



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 18TH MAY 2009, AT 6.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

MEMBERS: To those Members of the Council nominated to serve on the Licensing Committee following the Annual Meeting of the Council on 6th May 2009.

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman for the Ensuing municipal year
2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Ensuing municipal year
3. To receive apologies for absence
4. Declarations of Interest
5. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 23rd February 2009. (Pages 1 - 4)
6. Designated Public Places Order - Cofton Hackett (Pages 5 - 48)
7. To consider any other business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

8th May 2009

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Agenda Item 5

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 2009, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Hancox (Chairman), Mrs. R. L. Dent (Vice-Chairman), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, (during Minute No.'s 19/08 to 25/08), Miss D. H. Campbell JP, Ms. J. A. Marshall, L. J. Turner and M. J. A. Webb

Observers: Councillor P. M. McDonald

Officers: Mrs. D. Warren, Mrs. S. Smith, Mr. J. Davies and Ms. P. Ross

19/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. A. Sherrey, Mrs. C. J. Spencer and D. McGrath.

20/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

21/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21st July 2008 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

22/08 DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER - COFTON HACKETT

Consideration was given to introducing a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO), which would prevent, when requested, the consumption of alcohol in the Cofton Hackett area in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour and drinking in these public areas. This matter was being brought before the Committee as the Police, who are responsible for enforcing any restrictions on public drinking in designated areas, were not willing to support this particular request as they had insufficient evidence of anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol consumption in the area, and felt that they already had sufficient measures in place to keep any anti-social behaviour occurring in the area under control.

At the Chairman's discretion, Councillor P. M. McDonald, County Councillor representing the County Electoral Division for Beacon, spoke in favour of introducing a DPPO in this area. In doing so he stated that it had been raised as a top issue during a PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting and during an additional Public Meeting. In addition over four hundred people had been contacted and Neighbourhood Watch had expressed concern

regarding the consumption of alcohol. A Dispersal Order under Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 had been implemented by an adjoining authority.

It was noted that information provided by the police had shown that during the period from 1st June 2007 to 27th November 2008 only 4 incidents out of a total of 59 reports of anti-social behaviour were linked to the consumption of alcohol in the area. Following discussion on the absence of clear evidence of alcohol related public nuisance or disorder, it was

RESOLVED that the request for the creation of a Designated Public Places Order in the Cofton Hackett area, Bromsgrove be deferred until the next Licensing Committee meeting. Officers were tasked to obtain further evidenced information from Neighbourhood Watch, West Mercia Constabulary and PACT meetings.

23/08 **TAXI LICENSING HANDBOOK**

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to adopt the revised policy and licence conditions in respect of all taxi licensing matters, to be incorporated into the Council's Taxi Handbook. Members were made aware that Bromsgrove District Council had worked with other licensing authorities across Herefordshire and Worcestershire in an attempt to bring together guidance, licence conditions and policies relating to all aspects of taxi licensing, into one handbook, to be used throughout the County. Following a period of consultation and discussions with County colleagues, it had become apparent that this was not feasible, at this present time, due to the reasons highlighted in the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the policy elements and licence conditions relating to taxi licensing, as set out in the Taxi Handbook be approved for adoption; and
- (b) that the proposed transition periods for the policy changes to take effect be approved.

24/08 **GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE RELEVANCE OF CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS**

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to adopt a revision of existing guidance to Licensing Committee Members and applicants on the relevance of convictions when granting either a Dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence or Private Hire Operator's Licence.

RESOLVED that the revised guidance on the relevance of convictions and cautions be approved for adoption.

25/08 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which outlined proposals to create two new Hackney Carriage Stands, and on the proposed re-confirmation of two existing Stands. Following a review of all Hackney

Carriage Stands in the district, the Council had been approached by the Police Authority to look at introducing an additional Hackney Carriage Stand in the Town area to help reduce crime and disorder during the evenings, as well as enhancing current taxi rank provision.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the creation of a new Hackney Carriage Stand at Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (b) that the creation of a new Hackney Carriage Stand at New Road Service Road, Rubery, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (c) that the re-confirmation of an existing Stand at The Strand, Bromsgrove, as set out in the report, be approved; and
- (d) that the re-confirmation of an existing Stand at Market Street Bus Station, Bromsgrove, as set out in the report, be approved; with all Stands being subject to the necessary amendments being made to Traffic Regulation Orders.

26/08 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE SITE VISITS**

Consideration was given to a report on the current process relating to site visits and whether to recommend to Council that the Licensing Code of Practice be revised. Members had queried the possibility of Licensing Sub-Committees undertaking site visits in cases where it would be helpful in the determination of applications. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Senior Solicitor in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to prepare a revised draft Licensing Code of Practice.

RECOMMENDED that the Council adopt the revised Licensing Code of Practice, which forms part of the Constitution.

27/08 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE REVISED HEARING PROCEDURES**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which outlined the periodic reviews of Committee Hearing Procedures. The Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing Procedures had recently been reviewed in order to shorten the time allowed for representations to be made, to simplify the language and to clarify certain aspects of the procedure. Officers informed Members that hearing procedures would be regularly reviewed. Following discussion officers were tasked to draft a brief guide providing information for Public Speaking at Licensing Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing Procedures be revised, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

18TH MAY 2009

DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER – COFTON HACKETT

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Peter Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	David Hammond

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider introducing a Designated Public Places Order in the Cofton Hackett area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members either:

- approve the creation of a Designated Public Places Order as outlined on the attached plan; or
- refuse the request.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members may recall at the previous Licensing Committee Meeting, the Council had been approached by the County Councillor representing the County Electoral Division for Beacon to look at introducing a Designated Public Places Order to prevent, when requested, the consumption of alcohol in the Cofton Hackett area in an attempt to reduce anti social behaviour and drinking in these public areas. Details of the request is attached at Appendix 'A'.
- 3.2 The Criminal Justice Police Act 2001 allows local authorities to designate areas for this purpose only where they are satisfied that nuisance or annoyance to the public or disorder has been associated with drinking in a public place. Each DPPO must be considered on its own merits, based on any evidence gathered.
- 3.3 These powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities, for example families having a picnic in a park with a glass of wine. Police Officers can use their discretion when deciding to request an individual to refrain from drinking regardless of their behaviour. Home Office guidance suggests that it is not appropriate to challenge an individual consuming alcohol where that individual is not causing a problem.

