

BLANDFORD FORUM PACT PANEL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES TOWN AND RURAL

THE CORN EXCHANGE

TUES 13th JANUARY 2009

In Attendance

John Tory, Chairman
Justin Woodward, Blandford SNT
Simon Evans & members Blandford SNT
Dave Mullins & member Blandford SNT
Mick Wills, Blandford School
Barrie Cooper, Dorset County Council & Police Authority
Sara Loch, Blandford Town Council & Mayor
Steve Hitchings, NDDC
Chris Tomlinson, NDDC
Bob Brannigan, Blandford Garrison
Steve Garbutt, Dorset Fire & Rescue
Vanessa Dibben, Signpost Housing
Doc Addison, Sec & Blandford St Mary PC

Apologies

Apologies were received from: --
PC Karen Shanaghan, Dorset Police
Hilary Cox, Dorset CC
Nigel Jones, LVA
PC Graham Colwell, MOD Police
Trina Horrocks, Blandford Chamber of Trade

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked the Panel and nineteen members of the public for their support on a damp and miserable evening. Panel members present then identified the organisation they represent.
2. John Tory then read out Issue1 being ASB in the Market Square and surrounding area and that The Police were Lead Agency. Sgt Justin Woodward then outlined the measures that had been taken using Sec 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act to ban those involved in alcohol related disorder from a specified area for 24 hours. He said this action had been very successful and members of the audience agreed. A question was asked as to whether this problem had been transferred to other areas of the town. Justin said some had moved to Stour Meadows but now tended to disperse as soon as a Police Officer appeared as those involved did not want to be banned from yet another area.
3. Issue 2 was speeding in St Leonard's Avenue and John Tory asked Barrie Cooper to respond. He stated that Highways were reluctant to support another monitoring operation having, with limited and costly resources, monitored traffic for a week last year. The resultant facts and figures showed a comparatively low incidence of speeding. Simon Evans said that members of the SNT had visited the area on a number of occasions using the 'radar speed gun' but with limited success as members of the public then warned approaching drivers as soon as the officers were spotted. Cllr Cooper went on to say that the County Camera Partnership had been approached for support and that if successful this would result in tickets being issued to speeding drivers without any compromise.

4. A local resident continued to complain repeatedly that after nine months nothing had been done about this problem. Simon Evans and the Chairman pointed out that this was not the case.

5. Issue 3 was speeding in Edward St. Simon Evans said that having been to the area on several occasions there was little evidence to support the issue as the street was very narrow with parked cars so it was possible the report was based on perception rather than fact. John Tory asked if any Edward St residents were present with no response and because of the Police findings no further panel action would be taken.

6. The Chairman then invited Dave Mullins who heads the rural team to comment on the previous rural issue which was speeding in West End Spetisbury.

7. He said the Police had monitored the situation and noted there was an anomaly with the speed limit on the road in question. He had approached the County Highways department who had agreed the anomaly existed and action to extend the 30 mph zone which should help the situation and permit action against offenders would be added to the list and would probably be carried out but probably not until 2011.

8. John Tory then invited the public to raise any additional issues. The first item reported was poor or damaged cats eyes on rural roads and a couple of specific areas mentioned. The audience were encouraged to report this to Highways, directly or via their parish council.

9. Other issues raised included: -

Anti-social behaviour in Salisbury Street. This involves noise, persons urinating and damage to cars and property including smashed windows. This can occur on any night or time but mainly between 11.30 pm and 1.30 am on Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun nights. Many of the offenders probably come from Nelson's Wine Bar.

Anti-social behaviour in Shorts' Lane with a pattern similar to that above but possibly involving customers from the Kings Arms.

Dog fouling in Blandford in many areas. St Leonard's Avenue and East Street received special mention. Sara Loch mentioned that the street cleansing team are one short at present but NDDC is about to recruit.

10. In relation to anti-social behaviour in general Steve Hitchings then reported progress on the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) which had been proposed earlier to assist the Police reduce the incidence of this criminal activity. He said that it had been considered by NDDC who were supportive in principle and had passed the matter to the Town Council for consideration and consultation. Sara Loch said that the item was on the Agenda for a meeting in February.

11. The Chairman then invited Dave Mullins to report on current rural issues raised by the public. He reported that 26 cards had been received which detailed the dangers at the triple junction of New Road, Fair-mile and Dorchester Hill in Blandford St Mary. These include inconsiderate parking restricting vision, speeding, both towards and away from the town and lack of adequate signage plus lack of safe crossings places.

12. In response to a question from the audience Simon Evans said that if a member of the public was able to identify a persistent speeding offender and passed full details to the Police, the individual concerned would be contacted by the SNT.

13. A smaller but significant number of cards were received regarding speeding In West Street, Winterbourne Kingston.
14. Dave Mullins said that both would be included as issues for the next quarter and appropriate Action Plans drawn up for Panel action.
15. Simon Evans then read six issues which had been received by card. Some of these were items which had already been addressed.
16. John Tory then invited the public to vote on the issues listed. The result was as follows: -
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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Issue 1 (7 votes) | ASB in Salisbury St |
| Issue 2 (5 votes) | Dog fouling in the town |
| Issue 3 (3 votes) | ASB in Short's Lane |
17. The Chairman thanked the public and panel members and reminded all present that the next public meeting will be 7 pm on Tuesday 7th April 2009. He closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.
18. The next Panel Meeting to review and finalise Action Plans will be held in Signpost House on Wednesday 28th January at 7 pm and is kindly hosted by Signpost Housing Ltd.

Blandford
15th January 2009