

Alvechurch PACT - Tuesday 13th October

Over 100 residents heard Mel Clarke from West Mercia Police open the meeting with a presentation on SmartWater, a way of security coding property similar to DNA profiling. If stolen property is recovered and has been coded, it can easily be returned to its owner. The kit to code property costs £15 and anyone in the Alvechurch area can buy one. The local Policing team then introduced 3 new response officers working out of Wythall....they are all experienced officers, familiar with the Parish and its problems.

Feedback was given on 4 key areas, identified for action at the July PACT meeting.....

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) near the MUGA..... the Police read out a statement saying that ASB had been largely controlled by Operation Treacle for most of the summer but acknowledged that problems over the September 25th/ 26th weekend were totally unacceptable. Large groups of youths (mainly from outside the village) had been the cause. Local residents recognised that the Police were working hard to combat the issue but stressed that levels of late-night noise, vandalism and litter could not continue.

Traffic speed.....commitments to review traffic calming options on the A441 in Hopwood had been given by the County Council to residents a year ago and were now urgently needed. The Police were also asked to bring forward Speed Perception exercises in Hopwood as part of Community Speed Watch initiatives....and to repeat them in Rowney Green..

Scarfield Hillroad surface repairs were still an outstanding issue. Cuts in the County Highways budget mean this particular road is now a lower priority.

Parking in Birmingham Roadstrongly-worded letters had been sent to parents in September, followed up by close Police monitoring of parking near the new schools. One fixed penalty ticket was issued in the area and 6 more in the village centre. There was general agreement this situation was now under control but Police monitoring would continue. The flashing warning signs near the schools are now operational.

Priority areas identified on 13th October for action by the PACT panel were.....

Anti-social behaviour in Alvechurch.....this is now a top priority and an Open Forum will be held to focus on it. The Forum can include PACT panel members and all affected residents and may be held at the new school to accommodate numbers. Commitments were given that no environmental changes would be made at Swans Length until this Forum had been heldand that all options on the future of the MUGA will be discussed at the Forum. The Forum is planned before the end of November and will be widely publicised..

Traffic management in Hopwood.....County Highways to come back to Hopwood residents (and via PACT) with traffic calming proposals for Hopwood Hill (to reduce speeds) and for the link road to the M42 (to control parking and improve pedestrian safety).

*PACT is a community partnership, whose success depends on the community working **together** to resolve problems. There have been successes but the panel of Police, Council and Housing Trust representatives and residents themselves know that expectations are high and that not all problems can be solved as quickly as some people would like. Could you help us and be a Panel member? or maybe just let us know what you think of PACT. How could it be improved? Email the Village Society on avsoc@tiscali.co.uk about these issues or if you'd like more details about SmartWater.*

The next PACT meeting is on Tuesday 12th January 2010 - 7pm in the Village Hall.

Andy Humphries
Chairman - Alvechurch PACT panel