- 3.4 The Regulations governing the creation of such an Order do not place a requirement on the local authority to conduct a formal assessment of the area in question, over a given period, of the nature of the problem. However the local authority will want to satisfy itself that the powers are not being used disproportionately or in an arbitrary fashion in the case of say, one isolated incident. Consequently there should be clear evidence of an existing problem, with an assessment as to the likelihood that the problem will continue unless these powers are adopted and the belief that the problem could be remedied by the introduction of such an Order. The Council would look to the Police to provide this evidence.
- 3.5 In December 2008 the Home Office published Guidance relating to Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs): For Local Authorities in England and Wales. This sets out guidance for local authorities on the issue of evidence required to justify making a DPPO as follows:
- “The evidence you will require for a DPPO is that there is an alcohol related nuisance or annoyance to the public in the proposed area/s. You should make an assessment as to the likelihood that the problem will continue unless these powers are adopted. In addition, you must have a belief that the problem could be remedied by the use of these powers. Evidence should be based not just on information you have obtained, but also from the police and members of the local community who have reported incidents of alcohol-related anti-social behavior or disorder. Evidence of alcohol-related nuisance could for example include litter related to the consumption of alcohol (e.g. bottles and cans) as well as police information and residents’ complaints.”
- 3.6 In order to gain this necessary evidence, the Regulations require local authorities to consult with the Police Authority to seek their views on the nature of the problem and the appropriateness of introducing such an Order, as well as recognising that it will be the Police who will have the responsibility for enforcing the restrictions on public drinking in the designated area.
- 3.7 On this occasion, the Police, at present, are not willing to give their support to this particular request for a Designated Public Places Order, as they have insufficient evidence of anti social behaviour caused by alcohol consumption in this area. They feel that they already have sufficient measures in place to keep any anti social behaviour occurring in this area, under control. A copy of their response is attached at Appendix ‘B’. The Police have been invited to attend this meeting at the request of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.8 During the period from 1st June 2007 and 27th November 2008 only 4 incidents out of a total of 59 reports of anti social behaviour were linked to the consumption of alcohol in the area.
- 3.9 Members may recall at the previous meeting, it was agreed that minutes from recent Neighbourhood Watch meetings and PACT meetings for the

Cofton Hackett area be provided to Members. Copies of the minutes from recent Neighbourhood Watch Meetings are attached at Appendix 'C'. Members will note from these minutes, the issue of a DPPO was raised on a number of occasions during the last 12 months, the following is an extract taken from each set of Neighbourhood Watch minutes:

- **3rd March 2009 - “Alcohol Free Zone for Cofton Hackett (“AFZ”) –** PACT has taken it forward to the licensing committee – they depend upon “figures of disorder” i.e., reported incidents to the police / Council. Only 9 people attended Cllr McDonalds meeting of which 7 voted for an AFZ. A decision has been deferred as the police want to investigate what is happening in Cofton Park and West Midlands police area; Sgt Wilkes also requested assistance from CHNW and PACT in gathering a more comprehensive view of local opinion as Cllr McDonalds meeting unfortunately clashed with others. Sgt Wilkes wishes to hear from anyone with incidents, either current or historical, so that he can present true opinion. Please email: mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk - see attached leaflet at the end of the minutes.”

- **7th October 2008 - “A meeting has been arranged by Councilor Peter McDonald to discuss Cofton Hackett becoming an Alcohol Free Zone. Cofton Village Hall, 16th October at 7pm.** CHNW encourages all residents to attend and await the outcome with interest. NW have made some enquiries from a local police perspective, who are supportive of an alcohol free zone, however, the District Council and licensing committee utilise Police Crime report statistics and the level of alcohol fuelled disorder, according to the a, may not provide enough justification at this time for an alcohol free zone to be adopted within Cofton Hackett. The meeting therefore encourages all residents to report alcohol related incidents (including ASB., litter etc). Issues raised at tonight's meeting included Cofton Park being included in such a scheme. Please raise at Cllr Mc Donalds Meeting.”

- **4th September 2008 – “Two applications for play areas to become “Alcohol Free Zones”** have been denied in Bromsgrove. This decision was made due to insufficient evidence, as only three incidents have been reported for the two areas in the past two years. As this has been a raised issue at Cofton Hackett PACT, Emily stressed the significance and importance of reporting all incidents to the police. Drink related incidents and antisocial behaviour are being tackled in Bromsgrove by the local Police Tasking Team (LPTT) by serving Section 27 notices. This can be used on anyone aged 17 or above and requires them to leave a specified area for up to 48hours(The Standard Aug 22nd)”

- **5th February 2008 – “Alcohol Free Zones:** A member asked why this scheme, presently in use in Rubery and Alvechurch, could not be adopted in Cofton Park? The meeting was advised to bring up this issue at the next PACT – particularly if attended by West Midlands Constabulary police.”

- 3.10 The proposal to introduce a DPPO was discussed at the PACT meetings held on 24th April 2008, 17th July 2008, 16th October 2008 and 15th January 2009 and it was agreed to take it forward as a priority. Attached at Appendix 'D' is a resume of the PACT meetings.
- 3.11 The Regulations also require local authorities to consult with the following interested parties:
- The Parish or community Council covering all or part of the public place to be designated;
 - The neighbouring police and local authority in cases where a designation order covers an area on the boundaries with that neighbouring authority;
 - Any premises licence holder, club premises certificate holder or premises user;
 - Reasonable steps should also be taken to consult the owners or occupiers of the land proposed to be designated.
- 3.12 A public notice was placed in the Bromsgrove Standard on 10th April 2009 inviting comments on the proposed order. A response has been received from a local resident and a copy is attached at Appendix 'E' for members information. The resident feels that it is not necessary to include Oakfield Drive in the proposal.
- 3.13 A verbal response has been received from the Premises licence Holder who operates the a premises on Parsonage Drive, who also feels that he has not encountered any anti social behaviour as a result of people drinking alcohol in the vicinity of his premises, he further stated that he has not had to deal with under age people trying to purchase alcohol from his premises.
- 3.14 A response has been received from Birmingham City Council who offer no objection to the proposals. In compiling their response they had consulted with West Midlands Police. A copy of their response is attached at Appendix 'F'.
- 3.15 At the time of writing this report no response has been received from Cofton Hackett Parish Council.
- 3.16 A plan showing the location of the proposed Order is attached at Appendix 'G'.
- 3.17 Should Members decide to approve the proposed Order, it will be necessary to place another public notice in the local press, informing the public of the consequences of the Order, as well as arranging for signage to be erected in the area.
- 3.18 Finally, for information purposes, Members may wish to note that Appendix 'H' set out those areas in the District where DPPO's have already been granted, following the support of the Police. To date no DPPO has been granted without the support of the Police.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the public notice and other administrative costs will be met from existing budgets held by Planning and Environment Services.
- 4.2 There is no budget available for signage informing the public that an area(s) area is within a Designated Public Places Order. However, if Members agree to introduce the Order in Cofton Hackett, an approach will be made to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to fund this scheme in conjunction with the Council's Community Safety Team.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Licensing Authorities have power under Section 13 of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 to introduce and revoke Designated Public Places Orders in association The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007.

