

Minutes of the Mega PACT meeting held at Horsecastle Chapel, Yatton on Thursday 25th February 2010 at 7.30pm

Chairman David Ford introduced himself and gave a brief description of the way PACTs operate. He explained that as well as being the community's main conduit to the police, the PACT's remit includes social concerns. The aim of the Mega PACT was to include the other villages in the police beat area (Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Cleeve) and provide a forum for discussion of issues of concern and to hear what the local police are doing.

Apologies were received from Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Ian Pullar, Chris Steed, Niccy Lochart and 30-40 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. A form was circulated for attendees to fill in if they wished.

Youth activities

Wendy Griggs gave a report from Yatton Youth Club. Terry Thornhill, the youth leader, has been off sick since September. Niccy Lockhart is standing in. Wendy reported that the youth club is very successful and more young people have become involved. Funding has been obtained for activities outside the youth club and youngsters travel to a basketball club once a week, football, karate and cooking. Summer holiday activities are being organised. A grant has been obtained for gardening equipment and the young people propose to improve the external appearance of the building.

Once a month a parish youth forum meets, for young people from various youth organisations in the village. A plan for an internet café is being explored and Niccy is drawing up a business plan for funding.

Sgt Debbie Budd, who has taken over from Sgt Gareth Starr at Clevedon police station and has an overall responsibility for policing this area, was introduced by PC Phil Kinsella. He emphasised that PACT was about a 2-way process. He updated the meeting on issues in his beat:

Kingston Seymour

Sheep worrying was a major concern and there had also been cases in Yatton. There had been one incident of a car being broken into.

Cleeve

The police were working with the parish council to make the junction of Bishop Road and A370 safer. Setting up a community speedwatch scheme could help. Cleeve was not similar to Yatton and Congresbury in its needs. PC Kinsella reported that a new PACT could be formed to include Cleeve with Congresbury and Wrington, who had similar concerns.

Kenn

Firework displays causing distress to farm animals was an issue to Kenn residents, and vehicles on Moor Road ending in ditches.

Yatton and Claverham

Hangstones remained a priority for police attention to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. A meeting for Stowey Road residents had shown that they were not aware of what the police were doing to tackle the problem. PC Kinsella had therefore provided a report to Stowey Road residents and this gave contact details. This can be viewed on the Yatton Parish Council website, although it now needs updating.

As a result of the meeting the police had been doing what residents wanted, e.g. moving young people on. Now there was a problem with displacement and Rock Road playing field and Claverham Cricket Club had both been subject to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. PC Kinsella said that if youths were using Hangstones and not waking residents up at 3am it was not a problem. It is much easier to police Hangstones than other sites. He proposed to change the strategy.

An unmarked car dedicated to pro-active monitoring of anti-social behaviour had been used. Eleven Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) had been issued re Rock Road playing field. These were in force for 6 months and were agreed with parents. PCSOs visit once a month to see if they are working. They can be a first step towards an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) but are usually sufficient to stop the behaviour.

A youth art project was planned for the skate park ramps to give young people a sense of ownership. Yatton Parish Council has agreed to help with crime prevention and lay all the hedges at the back of Hangstones to about four feet high. This will provide natural light at night and provide fewer hiding places.

Crime prevention surveys have been carried out at Hangstones, Yatton Youth Club, Goblin Combe. A meeting was to be held with the Area Officer from North Somerset Council about the potholes in local roads.

The PCSOs had been working regularly in schools talking about rules and why they exist. Some children were appointed as sheriffs. The mobile skate park may be taken to Court de Wyck for use by the community as it is not otherwise being used.

Open forum

Tony Moulin said that sheep worrying could be linked with dog fouling and showed the problems of irresponsible dog walkers. He suggested a strategy to educate dog owners.

Sgt Debbie Budd said that PCSO Tracey was meeting the dog warden to hand out leaflets to dog walkers on the Strawberry Line.

After the break Derek Carter, the North Somerset Group Manager for Community Involvement, gave a presentation on community cohesion.

The Government's description of community cohesion:

- Working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities
- A society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued
- A society in which similar life opportunities are available to all
- And a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and the wider community.

He said that there was polarisation between young and older people in Yatton. Data from census updates in 2008 showed that Yatton had more young families

than the North Somerset average and fewer people aged 40-69. He described Yatton as an affluent, well-motivated community and said the young people not fitting into the majority would feel isolated and 'different'. A 'place survey' was carried out every two years.

Asked the question: *To what extent do you agree or disagree that in your locality parents take enough responsibility for their children?:*

Definitely tend to agree – Yatton residents 27% against 32% non-Yatton
Neither agree nor disagree – Yatton residents 35% against 19% non-Yatton
Definitely tend to disagree – Yatton residents 37% against 49% non-Yatton.

Asked: *In your area, how much of a problem do you think there is with people not treating each other with respect and consideration?:*

A very or fairly big problem – Yatton residents 14% against 23% non-Yatton
Not a very big problem at all – Yatton residents 86%, non-Yatton 77%

Asked: *In your area how much of a problem is there with teenagers hanging around the streets?*

A very or fairly big problem – Yatton residents 44% against non-Yatton 32%
Not a very big problem at all – 56% of Yatton residents, against 68% non-Yatton.

Derek Carter suggested that the figures show that Yatton residents perceive a bigger problem with youth, and this may be due to the community's make-up.

The role of the citizen is to:

- Report crime
- Take personal responsibility
- Be good parents
- Be neighbourly
- Play an active part in your community

A member of Yatton Junior School PTA said that more inter-generational activities at the school would be very valuable, where local people shared their knowledge and experiences with the children.

Katie Rocas-Koo, a community development worker at North Somerset Council for 15 years, spoke about inspirational projects in which she had been involved. These included:

1. a community building with a derelict garden where local gardeners had taught young people how to create a garden
2. a church where young people were hanging about outside and causing problems. Three elderly people got involved with the young people, the young people did gardening and decorating for them and the older people made them sandwiches, etc.
3. a homeless centre where there was tension because it was on other days used by a youth project. The former users of the homeless service were encouraged

to volunteer to help the young people and had encouraged greater mutual respect and understanding between the generations.

Katie said that a goal without a plan is just a wish. She urged people to get involved in their community and share a vision for a better community: “If you want to build a ship don’t divide the men up to gather the wood to build the ship. Just give them a yearning for the open seas”.

David Ford closed the meeting informing people about the PACT web page on the parish council website and inviting people to attend the Yatton PACT meeting held on the last Thursday of each month (except summer holidays and December).