mass produce, and that this could be put up maybe in St Chad’s church. Susan also said that this initiative was also a way for the Rubery shops to say thank you to Ian Robinson of Robinson Opticians and The Farmers Barn for all his help and enthusiasm for promoting Rubery shops. Ian has recently had to undergo serious heart surgery and everyone wished him a speedy recovery.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next PACT meeting will be held on Monday 29th April 2019 at 7.00pm at Waseley Hills High School.

10. Closing Remarks

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions, and also thanked the School for the use of the hall and the audio visual equipment for the meeting.