- 5.2 There is a requirement under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – Section 13 (2) that:

“A local authority may for the purposes of subsection (1) by order identify any public place in their area if they are satisfied that-

- (a) Nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public; or
- (b) Disorder;

has been associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor in that place.”

- 5.3 With reference to Paragraph 4 of the Regulations, it specifies that when a Local Authority is deciding an application for a Designated Public Places Order, it shall consider any representations as to whether or not a particular public place should be identified in an Order.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's objective “Sense of community and well being”.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The main risk associated with the detail included in this report are:

- Introduction of a Designated Public Places Order without the support of the Police Authority

- 7.2 This risk is being managed as follows:

Risk register: Planning and Environment Services
 Key Objective Ref No. 8
 Key Objective: Effective, efficient and legally compliant Licensing Service

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All relevant parties will be notified in writing within 5 working days of the Council's decision.
- 8.2 If Member's decide to adopt this scheme, there is a risk that members of the public may complain to the Council that the Police are not enforcing the terms of the Order, as expected.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 If Members are minded to approve the introduction of the Order, it could be conceived that the Council is not providing value for money as the Police are not in support of the proposal and may not be in a position to enforce the restrictions imposed by the Order. The Police already have alternative powers to deal with anti social behaviour.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues None
Personnel Implications None
Governance/Performance Management None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 The creation of the Order would give the Police additional powers to confiscate alcohol from people drinking in public places.
Policy None
Environmental None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No

Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	No
Executive Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No
Head of Street Scene and Community Services	Yes

13. **WARDS AFFECTED**

The proposed Order will be situated in the Hillside ward.

14. **APPENDICES**

Appendix A	Request for a Designated Public Places Order
Appendix B	Response from the Police Authority
Appendix C	Minutes from Neighbourhood Watch Meetings
Appendix D	Resume of Cofton Hackett PACT meetings
Appendix E	Response from a local resident
Appendix F	Response from Birmingham City Council
Appendix G	Location plan of proposed designated area
Appendix H	List of approved DPPO's

15. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Request received from Cllr. P. McDonald
Response received from West Mercia Police Authority
Neighbourhood Watch Minutes
PACT priorities
Home Office Guidance on Designated Public Places Orders.
Response received from Birmingham City Council
Response received from a local resident

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Sharon Smith – Principal Licensing Officer
E Mail: sharon.smith@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881626

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Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – Section 13(4)
Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places)
Regulations 2007

NOTIFICATION OF A REQUEST TO INTRODUCE A DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER (Alcohol Free Zone)

1. Name of Applicant:

P M McDonald – County Councillor

2. Address of Applicant:

10 Waseley Road, Rubery, B45 9TP

3. Contact details:

Telephone No: 0121 453 9267

Email address: p.mcdonald@bromsgrove.gov.uk

4. In what capacity are you applying (ie Ward Councillor, Parish Council, Resident)

County Councillor for the Division

5. Location and/or description of proposed designated area (Please also attach a location plan showing the EXACT area): Do you think the problem will be displaced, if so, where.

Plan attached

6. Why do you feel it is necessary to introduce a designated alcohol free area in this location(s): *(Please use additional sheets if necessary)*

PACT Meeting a top issue and at an additional Public Meeting.
 Neighbourhood Watch Concerned
 Section 30 installed on neighbourhood authority

7. Please give details of any evidence you have to suggest that anti-social behaviour is being fuelled by alcohol in this location. Please include details such as the approx. age of people causing the nuisance; the source of the alcohol; *(Please use additional sheets if necessary)*

PACT Meetings

Public Meeting

Over four hundred people contacted.

Neighbourhood watch concerned regarding the consumption of alcohol

Section 30 implemented on adjoining authority.

8. Have you liaised with the local police in putting together this request and are they in support? Please give details: *(Please use additional sheets if necessary)*

Police were at the PACT Meetings and aware of the problems both in Cofton Hackett and the neighbouring authority.

The police do not support the consumption of alcohol in the streets or play areas to my knowledge.

Over four hundred residents have been contacted regarding the proposed Alcohol Free Zone.

Neighbourhood watch support the proposals.

9. Signed:

John H. McDonald

10. Dated:

21/10/08

Please complete this form in full, together with the location plan outlining the proposed designation area and return it to the Licensing Section, Bromsgrove District Council, Planning and Environment Services, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs., B60 1AA. If you have any queries with regard to completing this form, please telephone (01527) 881626 or email licensing@bromsgrove.gov.uk.

A copy of the completed form and plan will be submitted to the Chief Officer of Police for his/her comments.

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West Mercia Constabulary
17 The Crescent
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 2 DF



WEST MERCIA
CONSTABULARY
TOGETHER - WORKING FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE

11th December 2008

Sharon Smith
Principal Licensing Officer
Planning & Environment Services
The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Dear Sharon,

Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007- Application for COFTON HACKETT

Please find the enclosed response form relating to the above proposed Order. As you will see there is little evidence in support of the application. May I refer you also to the attached CDRP Analyst's report and that of the Local Policing Sergeant for this area.

I understand that PS WILKES has already liaised with Cllr. McDonald as part of this process and in addition let me add a reassurance to Mr McDonald and his constituents that the Local Policing Team and District Support Staff will continue to monitor the situation.

Yours sincerely

Police Constable
1747 Mark Townsend
Local Policing Support Team
Bromsgrove Police Station

Tel. 08457 444 888 x 3217
DD 01527 586217
Mob. 07773 363213



Awarded for excellence



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – Section 13(4)
Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places)
Regulations 2007

RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO INTRODUCE A DESIGNATED PUBLIC
PLACES ORDER (Alcohol Free Zone)

1. Proposed designated area:

Areas in Cofton Hackett, Rubery Policing Sector identified as:

GROVELEY LANE
ASHMEAD DRIVE
CHESTNUT DRIVE
PARSONAGE DRIVE
MIDDLE DRIVE
OAKFIELD DRIVE
ASHMEAD RISE

2. Are the Police in support of introducing an Order in the above-mention area?
Please give your reasons:

No, there is insufficient evidence at this time to support the application for an order

3. Does the area identified on the enclosed location plan, accurately cover all known 'hot spots'? If not, please return the enclosed location plan indicating what other areas need to be included or excluded:

Yes

P.T.O

4. If the Police are NOT in support, please give your reasons:

Please see the attached report from Bromsgrove's CDRP Analyst, Emily Humphreys. The Analyst's report is derived from data collated from the Police CRIMES database between 1 June 2007 and 27 November 2008 (18 months).

In summary, during this period, only 4 incidents out of a total of 59 reports of Anti Social Behaviour in the proposed Alcohol Free Zone , were flagged up as Having been alcohol related.

