

Chairman's Report to the Yatton Partners And Communities Together (PACT) AGM **24th February, 2011, at Horsecastle Chapel, Yatton**

Once again although it is my pleasure to report the PACT activities over the last year, the credit must go to the committee members and in particular to Rhiannon Prys-Owen who together with Simon Reakes and Julie Howard have done all the hard work towards this year's achievements. May I also express our gratitude to Horsecastle Chapel for generously allowing us to use their rooms and facilities for our meetings.

The PACT committee for 2010 was elected at the AGM held Horsecastle Chapel on 28th January 2010. The committee were: David Ford (Chair) Bob Poutney (Vice Chair), Rhiannon Prys-Owen (Secretary), Tom Edmondson (Treasurer). For 2011 David Ford, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, offer themselves for re-election, but nominations are required for vice chair and treasurer.

The PACT is the main conduit between the local community and the Police. During the year the Police have been well represented and have taken on board the concerns raised by residents. We have lost PC Phil Kinsella and PCSO Tracey Lewis who have moved to other appointments but we are very pleased to welcome PC Paul Morris as our new Beat Manager and his team PCSOs Kate Turner and Eleanor French. PACT meetings also enable the police to prioritise the policing efforts and the agreed priority issues are published on the Avon & Somerset Police web site. At the end of the year the priorities identified by the PACT are:

- 1. Anti –social behaviour and criminal damage**
- 2. Road Safety**
HGVs, excessive speeding, irresponsible parking
- 3. Dog Fouling**
Pavements and Strawberry line
- 4. Engagement with Youth Forums**

PACT activities are regularly reported in the Yatton & Congresbury Paper with feature articles appearing in the local free papers. The minutes of PACT meetings and agendas are available on the Parish website.

Two PACT members provided a display and undertook a consolation on community safety at the Community Roadshow held at Yatton Infant Schools. This brought current local issues to the attention of the PACT and the police.

To involve the Neighbourhood Watch teams in the Beat Manager's area, 'Mega PACT' meetings are held annually. This is an opportunity for the N.W. teams to meet with their Police teams and to hear of initiatives to improve community safety. The 2010 meeting was held February 25th and included presentations from North Somerset officers Derek Carter on Community Cohesion and Katie Roces-Koo on inspirational community development projects.

Activities during 2010

Anti-social Behaviour

Early in the year issues arose around Hangstones, Stowey Road and Rock Road. These were effectively dealt with and are no longer a serious current issue. Serious issues originating in Rectory Way arose during the year which became intolerable to local residents. The problem spread throughout Yatton and a multi agency effort was required to remove the source. The PACT

recorded their appreciation of the efforts of the local Police in solving this issue, a note of which was reported in the local press.

Occasional issues of ASB are brought to the attention of PACT members and the Police informed. It is a relief to report that at the start of 2011 there are few incidences of anti-social behaviour.

Traffic Issues

Members of the PACT team have been active with monitoring traffic speed through the village using the 'Speedwatch' cameras and at the same time monitoring the number of HGVs and their ownership. The data from this exercise has been passed to the police for possible future action.

Traffic speed is a continuing concern and the police have been asked to arrange for speed strips to be placed in appropriate positions to monitor the volume and speed of through traffic.

The 20's Plenty campaign to encourage a 20 mph speed limit in Yatton has been promoted by PACT member Juley Howard. Concerned residents are encouraged to register their support through the website www.20splentyforyatton.org.uk

Irresponsible parking continues to be a problem and the PCSOs are taking active measures to reduce this nuisance.

Dog Fouling

Simon Reakes has identified a best practice initiative called 'Green Dog Walkers' promoted by the Falkirk Council. This initiative promotes clean dog walking through volunteers who demonstrate their commitment by the wearing of green arm bands and green dog collars. Although it is not financially possible to take a licence from Falkirk for this initiative, the PACT is actively considering following the "Green Walkers" principles with a similar campaign. To bring the hazards of dog mess to the public and in particular to irresponsible dog walkers, posters have been placed in strategic locations and distributed through the Neighbourhood Watch network.

The PACT is liaising with North Somerset Environmental Health Officials and the campaign against dog fouling is supported by the Parish Council, Yatton Schools, Yeo Vale Surgery, and Watkins Tasker Veterinary Surgery. The initiatives were the key focus for this year's "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign and a combination of national and local posters and news articles gave the campaign a high profile.

Youth Forums

Yatton youth groups activities are reported to regular PACT meetings and encouragement given whenever appropriate. Yatton Parish Council's Youth Forum and Yatton Youth Club's management committee worked tirelessly to secure a Youth Hub at Wendy's Cafe next to the Post office in Yatton, with cafe facilities, iPod sound system, wireless broadband, PC's, printer, youth worker and access to other resources plus much more. The youth forum has been a great help completing funding bids, the youth action group received £200 for gardening equipment for use in the parish, and they also secured £5,000 from the youth capital fund for new flooring and toilets at the youth club and a bit of decorating and this was celebrated with a Fun For All Open day.

The young parents group is proving successful with Niccy and Heather Graham-Thomas working at Yatton Moor Children's Centre, offering 3rd party advice on child care issues and career options alongside support from youth workers.

We need to ensure continued support for the Youth Workers in this financial climate as the loss of this valuable community resource will certainly impact on the quality of young people's lives in Yatton and the outlying districts.

David Ford