RUBERY PACT - Notes of Meeting Held On Tuesday 8th July 2019 at 7.00pm

At Waseley Hills High School, School Road, Rubery

Present: John Horwood, Chairman, District Councillor Adrian Kriss, and 40 Rubery residents

1. Apologies: R Sutton, C Welsh

The chairman opened the meeting explaining that unfortunately there would be no Police representation at the meeting due to an incident earlier in the evening that will occupy P C Ginder and PCSO East to the end of their shift. In addition Councillor Peter McDonald had not arrived although he had not tendered his apologies.

2. Police Report

The crime data below is supplied by our local West Mercia Police unit and 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 20 (15%) from 129 to 109 for the quarter, The two major areas of change were Violent Crimes reducing by 17 (34%) and Theft and Handling reducing by 19 (40%).

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| REPORTED CRIMES FOR RUBERY, LICKEY, COFTON HACKETT AND BARNT GREEN | | | | |
| Crime Description | Qtr 1 to  31/03/19 | Qtr 2 to  30/06/19 | Change  Q2 - Q1 | Comments explaining changes |
| Burglary Residential | 8 | 10 | 2 |  |
| Burglary - Other | 6 | 13 | 7 |  |
| Criminal Damage | 9 | 10 | 1 |  |
| Drug Offences | 3 | 2 | (1) |  |
| Public Order Offences | 4 | 11 | 7 |  |
| Violent Crimes | 50 | 33 | (17) | See comments below - item 2 |
| Theft & Handling | 48 | 29 | (19) | See comments below - item 3 |
| Other Key Crimes | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |
| **Total Key Crimes** | **129** | **109** | **(20)** |  |

It was not possible to discuss the above data due to the absence of a Police representative, but a comment was made that 109 reported crimes for the four communities for three months was a relatively low figure.

3. Waseley Hills High School Report

Assistant Head Teacher, Nathan Baker explained that there were no 6th formers present at the meeting because they were out of school for two weeks engaged on work experience activities. He then reported that several members of Year 12 had been assisting the Rubery in Bloom project by repainting the flower boxes around the village and a Community Project Plan was in the process of preparation to enable students to do voluntary work in the area in the next academic year. The top 10% of students in each year had been enjoying the benefits of Rewards Day by visiting places of interest or 10 pin bowling. The School has a new website and there was support at the meeting for the PACT notes to be posted on their Community web page.

4. Action Points From Previous Meetings

a) Abuse and vandalism in Brook Road Park - This is being dealt with by Peter McDonald and the resident concerned.

b) Possibility of a Parish Council for Rubery - Following the suggestion at the last meeting, several local residents have set up a Parish Council Steering Group and have prepared a leaflet listing the pros and cons of PCs. They have been given assistance by Bromsgrove Council (BDC) officers and it is intended that a leaflet will be delivered to each house in the BDC wards. If at least 7.5% of local households support the case to investigate the benefits of a PC, then a 12 month process will be initiated with the assistance of BDC, involving public consultation and meetings with neighbouring PC councillors to explain their experiences.

Rev Clare Turner highlighted that St Chad's Parish covered both BDC residents and residents who pay their council tax to Birmingham Council including Newman Way, Cockhill Lane and Great Park.

c) Rubbish on land at rear of Oulsnams - Councillor Adrian Kriss has visited the site and arrangements have been made with the businesses and residents for the rubbish to be removed.

5. Other Ongoing Issues

a) New Rose & Crown Development - There has been no change in the status of the sale of the land at the side of the New Rose & Crown by Andrew Grant Commercial, with planning permission for 9 two bedroom properties, planning for which had been approved last October. The pub is not included in the offer for sale.

b) Since our last meeting planning permission has been granted, following an appeal to the Planning Inspector, for the construction of a crematorium on Waseley Hills off Rubery Lane. Dissatisfaction was expressed that Bromsgrove District Council did not challenge the appeal vigorously enough but there is no opportunity to appeal against this decision.

c) The landlord of the car park at the rear of the Co-op have repaired the pot holes, although there are rumours that a parking charge may be implemented in the future.

d) A decision on the future of Rubery Library had been deferred by Worcester County Council until their meeting in October.

e) A request to paint yellow lines on the corner of Beacon Hill and Rednal Hill Lane has been shelved because local residents considered it unnecessary.

f) Smart Water has been distributed to householders in Rubery by Peter Mc Donald in a joint venture with the Police and Crime Commissioner, although it is not clear what the level of response there was.

6. Rubery Regeneration

Cheryl Welsh has submitted a report to show the progress of the various elements of the Rubery Regeneration Scheme which is summarised below.

Phase 1 - Review all street furniture in New Road and Legion Road : Complete.

Phase 2 - Remove, replace or refurbish all street furniture following the review in Phase 1: Completed including removal of redundant signage, installation of new bus shelter and removal of bollards

Phase 3 - Rewire and repaint all lamp posts and install low energy LED lighting: Complete.

Phase 4 - Repair and replace bollards, planters and notice board, bus shelters and seating and repainting CCTV columns.: Incomplete.

Phase 5 - Improvements to area at junction of New Road and Callowbridge Road: Complete

Phase 6 - Rubery Village Radio Link Scheme for retailers to communicate criminal activity between themselves and the CCTV control centre in Redditch: Incomplete.

Cheryl also referred to an initiative aimed at reducing the use of single use plastic containers and bottles called "Refill" which has been launched in Rubery Village and a few businesses have signed up by displaying a sticker in their windows to indicate that water bottles can be refilled there.

A Bromsgrove Centres Plan 2017-2020, covering Rubery, Catshill, Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Hagley, Wythall and Bromsgrove has been initiated to include conversations with businesses to establish and agree economic development and regeneration policies for each centre.

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7. New Items Raised For Discussion

A number of traffic related complaints were raised including the following.

a) A car speeding along Waseley Road at 72mph at 11.15pm.

b) Inconsiderate parking by parents of children outside Beaconside School. Councillor Adrian Kriss said

said he would ask the Traffic Enforcement Officers to visit the area at the start and end of the school day.

c) Quad bikes continue to be ridden along New Road and around the village in a dangerous manner,

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8. Any Other Business

a) Rubery In Bloom - It was reported that the Heart of England in Bloom judges will be in Rubery on 26th July to assess our performance this year. It was also noted that the Poppy Fields Memorial Garden in Legion Road had been dismantled and removed because there were very few flowers this year.

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - Jim Duggan reported that a recruitment drive had been conducted in Whetty Lane following interest from a resident who was prepared to become the coordinator for the road. 23 households had registered and a further 12 have still to be contacted. There are now approx 500 households in the Rubery NHW Scheme and the latest newsletter has been delivered to each member. He 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's Got Talent - Tony Maslen gave details of this year's contest to be held at the Rubery Social Club on Sunday 18th August from 12.00pm to 5.00pm. The event is split into age ranges of under 12, 12 to 17 and 18 to 99 years. Contestants are required to perform a session of 5 to 10 minutes each.

d) Rubery Festival - Tony Maslen also gave notice of the Rubery Festival to be held in St Chad's Park on Sunday 1st September. Local organisations are invited to book a stall for the event by contacting Tony on 457 9308.

e) Rubery / South Birmingham Stroke Group - Tony Maslen gave details of this group which holds meetings for stroke patients at Longbridge Methodist Church on Thursdays from 10.00am to 2.00pm including lunch. Transport is available if required.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next PACT meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 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.