In addition, Rubery Local Policing Sergeant, PS Mark WILKES, having reviewed this data, sees little value in pursuing the application any further. (Copy also attached)

Based on this evidence, we (the Police), under the Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Regulations 2007, cannot be '**satisfied that nuisance or annoyance to the public or disorder has been associated with drinking in the aforementioned place**', and therefore cannot support this application

5. Do you have sufficient resources to make the introduction of this Order effective? Please give details:

Not applicable

Please return this response form to the Licensing Section, Planning and Environment Services, The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs., B60 1AA, or email it to sharon.smith@bromsgrove.gov.uk no later than 14th November 2008.

If you have any queries with completing this form, please contact Sharon Smith on 01527 881626.

Alcohol-related Disorder in Cofton Hackett – Alcohol Free Zone Proposal

An application has been made for an Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) in Cofton Hackett. The following report outlines the number and type of anti-social behaviour incidents occurring within the proposed AFZ area (as defined those incidents where the easting and northing given in the incident/offence record places them within the boundary on the below map). All data is collected from the Police CRIMES database. All data collected from the period 01 June 2006 and 27 November 2008 (18 months).

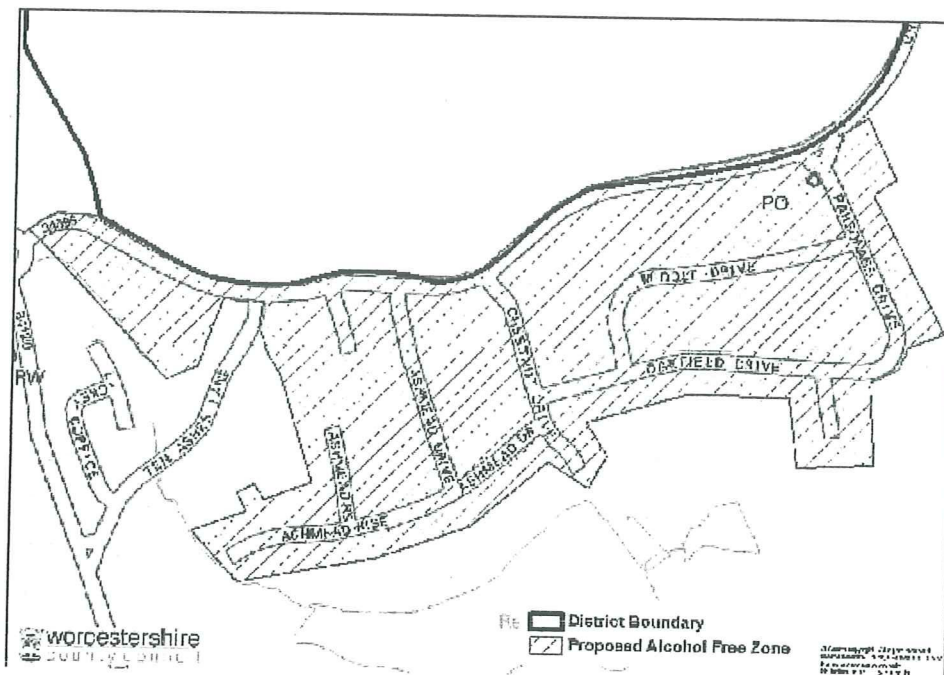


FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED AFZ

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

59 reports of anti-social behaviour were logged as having occurred in the proposed Alcohol Free Zone area between 01 June 2006 and 27 November 2008.

Incident Category	Total
Rowdy Behaviour	38
Malicious Communications	6
Vehicle Nuisance	5
Nuisance Neighbours	3
Abandoned Vehicles	2
Hoax Call to Emergency Services	2
Environmental Nuisance	2
Fireworks	1
Total	59

FIGURE 2: NO. AND TYPE OF INCIDENTS REPORTED IN PROPOSED AFZ (01 JUNE 2006 TO 27 NOVEMBER 2008)

General ASB Incidents in the AFZ Area – summary of relevant points

- Of a total 38 rowdy behaviour complaints in the area, 31 related to youths, and 26 specifically to youths gathering on the streets.
- More youth related ASB took place on Oakfield Drive than any of the other roads in the AFZ area, with 10 incidents logged there over the last 18 months. Chestnut Drive was the location for 8 incidents, several of which took place in the play area there. 6 Incidents were logged on Parsonage Drive (not including those at the Focus store). The allotments behind Oakfield Drive, and the Myhill fields and play area were also repeat locations, especially for vandalism and graffiti related complaints.
- The Focus store on Parsonage Drive was a specific hotspot location for youth related anti-social behaviour. Complaints included youths gathering on the car park and in the loading area, running in between moving cars and forklift trucks at considerable risk to their own safety, messing around with the trolleys and playing football. Of the total 8 incidents reported at Focus in the last 18 months, all but one took place since April 2008, with 3 in July 08 and 3 in September 08, suggesting that this behaviour is increasing in frequency.
- The number of incidents in the AFZ area seems to be following a decreasing pattern with only 8 incidents since June 2008, compared to 13 between June and November 2007.

Alcohol-related Incidents

- Only 4 of the 59 total ASB incidents in the area during the last 18 months were flagged up as being alcohol related, where alcohol consumption was mentioned in the log text of the report.
- 3 of these alcohol related incidents were linked to youths gathering, outside the shops on Groveley Lane/Parsonage Lane, in the park opposite Ashmead Drive, and in a bus stop on Groveley Lane. The other incident related to an intoxicated customer inside the Focus store – and is therefore not relevant to an alcohol free zone application. .
- Aside from the consumption of alcohol by youths in a public place, the other aggravating factors prompting these ASB complaints included the youths being loud, and climbing on the bus stop.
- In one report logged in March 2008, it was mentioned that gatherings of this nature were an ongoing issue.
- All 3 incidents had been logged between 22nd February and 4th April 2008.

