RUBERY PACT - Notes of Meeting Held On Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7.00pm

At Waseley Hills High School, School Road, Rubery

Present: John Horwood, Chairman, PCSO Ryan East, Adrian Kriss, and 30 Rubery residents

1. Apologies: P McDonald, D Dewson, D Ellson

The chairman opened the meeting making reference to the recent District Council elections, and wished to put on record his thanks to Christine McDonald for the time and effort she had given to the community during her eight years as Councillor for the Rubery South ward. He also introduced Adrian Kriss, the successful candidate for the ward, who would be sworn in at Bromsgrove on the following day.

2. Police Report

The crime data supplied by our local West Mercia Police unit is for the larger area covered by our Safer Neighbourhood Team, and covers reported crimes for Rubery, Lickey, Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green, which is the level currently reported to the Home Office.

The following chart shows that total key crimes for the area fell by 4 (3%) to 129 for the quarter, The two major areas of change were residential burglaries reducing by 16 (67%) and violent crimes increasing by 17 (52%).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REPORTED CRIMES FOR RUBERY, LICKEY, COFTON HACKETT AND BARNT GREEN | | | | |
| Crime Description | Qtr 4 to  31/12/18 | Qtr 1 to  31/03/19 | Change  Q1 - Q4 | Comments explaining changes |
| Burglary Residential | 24 | 8 | (16) | See comments below - item 1 |
| Burglary - Other | 9 | 6 | (3) |  |
| Criminal Damage | 16 | 9 | (7) |  |
| Drug Offences | 5 | 3 | (2) |  |
| Public Order Offences | 6 | 4 | (2) |  |
| Violent Crimes | 33 | 50 | 17 | See comments below - item 2 |
| Theft & Handling | 38 | 48 | 10 | See comments below - item 3 |
| Other Key Crimes | 2 | 1 | (1) |  |
| **Total Key Crimes** | **133** | **129** | **(4)** |  |

PCSO Ryan East made the following comments.

1. Residential burglaries have fallen following a successful combined operation between West Mercia and West Midlands police which led to the arrest of a group of 7 criminals from across the Midlands. Their modus operandi was based on lock snapping techniques to gain access to car keys, to steal cars etc.

2. The increase in violent crimes were related to domestic assaults and family disputes rather than issues in the public arena.

3. Thefts from stores have increased because retailers are now reporting crimes which they had not done so in the past. There is a facility available now, where known shoplifters can be identified by facial recognition when they enter the store, and store managers are alerted to their arrival.

4. The total recorded crimes for the quarter of 129 continue to be relatively low compared to neighbouring areas.

Concerns were expressed about the following two activities.

a) Boy racers travelling at high speeds late at night in New Road. Do the CCTV cameras capture this and can the images be used to prosecute the offenders? If not, can witnesses film the incident and note the registration numbers to hand to the police for further action?

b) Illegal parking on double yellow lines in New Road near to St Chad's Road which caused a serious accident there recently. Adrian Kriss said he would speak to the parking enforcement officers to see if they would pay more frequent visits to Rubery and focus on the times in late afternoon when the situation is reported to be worse.

A resident complimented the Police for their swift response to an alarm call during a burglary and their follow up procedures after the event.

PCSO East said the Road Safety Partnership had been monitoring vehicle speeds in several roads in the village.

3. Waseley Hills High School Report

Assistant Head Teacher, Nathan Baker reported that the School was encouraging students to be actively involved in the community, and referred to several activities that supported this statement..

He introduced four students who had been elected to office for the next academic year, namely Oliver Couch, Head Boy, Lauren Bent, Head Girl, and their deputies Josh Roberts and Becky Venables. Between them they reported the School's involvement with Rubery in Bloom, a local litter pick, the Love Rubery Day, charity fund raising efforts and support for mental health issues. A group of students had recently visited Barcelona and support for Duke of Edinburgh awards was continuing. There is good news that the number of students joining the 6th form is projected to increase significantly in September.

4. Action Points From Previous Meetings

In the absence of Councillor Peter McDonald there was no information available on the following three items that were adopted for action at the previous meeting.

a) Painting yellow lines on the corner of Rednal Hill Lane and Beacon Hill.

b) Availability of SmartWater for all Rubery residents.

c) Defibrillator planned for outside Rubery Social Club.

5. Other Ongoing Issues

a) New Rose & Crown Development - it was revealed that planning permission had been given last October for 9 two bedroom properties, but the land with planning permission is currently being offered for sale.

b) No information was available for the following three items. i) Waseley Hills Crematorium, ii) parking in Brookend Drive and iii) improvements to the car park at the rear of the Co-op

6. Rubery Regeneration

Cheryl Welsh had not sent an apology nor submitted a report, so there was nothing to report. Concern was expressed at her continued lack of attendance and communication on the progress of the project.

There was considerable discussion on the recent widening of the service roads in New Road. Several people felt the wider carriageways were inadequate but it was pointed out that the existing BT inspection manholes were a restriction and would have been very expensive to relocate. The work had been specified by the County Highways Dept and signed off by our County Councillor Peter McDonald. One resident had driven through both service roads a number of times without difficulty and thought the changes were beneficial.

7. New Items Raised For Discussion

a) A householder in Callowbrook Lane whose property backs onto Callowbrook Park described the verbal and physical abuse that he and his family have been experiencing from children using the park. There is a culvert which carries the Callow brook which the children climb over and is a safety risk. Adrian Kriss said he would visit the site to understand the problem, but it was suggested the property may not be in the Rubery South ward.

b) A photograph taken two days earlier of domestic rubbish which had been dumped in the alleyway behind Acorns and Lloyds shops and had been there for several weeks was displayed on the screen. Adrian Kriss stated that he had personally removed the rubbish on the previous day using his own vehicle and trailer, and the area was now clear.

c) The possibility of a Parish Council for Rubery was raised to allow locally elected representatives to influence some of the smaller changes to our community. Adrian Kriss said a lot of people had shown an interest in this whilst he met them in the past few weeks and he would investigate what needs to be done to progress this suggestion.

d) A resident from New Road complained about the amount of rubbish that has accumulated in the land to the rear of Oulsnam's premises and Adrian Kriss said he would visit the site to see what can be done.

8. Any Other Business

a) Rubery In Bloom - Lorna Ockendon said the flower boxes in the village are looking very colourful at present and thanked all those people who water them regularly. The Poppy field in Legion Road is looking a bit drab at present but hopefully it will bloom in time for Armed Forces Day on 25th June.

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - Jim Duggan asked anyone who wishes to be join Neighbourhood Watch to contact him, adding that it is essential that any new group that is formed has a coordinator to deliver newsletters, collect annual subs of £1 and be a point of contact for the group.

c) Rubery Drama Group - The production of Stepping Out planned for April this year has been postponed due to a key member of the cast moving away unexpectedly. It will be performed in October.

d) Love Rubery Event - Rev Claire Turner announced that the Love Rubery event including numerous activities involving different groups from Rubery and further afield will take place on Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd June. Based on the evidence of last year's event it is expected to be another successful community occasion. The local activities are being coordinated by the Rubery Village Association in conjunction with Bromsgrove Festival and further details will be published nearer the time. Any organisation that wishes to be involved should contact Claire at St Chad's vicarage.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next PACT meeting will be held on Monday 15th July 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.