

**BLANDFORD FORUM PACT PANEL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
TOWN AND RURAL**

THE CORN EXCHANGE

TUES 7th April 2009

In Attendance

John Tory, Chairman
Justin Woodward, Blandford SNT
Simon Evans & members Blandford SNT
Dave Mullins Blandford SNT
Nigel Jones, LVA
Barrie Cooper, Dorset County Council & Police Authority
Sara Loch, Blandford Town Council & Mayor
Steve Hitchings, NDDC
Chris Tomlinson, NDDC
Trina Horrocks, Blandford Chamber of Trade
Steve Garbutt, Dorset Fire & Rescue
PC Dave Rolfe, MOD Police
Doc Addison, Sec & Blandford St Mary PC

Visitor

Melissa Fear, ASB Officer NDDC

Apologies

Mick Wills, Blandford School
Hilary Cox, Dorset CC
PC Rich Barnes, SNT Rural (N)
PC Karen Shanaghan Blandford SNT
Vanessa Dibben, Signpost Housing
Bob Brannigan, Blandford camp

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed the Panel and 29 members of the public and gave a brief outline of the PACT Process. He asked Panel members to announce themselves and the organisations they represented. He mentioned that Sara Loch was attending her last meeting as BFTC representative after two years service and thanked her for her support and cooperation.
- 2 He then introduced Melissa Fear, Anti Social behaviour Officer from NDDC and asked her to explain her role within the District. She explained the coordinating role of her post and how it fitted in with other agencies.
3. John then read Issue 1 voted at the last public meeting in January, which was ASB in Salisbury Street and asked Simon Evans to report action taken. Simon explained how core time patrols had been increased. A licensee from the Kings Arms and Nelson's had been contacted to try and coordinate action and discussions held with the NDDC Licensing and ASB Officers. Melissa fear then explained that if members of the public have a serious issue with ASB resulting from activity on licensed premises they should

contact the Licensing officer and complete a form, which will request a review of the licence conditions.

- 4 Nigel Jones, LCA Chairman explained that passers-by might shout across the street to smokers outside a pub, which is almost impossible to control. Licensees and bar staff can however talk to customers who have gone out for a smoke and emphasise the lateness of the hour and the need for quiet. A member of the public indicated the ASB situation in Salisbury St remained the same without improvement.
5. Issue 2 being Dog Fouling in Blandford was discussed next and Steve Hitchings outlined the action taken by the Dog Warden to identify specific areas and the Town Cleansing Team to remove dog waste. He emphasised the limited hours available for the Dog Warden who covers the entire district and the lack of funding for the Cleansing Team. John Tory asked if the situation was improved, stayed the same or had deteriorated but received no answer.
6. Issue 3 was ASB in Short's Lane and Simon Evans detailed action taken very much as for issue 1. He pointed out that since Jan 1st 2009 the number of complaints made by residents in Milldown St, Bryanston St and Short's lane was zero. No additional comments were made by the public.
7. PC Dave Mullins then detailed the action taken with the rural issues, which were speeding in West St, Winterborne Kingston and Pimperne and dangerous junctions at Dorchester Hill, New Rd and Fairmile Rd in Blandford St Mary. Speed checks have been carried out using a hand held radar gun and a number of warning letters issued to speeding motorists. DCC Highways department are reviewing the location of the 30 mph signage and are to suggest improvements to make signs more visible. A meeting later this month with DCC, Highways dept and Bryanston and Blandford St Mary Councils will review the current road layout and attempt to identify solutions.
8. The Chairman then asked for comments from the public on action taken. A St Leonard's Avenue resident said that they had waited for thirteen months for Panel action to monitor traffic flow and speed in the Avenue and nothing had been done. Barrie Cooper, DCC Councillor explained that a Truvello had monitored traffic with inconclusive findings and because of the need to provide fair coverage over the whole County would not be re-available in the near future. An attempt to monitor traffic using the camera Partnership had not been successful due to limited space and that a further attempt would be made using road side equipment. He also pointed out the Team had many other roads in The County to monitor and St Leonard's Avenue could not be granted special status.
9. Simon Evans then explained Blandford School children had been asked if they had any issues related to ASB or disorder. 165 cards had been completed, many of which mirrored the concerns of the general public. These votes would be included within the overall numbers counted to determine new issues. Underage smoking and drinking in the morning around the disused railway cutting and the park area received most votes followed by ASB at the Skate Park in Blandford St Mary.
10. John Tory then asked if the public wished to raise new issues. A lady asked what the Panel could do to mitigate the effects of an economic downturn. John pointed out that this was outside the Panel remit and Justin Woodward pointed out that if economic factors affected patterns of crime the Police would respond accordingly.
11. Criminal damage to cars in St Leonard's Avenue was reported. Simon Evans said that an arrest had been made and ongoing enquiries continued. A lady asked if the

Panel had any influence to ensure cheap alcohol was not readily available to youngsters and binge drinkers. John Tory said some of the problem stemmed from higher percentage of alcohol in many popular drinks. Barrie Cooper suggested that those concerned should contact Trading Standards.

12. Heavy and speeding traffic in the vicinity of Archbishop Wake School in Black Lane was recorded as an issue.
13. A member of the public asked if the town CCTV cameras could be used to identify and prosecute litterlouts. Justin Woodward said the potential to do so existed but the drain on resources to review images over several hours and try to identify suspects would not justify routine action of this nature.
14. Dave Mullins then read the rural issues selected for this period, which were speeding outside the Lady Bailey caravan park at Winterborne Whitechurch and at the Thornicombe crossroads.
15. The Chairman then invited the public to vote for the eight displayed issues. The subsequent outcome had ASB at the Stour Meadows Skate Park at evenings and weekends as Issue 1 with 27 votes. Speeding at St Leonard's Avenue and traffic concerns in the area of the Archbishop Wake School both received six votes and are listed as Issues 2 & 3.
16. The Chairman then thanked the public and the panel for their support and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.
17. The next Panel Meeting to review and finalise Action Plans will be held in Signpost House on Wednesday 29th April at 7 pm and is kindly hosted by Signpost Housing Ltd.

Blandford
8th April 2009