Incidents by Month

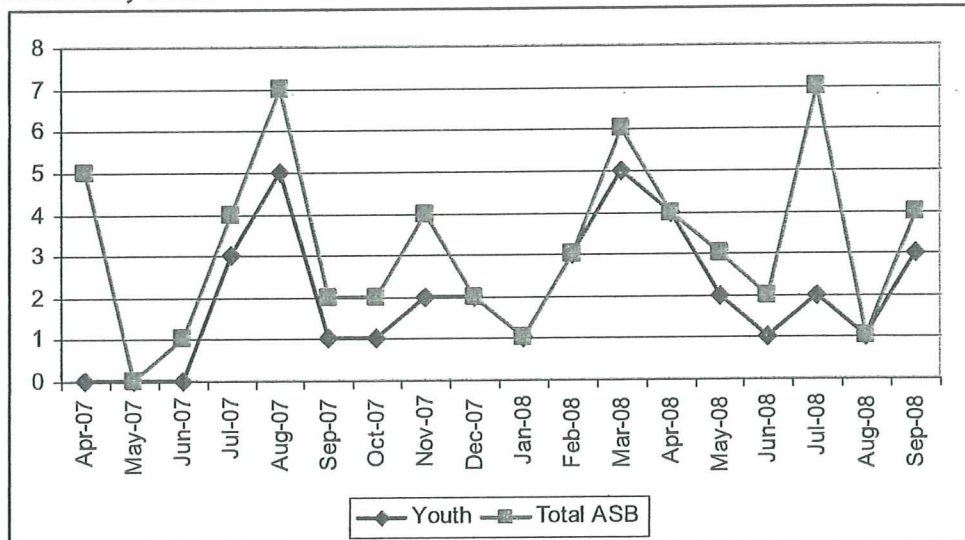


FIGURE 3: NO. OF TOTAL ASB AND YOUTH-RELATED INCIDENTS PER MONTH IN PROPOSED AFZ (01 JUNE 2006 TO 27 NOVEMBER 2008)

- In general, there have been an average of 3 anti-social behaviour incidents per month over the last 18 months within the proposed AFZ area, and an average of 2 youth related incidents per month.
- The total of 4 alcohol related ASB incidents reported in the space of 18 months does not indicate a significant problem with alcohol/street drinking. However, the 3 incidents that were relevant to an AFZ application all took place between 22nd February and 4th April 2008, a period of just over 6 weeks, with none occurring before or after those dates, suggesting alcohol-related ASB may have been a significant issue in the area during that time.
- There does seem to be an ongoing issue with youths gathering in the area, but seldom is alcohol mentioned in the complaints relating to this – indicating that an alcohol free zone may not be effective in reducing this type of behaviour.

It is important to note that alcohol-related incidents are identified as those mentioning one or more of the following key words in the logs text of the incident report:

Drink, drunk, alcohol, intoxicated, public house, licensed premise, wine, beer, vodka, lager, spirit.

This method, though the most effective way of definition available at present, does lead to a certain amount of inaccuracy. If a word is misspelled, or alcohol is not mentioned specifically in the text of a report, then incidents will not be identified and included in analysis.

	<p>We have also had another incident reported by a resident that on Friday, local youths were seen playing football on the corner of Parsonage Drive and Oakfield; two were seen scaling the wall by an electricity sub-station. When warned of the dangers they apparently took no notice. Parents have been contacted, but there remains concern by the police and locals.</p>	<p>involved local schools. Our aim is to keep kids safe!</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Police Update: Provided by Sgt Mark Wilkes. - Up until 25th Feb there had been no other burglaries / attempted burglaries in Cofton Hackett (Although Barnt Green , Hagley and Wythall continue to be affected).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two incidents of Car crime in The Oaktree Pub car park as well as The Lickey Hills car parks regularly targeted with people leaving belongings in full view. Of the 58 incidents of car thefts last year in the local area (including Lickey, Barnt Green etc), 68% were at local "Beauty Spots". Cofton Hackett is seen to have a low incidence of car crime; however the Oaktree Pub has 1-2 incidents per month. - Police are working with the council at providing activities for children, making use of facilities such as schools. - Recent work in Rubery with local education staff – observed a lot of school children out, unsupervised, after 9pm. This may be an exercise that would be beneficial to Cofton Hackett area? - A recent planning application for 5 extra fast food outlets in Rubery was denied following concerns raised by Sgt Wilkes at a planning meeting. The meeting praised this action. - Alcohol Free Zone for Cofton Hackett ("AFZ") – PACT has taken it forward to the licensing committee – they depend upon "figures of disorder" i.e., reported incidents to the police / Council. Only 9 people attended Cllr McDonalds meeting of which 7 voted for an AFZ. A decision has been deferred as the police want to investigate what is happening in Cofton Park and West Midlands police area; Sgt Wilkes also requested assistance from CHNW and PACT in gathering a more comprehensive view of local opinion as Cllr McDonalds meeting unfortunately clashed with others. <u>Sgt Wilkes wishes to hear from anyone with incidents, either current or historical, so that he can present true opinion.</u> Please email: mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk - see attached leaflet at the end of the minutes. - Graffiti etc – CHNW was requested to join the police (and possibly a member of PC) to do a "walk around tour" to highlight vulnerable areas/ overgrown trees/ litter etc. A similar scheme was successful in Charford last year. - Sgt Wilkes presented some other statistics and trends: 63% of all burglaries are due to people not locking doors properly/ poor security habits. - Most common time for local burglaries over the last year has been between 2 – 4pm. - Recent "Vulnerable House Scheme" involved police posting leaflets through doors of homes which had poor security observed. - There is an emerging trend of "hoax burglaries"; with the fear 	<p>Agreed to circulate Sgt Wilkes contact email. Keith to also co-ordinate with local residents, in particular those on Grovely Lane.</p> <p>Emily to liaise with PC & police re a date prior to end of March</p>

	that with the downturn in the economic climate, incidents may raise? - There is also a concern that with the recession there may be an increase in burglaries/ other crimes.	Everyone to safeguard their belongings.
7.	<p>AOB - The portable alarm (Homeguard MS 8000) has now been given to a household in Kendal End Road who has been broken into twice.</p> <p>- Rubery Police Station has reopened after refurbishment. Improvements include a ramp, new front counter, a new consultation room and toilet with disabled facilities.</p> <p>- Thank you to Peter Smith for posting the PACT leaflets and offering to do them again. He urged prompt organisation due to Easter dates.</p> <p>- Mr Duggan (Rubery NW) thanked the meeting and informed us of their success in obtaining Alcohol Free Zone – due to a commitment of their residents in informing the police of <u>all gatherings</u> of groups of youths (whether committing an offence or not)and obtaining incident Numbers so that they had available data to present to officials.</p> <p>- A recent burglary in the Marlbrook area highlights the need to safeguard property such as cash, which cannot be protected with Smartwater. Remember to use Smartwater on small items such as jewellery.</p>	Report incidents to the police!
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd April AGM.</p> <p>Date for diary - PACT will also be held April 23rd – CHNW</p> <p>“May meeting” will be incorporated in the April PACT.</p>	

Do you want Cofton Hackett to be an Alcohol Free Zone?

YES or NO

Sgt Mark Wilkes, of Rubery Police station , wishes to gather information on local opinion, incidents (historical or current), areas affected, times etc, to present to The Licencing Committee .

