

Southdown / Whiteway PACT meeting, 14th April 2010

The PACT meeting scheduled for January had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, so the meeting began with reports on what action has been taken regarding issues raised in the October PACT. These are as follows.

Dangerous roads

PC Mark Brain said that police had again gone to Southdown Road with speed guns to check for motorists breaking the speed limit during the morning rush hour at 8.30am. Again the results suggested that speeding is not an issue on Southdown Road. PC Brain said that after several such exercises with traffic pipes and speed guns, it was time to move on to look at other priorities within the community.

This brought protests from some residents who insisted that there *is* a problem with motorists breaking the 30mph speed limit on Southdown Road. A resident complained that the speed checks need to be carried out nearer the top of Southdown Road, close to the turning to Hillcrest Drive, and that 8.30am was too late to catch the rush hour traffic.



Southdown Road

Another resident raised the recurring issue of dangerous traffic conditions on the Whiteway Road. There had been 16 deaths on the road over the years and little had been done. It was pointed out that a variable speed sign has been installed at Pennyquick. The

resident felt that this measure was inadequate because there is greater danger further up the hill where schoolchildren walk the Whiteway Road to Culverhay School. In his view, plans to build a row of houses along the Whiteway Road would intensify the traffic problems.

Councillor Terry Gazzard, a Cabinet Member of BANES Council, said that local roads will be resurfaced within the next two years, which may reduce "the impression of speed".

Litter and dog litter

Councillors Paul Crossley and Dine Romero reported that litter bins which have been stolen for scrap metal are to be replaced.

The Council now has a second dog warden so there is more possibility of taking action against dog fouling at Roundhill and Roseworn Field etc. The person in charge of emptying dog litter bins has resigned, so at the moment there is nobody emptying them. This problem will be rectified as soon as possible. Free dog litter disposal bags have been made available from the Community at Heart shop at Mount Road.

New priorities and issues

After these reports, people at the meeting split into two groups to discuss possible steps to improve the neighbourhood. Below are some of the thoughts which emerged.

- 1) The litter bin outside Southdown Junior School is missing. This is already being chased up.
- 2) Litter tends to collect by the steps outside the hardware store at Mount Road. A community based solution would be to ask pupils at a school to design an anti-litter poster to be displayed in Mount Road shop fronts. Civil Enforcement Officers could also monitor the public disposal of litter.
- 3) The new play area at Hillcrest Drive is appreciated. It is clean and safe, with a lovely slide.
- 4) The footpath from the top of The Hollow to the Blackmore-Langdon Estate gets a lot of litter strewn down the steps. Also, the footpath from Sladebrook Road to the Blackmore-Langdon Estate is often obstructed by overgrown hedges and brambles. The state of these footpaths could be brought to the Council's attention, or residents who own the hedges could be encouraged to keep the footpaths clear.

- 5) Cars parked on the corner of Sladebrook Road obscure vision for motorists. A white line stretching from Sladebrook Road to the variable speed sign at Southdown Road might help.
- 6) More parking spaces could be built at the green opposite Mount Road Co-op.
- 7) Pot-holes in roads have been caused by the freezing weather conditions earlier this year.
- 8) There have been distraction burglaries around Sladebrook Road.
- 9) The fence that forms the perimeter of Hillcrest Field has become untidy recently.
- 10) Groups of young people are hanging out around the back of The Beehive Surgery.
- 11) Vehicles making deliveries to the Mount Road Co-op have damaged cars parked there.
- 12) Be friendly towards others in the community and keep a positive community spirit.

The three priorities voted to be actioned were: 1) Resurfacing roads, especially Roundhill Park and Haycombe Drive; 2) Young people hanging out behind The Beehive Surgery; 3) Co-op delivery vehicles damaging parked cars.

Report by the Friends of Roundhill Group

Members of the Friends of Roundhill Group gave a talk with slides, to show some of the activities that have taken place and make an appeal for more members. One person present was interested in joining the group and another in making bird boxes and bat boxes for the hill. A litter pick will be held at Roundhill on 25th April at 3pm. Meet by the play area near the YMCA building. Another event coming to the hill is the Big Lunch community picnic, on 18th July from 12 noon to 2pm. See: www.friendsofroundhill.org.

Report by Culverhay Sports Centre (Aquaterra)

Staff from Culverhay Sports Centre said that they have tried unsuccessfully to get young people interested in evening activities such as football, hockey and basketball. They are interested in suggestions on how better to integrate with the community.

The next Southdown / Whiteway PACT meeting will be held in Southdown Methodist Centre, The Hollow, on 14th July at 7pm.