

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL /**  
**WM POLICE / WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LIAISON MEETINGS RE PACT / NGS, ETC.**

**Redditch Town Hall**

<b><u>9th March 2010</u></b>	<b><u>1st July 2010</u></b>
<p><b><u>PRESENT:</u></b></p> <p>RBC: Cllr Carole Gandy (in the Chair)</p> <p>Sue Hanley, Angie Heighway, &amp; Steve Skinner (Officers)</p> <p>WM Police: Insp Ian Joseph &amp; PC Richard Waterhouse.</p>	<p><b><u>PRESENT:</u></b></p> <p>RBC: Cllrs Carole Gandy (in the Chair), Banks, Braley, Chance, Hall, Hartnett, Hicks, Hill, Pearce, Quinney &amp; Vickery.</p> <p>Sue Hanley &amp; Steve Skinner (Officers)</p> <p>WM Police: Insp Ian Joseph &amp; PC Richard Waterhouse.</p> <p>WCC: Hazel Robinson (Officer)</p>

The second of these two meetings had been set up to pass on to a wider audience the thoughts of the initial meeting of March 2010, and to discuss the way forward. The notes therefore remain largely relevant to both meetings, and the Action Plan at the rear of the notes details the final agreed plan of action arising from both.

The principal messages were that

A. the new 'relaunched' PACT arrangements were to be as simple and 'unbureaucratic' as possible, and largely a matter for agreement between local (ward- / community-level) partners: initially the Police, and local authority elected Members; and

B. that the Police remained the prime co-ordinating body, in partnership with local authorities.

1. **RBC LEAD OFFICER – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The meeting noted that under the new RBC / BDC Shared Management Structures, community involvement / consultation became the responsibility of Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance & Partnerships. Regrettably he had not been able to be present at the initial meetings.

2. **PACT – POLICE-LED MEETINGS**

It was noted that these would continue to operate, essentially as before, but only in terms of those areas where there was a need, in policing / Crime & Disorder terms.

In other areas there would be no equivalent routine meetings, i.e. in:

Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Crabbs Cross
Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	West / Webheath

and also in the Town Centre itself.

In existing areas where PACT meetings were to continue, there might be a change of frequency, e.g. in Abbey Ward which would become quarterly meeting (but not covering the Town Centre).

PACT meetings would continue where necessary, in appropriate locations, as currently. The Police would continue to make their arrangements and to use their website to advertise the meetings as before.

### 3. **PACT IN BROADER TERMS**

Inspector Joseph explained that PACT was never intended to be a meeting-based process. Rather it sought to engage local communities in a range of ways, targeted at the best solutions for each area. It also intended, through a range of means, to involve areas of communities which were hard to reach by current means / meetings etc. It needed to be challenging and innovative.

In this the meeting considered local authorities' new statutory 'duty to involve' and its relevance to the discussions.

Alternative approaches could involve:

- local 'roadshows', akin to what the Borough Council was rolling out area by area (including a quarterly Headless Cross Green event).
- periodic more formal events, annually / or as often it was felt necessary.
- existing events could be considered, such as at the Morton Stanley Festival, or events in the Arrow Valley Park, Forge Mill, Kingfisher Shopping Centre; 'Cool by the Pool' in Batchley, etc.
- 'State of the Borough Debates' (already provided for in the Council's constitutional arrangements)
- 'Street Audits' and other means by which Council representatives went out into communities to introduce themselves and gather views.
- 'Environmental Evaluation Assessments'.
- (Plus Councillor Ward Surgery arrangements, where existing).

For all of the above, it was acknowledged that an adequate 'Planner of Scheduled Events' was required (or better awareness and use of existing information systems) in order to maximise the available opportunities.

4. **LSP / COUNTY COUNCIL ROLE / OTHER PARTNERS**

It was agreed that there might be a role for the Local Strategic Partnership in this, as well as for the Council's other partners.

It was noted that Borough and County Council rep's, with the Police, were generally well represented now at PACT meetings, but that this partnership needed to continue in the new ways of working together.

The County Council wished to review their County Contact Forum arrangements, and they were awaiting the outcomes of this present meeting in order to progress their ideas further.

Other organisations, such as health-related bodies, could be invited to participate as the scheme developed / as and when appropriate.

5. **OUTCOMES / ACTIONS**

It was agreed that there was now a need for relevant partners: Police / County and Borough Councillors to get together to develop ideas appropriate to their areas.

That attached Action Plan picks up on the various actions now agreed at both meetings for implementation.

PACT (PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER)

ACTION PLAN – JULY 2010

	Proposal	Action by	
1.	<i>PACT Meetings continue as at present, in those areas, and at the frequency, determined by Policing needs. In all other areas, and additionally in the areas where meetings still take place ...</i>	WM Police	
2.	Members liaise with local Police over best community engagement arrangements for their areas. County Members to be invited to participate (plus other partner bodies, as/when need dictates).	RBC Members / Local Police rep's / WCC Members.	
3.	Local Members / Police liaise with local PACT Panels, where these already exist or consider the need to set them up where they don't yet exist.	RBC Members / Local Police rep's / WCC Members.	
4.	The RBC Communications Team to be involved in monitoring the Events Planner to seek opportunities for community engagement; and to agree a joint press / media approach.. (other authorities' rep's to consider parallel activity)	RBC – Adrian Marklew	
5.	The Policy & Strategy (P&S) Team to increase their statistical analysis support to the new processes; to date there had been little analysis for example of the outcomes from the Neighbourhood Groups..	RBC – Sue Hanley to talk to Hugh Bennett / consider the resource implications re actions 4, 5 & 6.	
6.	Also P&S Team to look at the necessary linkages with the LSP.		
7.	Political Parties be asked to take this back to their Groups.	(Group Leaders all present at meeting.)	
8.	New PACT processes to be as 'unbureaucratic' as possible – <i>'mapped but not over-managed'</i> - no formal agenda / minutes or routine Officer attendance.	All	
9.	Where appropriate the PACT precedent of residents voting for their 'top three' priorities for action be maintained, with a view to keeping processes focussed / well targeted.	All	

10.	More information to be routinely shared between Partner bodies and posted on websites – County / RBC / Police (the Police site to be the prime one for this purpose, but ‘standard links’ to be posted if possible on others).	All	
11.	Where Roadshows / Stalls / Street Briefings / Environmental Audits / etc. are being undertaken as part of the new broader PACT processes, better advertising and branding is required (including better banners etc. so the public understand what is taking place)	Comms / All	
12.	RBC to consider hosting a Borough-wide Debate later in the municipal year 2010/11.	RBC - Sue Hanley / Cllr Gandy	
13.	Further consideration be given later to sharing of financial resources now ‘released’ from Neighbourhood Groups allocations. (Police to review needs and come back to other partners – <u>no immediate requirement for contributions</u> was made, however.)	S Skinner / Finance / WM Police	
14.	RBC Members be reminded of their decisions that spare funding is now available for re-allocation towards PACT activities / local meetings / hire of premises , etc.	SS/ Group Leaders	
15.	County Officer to communicate outcomes and consider similar potential re-allocation / pooling of funding if County Forum is deleted.	Hazel R.	
16.	All participating partners need to acknowledge their obligations and commitment to ‘New PACT’. (Report to RBC Exec?)	All / Steve Skinner	
17.	County Officer to seek WCC sign up to joining the new processes.	Hazel R. / WCC	
18.	WM Police to remain the organising / co-ordinating body for the time being, in consultation with other partners.	WM Police	

End.