Please complete the following and either post, deliver or email to
Sgt Mark Wilkes, c/o Rubery Police Station, 164,New Road, Rubery, B 45 9JA
Email: mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk Yes No

Name Contact details

Comments

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PLEASE REPORT ALL INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE AND REQUEST AN INCIDENT NUMBER!

**Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinators Meeting Thursday November 6th 2008**

Minutes

Chair: Katie Wardle

Apologies: Emily Mayne; Garry Turland; Audrey Court; Sue Garvey; Pete Judd; Mavis Drew; Barry Bond

Attendance: 25 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were agreed as being a true representation of the last meeting.	
2	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We are still awaiting the invoice from Wheelie Wizards for the erection of Smartwater signs. -The Smartwater registration documents are still trickling in; please return to Carol Barrett ASAP – we want residents protected immediately – and in time for Christmas. - Anti-Graffiti Kit – stocks are being replenished by Bromsgrove Safety Partnership –Thanks to Graham Rocke & team. - 4x Personal - Attack alarms have been issued (more have been requested); one has been put in the Anti-Graffiti Pack – to support our volunteers who often work in The Stoken area. - Cllr Peter McDonalds Alcohol Free Zone Meeting – no one present at the meeting had been in attendance, so we are unable to provide feedback. - Halloween - Anti Trick or Treat Posters – thank you to Barry & Theresa for having extra copies at The Post Office for collection. 	<p>Return to Carol Asap please</p>
3	<p>Incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14th October 2008 - Ashmead Drive - evening /night of Sunday 12th October: A car was accidentally left unlocked; the resident awoke the next morning to find her boot open and car contents stolen. The police were informed. The alert was to raise awareness that there are unfortunately people in our vicinity who are willing to take advantage of any opportunity. - 20th October – Ashmead Drive- Police were contacted by CHNW and asked to liaise with residents following their concern. The couple returned home after 12 days holiday to find articles under a tree in their front garden (Oct 17th); a small sized black jacket, curler and cigarette lighter and a large piece of black netting. On informing the police and asking if any recent incident in Cofton could be connected with this find, she was told they would ring her back. Eventually the police in Kidderminster did make contact & told her to dispose of the items. The residents felt the police staff had been dismissive and felt that this find was significant. They contacted their co-ordinator; CHNW then contacted the local Police team who promptly visited the family. 	<p>Display your Smartwater stickers and mark your property.</p>

	<p>Our thanks to PC Jayne Willetts, Phil Cash & Kevin Tudge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14th October, 1445 hrs, Ten Ashses Lane, a rear patio window was smashed and an alarm activated, which alerted a neighbour – who promptly rang the police - no items stolen. - Cofton Church Lane - Trailer and Mini Digger stolen, press release received 20th October regarding the robbery on 3rd. - Today - A press release has been received , stating a Digital Camera has been found (possibly stolen in a local burglary) in Rubery, containing sentimental photos of a family. They are trying to Identify its owners. 	
4	<p>Police Update. Provided by Sgt Mark Wilkes:</p> <p>Due to the recent spike in burglaries in Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green, Operation Cofton II has been launched. This entails: - an increase in visible police patrols and Community Support Officers in the area as well as the distribution of Crime prevention Leaflets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Use of Smartwater is encouraged and liaison with West Midlands Police in identifying offenders who may be from across the border; - ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Technology) enables police to identify vehicles of known offenders. <p>Sgt Wilkes informed the meeting that a significant arrest has been made and that there have been no further incidents in Cofton Hackett since Oct 14th. Police are now trying to identify and reunite stolen property with their rightful owners. This is not always easy unless the property is marked (e.g. Smartwater).</p> <p>Our local Police team are working hard to enforce legislation under The Proceeds of Crime Act whereby police can seize assets from those who make their living through crime. This was welcomed by the meeting.</p> <p>We have a new police telephone number (as from 2nd November)</p> <p>West Mercia Police Number is now 0300 3333000.</p> <p>This is a reduced rate telephone number and replaces the former, more expensive, 08457 444888 number, although there is a few months “crossover period”.</p> <p>There continues to be thefts from cars parked in local beauty spots. Once again the police are asking people not to leave valuables either on show or in their boots. If people are victims of crime, they would like to be informed immediately so that forensic evidence can be collected at the scene of crime.</p> <p>Sgt Wilkes was informed of a residents concern regarding anti social behaviour in Parsonage Drive, whereby some local residents are fearful of retribution if they report incidents to the police. Sgt Wilkes and the subcommittee urge anyone to report any anti social behaviour. Sgt Wilkes recommended the crimestoppers number</p>	<p>Copies of Media Release on Operation Cofton were brought to the meeting for distribution. Copies left at The Post Office for any Coordinator not in attendance. Please Collect.</p> <p>Please inform your groups</p>

	<p>where people can give information anonymously 0800 555 111.</p> <p>Recent Police patrols have also noted local cars left with car keys in the ignition and homes with windows and garage doors left open at night. They urgently request that residents be more vigilant with their home security. Sgt Wilkes also reminded the meeting that the crime of stealing cars when people leave their ignition running on cold wintery mornings can become an issue at this time of year. Residents of Cofton Hackett to beware please and are advised to refrain from this behaviour.</p>	
5	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recent Cofton Hackett PACT meeting was unfortunately poorly attended; however it was acknowledged that this had not been as well advertised as previous meetings. Issues for action included paths to be cleaned and grit bins to be stocked. The next meeting is January 22nd. Katie said that discussions were to take place regarding the future format of PACT. - Keith did a presentation on the Home Guard Security System Memo Minders . We are keen that these items are used within the community. Anyone who is interested in these items to contact Carol Barrett on the subcommittee or via your coordinator. We do not want these items gathering dust! - New Bus Route – No 625; Runs from Oakfield Drive to Morrisons in Rubery. Information provided by Peter Smith, starts at 9.35am, with a bus service every 30 mins. More information can be obtained from Worcestershire County Council 01905 765 765 and pink timetables are on local Bus stops etc. Around Cofton Hackett. - Another seasonal warning from Sgt Wilkes is to avoid having presents visible under Christmas trees – as this can attract burglaries. 	
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd December, 8pm Rednal Social Club. This will be our annual Skittles Night! All welcome and please bring your partners. Start limbering up, we've got to beat Mavis this year!!!!</p>	

STOP PRESS: There has been recent activity in areas surrounding Cofton Hackett of Drug Dealing (Heroin). We do not want Cofton Hackett to be targeted for this kind of behaviour. Police have asked that we urge residents to report any suspicious activity immediately. Quiet areas, such as the entrance to The Stoken, are the types of areas chosen. We would hate to see our play area littered with drug paraphernalia, so please help to protect Cofton Hackett by reporting any unknown parked cars, suspicious activity, any time, day or night. Dial 999 if incident in progress. Thank You.

