

Southdown PACT meeting, 14th October 2009

Last week's Southdown PACT meeting was, to my mind, the best that we have had so far. One thing that made it so good was that a significant number of Whiteway residents turned up to talk about issues on their estate, whereas past meetings have been weighted towards issues in the Southdown neighbourhood.

### Urban Extension

The meeting began with a discussion of the planned Urban Extension which will result in thousands homes being built to the south of Bath. Two likely spots for the build are Odd Down and land by The Globe Inn at Newton St Loe near Twerton.

The housing developments will have both positive and negative effects. For example, new facilities such as shops will be built to support the new estates, and these can be enjoyed by existing residents of South West Bath. On the other hand, increased traffic could cause problems on local roads.

Residents said that more student accommodation should be built at universities to free up homes, before extra houses are built. One resident asked why housing developments are not planned for other areas of Bath like Lansdown. The answer given was that these areas lie within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

If you do not want housing developments at Odd Down or near The Globe Inn, now is the time to speak up, as the council is holding consultations over the next 7 weeks. Telephone 01225 477548 or email [planning\\_policy@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk) to have your say. There will also be a meeting at Culverhay School on 28th October at 3pm on this subject.

### Road Safety

Councillor Paul Crossley said that a report had been completed on safety aspects of the whole of the Whiteway Road and its junction with Englishcombe Lane. Safety issues to do with Southdown Road have also been looked at, including the problem of trees blocking streetlights and the possibility of a pedestrian crossing by the LF Jones store. Issues will be addressed in the council's 2010 – 2011 budget.

Residents said that the uneven road surface causes vibrations in houses at Southdown Road and that a 30mph sign is needed at the top end of the road. Police employee Wendy Linham said that traffic pipes laid across Southdown Road had recorded the average speed to be about 31mph. Residents said that cars travel much faster than that but drivers slow down when they see the pipes.

Wendy Linham said she could only act on the available data and suggested that the real problem might be that the 30mph speed limit is too high for that road.

A resident of Whiteway pointed out that Southdown Road is not the only place where you get speeding cars. It happens a lot at Mount Road and Haycombe Drive in the evening. A group of residents have started a campaign to make Whiteway a 20mph zone. They will be organising a petition and taking it to a Full Council Meeting at the Guildhall.

#### Litter and dog fouling

Environmental Manager Bruce Bennett said that 9 litter bins had been installed in the area in the last year. Unfortunately some have been stolen, possibly for scrap metal. They will be replaced when the budget allows. A new bin is to be installed in the Alderley Road / Mount Road area.

On the issue of dog fouling, Bruce said that the council will be putting stickers on litter bins saying that they can be used for dog litter, providing that it is suitably bagged. There is no budget for more dog litter bins this year.

A resident of Haycombe Drive said that a lot of dog fouling takes place in Rosewarn Field and suggested that there could be a designated area for dog walkers. Some young people at Whiteway have raised £1000 for new goal posts at Rosewarn Field by organising charity football matches. They are unhappy about dog litter on the pitch. Broken glass was also identified as a problem.

#### Community solutions

In the second half of the meeting everyone split into two groups, with one group discussing how best to tackle speeding on roads, and the other discussing solutions to litter and dog fouling. Below are some of the solutions that people recommended:

#### *Litter and dog fouling*

- 1) More bins and a more even spread of bins at Rosewarn Field.
- 2) Make a flyer educating people about the problems caused by dog fouling.
- 3) Some Whiteway residents hope to launch a 'Proud of Your Doorstep' campaign where residents maintain the area in front of their house.
- 4) Nick Gardham from RE:generate to speak at Twerton Infant School.
- 5) Contact the dog warden or Council Connect on 01225 477477 over repeated dog fouling.
- 6) A resident might see if the local authority will provide dog litter bags to be made available free in local shops.

- 7) The council to empty bins and not let them overflow (e.g. the one at the slipway to Blagdon Park).

### *Speeding cars*

- 1) Have a community speedwatch where residents record speeding cars with speed guns. Four residents agreed to take part in this.
- 2) Lead by example – drive slowly yourself.
- 3) Bring in lower speed limits e.g. 20mph.
- 4) Technical solutions – cameras, signage, traffic calming etc.
- 5) Produce speed tables.
- 6) The Police Moped Initiative.
- 7) Find ways to educate drivers about speeding.

It was decided to continue to work on the issues of speeding traffic, litter and dog fouling, rather than create a new set of priorities to be addressed. The next PACT meeting will take place on 13th January 2010, in Southdown Methodist Centre at 7.30pm.