New West Mercia Police Number 0300 3333000
Crime stoppers 0800 555 111

**Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinators Meeting Tuesday 7th October 2008
Minutes**

Chair: Katie Wardle (nee Mann)


Apologies: : Keith Duncan; Martin Linford; The Police; Emily Mayne; Jo Lloyd; Mike Powell; Sue Garvey.

Attendance: 28 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	Minutes of the last Meeting (Sept 4th). These had been received and were seen as being a true record.	
2.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>SMARTWATER –The subcommittee was pleased to announce that we were able to purchase the Neighbourhood Watch / Smartwater signs at half price; £10 each instead of £20 each (Thank you To Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove Police). This has enabled us to employ The Wheelie Wizards to promptly erect the 34 signs (performed on Monday 29th Oct; with one sign yet to be drilled onto a tree trunk in Kendall End Drive) for an agreed price of £120. We would like to thank Wheelie Wizards for their enthusiastic assistance in this venture. The signs have been paid for (£310) and we are awaiting the invoice from Wheelie Wizards.</p> <p>We have returned the old Neighbourhood Watch Signs to Mel Clarke who may be able to sell them on to other areas and raise some funds for CHNW.</p> <p>Please collect the Smartwater Registration Documents and return to Carol Barrett <u>as soon as possible</u>. Many were returned at the meeting. They are taken to Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove police Station. Your Smartwater does not offer any protection unless the registration process is complete.</p>	<p>The Wheelie Wizards</p> <p>Carol & Emily</p> <p>Mel Clarke</p> <p>Coordinators & Carol</p>
3	<p>Incidents:</p> <p>1. Thursday 11th Sept – Speeding, noisy cars on The Rover Site . A resident saw and heard half a dozen cars on the East Works site on the very far area behind the old car park/The Grove. They were chasing each other around and making a fair bit of noise. A 999 Police call was made, the Police responded, but did not feedback. The next morning the resident passed the old security hut (by Focus) and rang the telephone numbers of both security firms whose signs say they patrol the property 24 hours. Both denied they had a contract! Two police cars pulled up and explained that the police are using the East works land for training purposes, Royal duties etc and this involves car chases!</p> <p>CHNW & PC have subsequently made enquiries with the police and St Modwen: Our local West Mercia Police were not informed that</p>	

	<p>training exercises were taking place.</p> <p>2. Burglary, Monday 22 Sept ,Barnt Green Road. This home was also burgled in August. Homeowner went upstairs and heard a noise down stairs. She went to investigate and found two young men (white, mid twenties) standing there. They had broken in through her patio doors at the back of the house. She actually said to them "can I help you?" and at that, they fled. They went out the way they got in, ran down the passage way between her house and the garage and scaled a 6' high gate leading onto Barnt Green Road.</p> <p>3. Burglary,Kendal End Road – Sunday night – 21st September. House broken into at the Barnt Green end of the road. The occupants were away, but the burglar alarm went off and neighbours called the police. The police responded very promptly.</p> <p>4. Attempted break-in, Kendal End Road – Monday midday – 22nd September. Again at the Barnt Green end of the road. The burglars were foiled by good locks fitted to doors. Again the police responded very promptly.</p> <p>5. Burglary, Cofton Church Lane – 3:00 am Sunday morning – 28th September. The occupants were woken up by hearing their front door opening. They went downstairs and found a youth in the hall who took a handbag and ran off. It appears that the front door had been forced. The Police were informed and attended the scene.</p> <p>6. Oakfield Drive –this week: Large, heavy, old, Cast Iron grass roller taken from front garden – reported to police. Possibly taken by rag and bone men, but not witnessed?</p> <p>There is great concern about the burglaries (please see police feedback report), we can only encourage everyone to report any suspicious activity <u>immediately</u>. It will be interesting to see if the Smartwater / NW Road signs prove to be a deterrent.</p> <p>The subcommittee were asked to request a greater, visible, uniformed police presence around The Barnt Green Road / Cofton Church Lane area. It was noted that Police cars had been witnessed around Ashmead Rise in the evenings.</p>	Carol
4	<p>Police Report. Information supplied by Sgt Mark Wilkes and PC Jayne Willetts:</p> <p>As mentioned at the previous meeting - The man with the "Pot Belly" is currently in a West Midlands Custody Unit, and will probably be returning to prison.</p> <p>It has been a very busy time for burglary and attempt burglary. We have had an increase of uniform and non uniform staff in the area but in general, the rural section across the boundary with West Midlands is being hit hard from Hagley through to Wythall again. Anything suspicious should be called in at the time -there is no specific pattern, day or night time, but Cofton Church Lane and Kendal End Road are the areas that seem to be targeted.</p>	

5	<p>AOB</p> <p>1. Mel Clarke has supplied, free of charge – 4 x Personal Attack Alarms ; 2 x “Memo Minders” and 1 x “Home Guard Security Set “ (worth over £50 each). We have yet to study the uses of these items and how we can best utilise them within Cofton Hackett. Any ideas would be welcomed, or if you know of anyone requiring these items please let the subcommittee know. Thank you.</p> <p>2. - A meeting has been arranged by Councillor Peter McDonald to discuss Cofton Hackett becoming an Alcohol Free Zone. Cofton Village Hall, 16th October at 7pm. CHNW encourages all residents to attend and await the outcome with interest. NW have made some enquiries from a local police perspective, who are supportive of an alcohol free zone, however, the District Council and licensing committee utilise Police Crime report statistics and the level of alcohol fuelled disorder, according to the a, may not provide enough justification at this time for an alcohol free zone to be adopted within Cofton Hackett. The meeting therefore encourages all residents to report alcohol related incidents (including ASB., litter etc). Issues raised at tonights meeting included Cofton Park being included in such a scheme. <u>Please raise at Cllr Mc Donalds Meeting.</u></p> <p>3. Communication / Alert Circle. A co-ordinator has asked that the issue of The Alert Circle and communication methods be raised. His email was read out at the meeting- “Please could we please revert to using the telephone to alert lead Co-ordinators that an incident has occurred...”and “Please could the contact list be updated and re-issued...” The use of emails vs. telephone communications were discussed again and the long overdue Communications Pack Update. The subcommittee to finalise the packs as soon as practically possible and to please telephone your next –in-line coordinator in the event of an alert. This does not prevent people from also emailing alerts, but please telephone too. Please note that the lead Coordinators must inform their own groups of any changes in contact details.</p> <p>4. Graffiti has been noted in The Myhill Field/ Stoken area and Rose Hill. Thanks to Barry Hodgson for graffiti removal and to Phil Reeves and Val Blunn for volunteering to clean The Stoken area again. More anti- graffiti cleaning solutions required.</p> <p>5. Halloween Night. A greater police presence was requested; however we noted that last year the PCSO’S actually praised the local behaviour. Katie recommended that any untoward incident be reported immediately to the police, who will allocate their resources as required.</p> <p>6. Some Members have received a questionnaire on the police Combined Equality Scheme and The Home Office Green Paper “From the Neighbourhood to the National” – comments are required by Oct 10th. More information available on</p>	<p>The Subcommittee to discuss</p> <p>All residents</p> <p>Carol & Keith</p> <p>Please inform Carol or Keith of any contact changes immediately</p> <p>All coordinators</p> <p>Carol contact Bromsgrove Safety Partnership</p>
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	www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk and www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/ . 7. PACT – A reminder that the next meeting is October 23 rd , 8pm at Cofton Village Hall.	All residents
6	Some Good News: We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of the very beautiful, baby Tobias Joseph, 7lb 11oz, on Tuesday OCT 30 th , one week old today! Emily, Mike and Baby are all doing well. Congratulations and welcome to the world "Toby", from everyone in Cofton Hackett! Also, Happy 65 TH Birthday To Phil Reeves!	
7	Date of Next Meeting: Thursday Nov 6th . 8pm, Rednal Social Club, Barnt Green Road	

STOP PRESS

SMARTWATER - PC Jayne Willetts and the CSO'S have stated that if there is a demand, they are willing to dedicate a Saturday or two, to come out and assist anyone with SMARTWATER property marking. Please ask your co-ordinator to contact **Carol Barrett** if their assistance is required. Thank You.

Dates for your Diary:

Alcohol Free Zone meeting: Thursday 16th October, 7pm, Cofton Village Hall.

Cofton Hackett PACT: Thursday Oct 23rd, 8pm, Cofton Village Hall.

Halloween Night Friday 31st October

Please remember to display your "Sorry, No Trick or Treat" sign if you would prefer no callers that night. **More Copies now available at Cofton Hackett Post Office**

Remember

- You always have the right to say No to "Trick or Treaters"
- Always use your door chain when opening the door
- Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity.

And for all those considerate, responsible children and parents of Cofton Hackett, have a good night.

Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch

Minutes of Co-ordinators Meeting

Thursday 4th September 2008

Chair: Katie Wardle (nee Mann)

Apologies: Peter Smith; Garry Turland; Martin Linford; Fran Brannan; John Slack; John Price; Linda Babb; Margaret Edwards; Garry Turland.

Attendance: 24 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p>Welcome to New Co-ordinators Martin Peyton, Eachway. Group 5 Jackie Weaver, Lickey Coppice. Group 6. Group 5&6 Lead Co-ordinators to liaise with Keith re Contact details please</p>	<p>Keith and Co-ordinators from group 5 & 6</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the last Meeting. Due to the holiday period, we apologise that hand delivery could not be achieved this month and copies of the minutes were available. Minutes by email were sent and received. The meeting agreed that the minutes were a true representation of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising Smartwater Road Signs. Carol & Keith have completed a survey of all lampposts in Cofton as different fixing brackets are required for the many types of different posts! A sample of the new Neighbourhood Watch / Smartwater signs was shown to all present. These will replace all existing Neighbourhood Watch signs in Cofton. Three larger signs are also being supplied by the police, for Coftons outskirts. As these are yet to be installed, we have requested that these are positioned - On the roundabout at the bottom of Rosehill / outside The Oaktree Pub; Groveley Lane, outside Focus and Barnt Green Road, by the gate entrance to The Lickey Woods. These three sites surround Cofton Hackett, are sufficiently visual and would not be directly outside any dwelling. The meeting agreed. We wish to erect the signs as soon as possible, as this sends a clear message and deterrent to any criminal. The Wheelie Wizards have offered to assist which was accepted at the meeting. Smartwater Kits. The kits and registration procedure were presented at the meeting. Co-ordinators collected their orders for distribution. Registration must be completed to render each Smartwater Kit effective. Anyone who may have missed the order date will be able to make a direct order via our next edition of "Cofton Watch" (as agreed with Mel Clarke). Thanks expressed to PC Mark Townsend at Bromsgrove Police Station for ensuring our order arrived on time.</p>	<p>Carol to finalise order with Mel Clarke.</p> <p>Emily to Contact Wheelie Wizards re costs.</p> <p>Registration forms to be returned to Carol Barrett ASAP. Any problems please contact.</p>

4.	<p>Incidents. Friday 29th August, Press release regarding Operation Emblazon. Sunday 31st August (Incident No 3795/31/08/08) Ashmead Drive, a ball shaped, privet style, ornamental tree and tub was stolen from a front garden. Neighbours reported a car stopping at around midnight, no further details. Two Burglaries: Reservoir Road 23rd August & Barnt Green Road 25th August</p>	
5.	<p>Police Feedback. Presented by Sgt Mark Wilkes Sgt Wilkes presented further information regarding Operation Emblazon in Rubery, which was organised as a response to Rubery PACT. Police are concerned as vehicles, many of which have had modifications, were being driven around Rubery in timed circuits. They were being driven in a dangerous manner, in relation to speed, tailgating, handbrake turns, wheel spins, and overtaking. Three vehicles were seized for having no insurance. Two people were arrested and a number of fixed penalty tickets were issued. Sgt Wilkes added that some of the drivers involved were employed by local fast food restaurants to deliver food. Around ten vehicles were identified as not the appropriate insurance to cover them for business use. Their drivers are therefore liable to be prosecuted and the owners of the food outlets may also be prosecuted in relation to using delivery drivers with inadequate insurance. He added that this activity may disperse elsewhere. We raised concern for Lowhill Lane as a possible target. Any incidents must be reported immediately. Recent Burglaries in Cofton - One involved the burglar punching through a glass front door and activating an alarm and another occurred whilst a family were asleep in bed. Everyone is encouraged to review their home security measures and to avoid leaving keys on show. Members were asked to report any sightings of a man behaving suspiciously with the following description: White, 5'8", short black hair, aged 30 and with a distinctive pot belly. This is believed to be a prolific burglar. Other Incidents have included theft of cans of beer from the Newsagents at Parsonage Drive, a ford Focus in Ashmead Rise and a telephone cable being pulled from an exchange box in Lickey Road</p>	<p>All residents to report any incidents immediately</p>
6.	<p>Treasurers Report (Emily). There are still some subs outstanding! Co-ordinators to please collect £1 from each household and return to Emily. We need all subs to pay for "Cofton Watch" publication and new street signs etc. All payments have been made to the police for Smartwater (cheque made to Bromsgrove Neighbourhood Watch). Payment for the new Neighbourhood Watch street signs will be</p>	<p>Outstanding subs to be collected by co-ordinators.</p>

	made upon receipt of the order. We hope to purchase the signs at a reduced rate.	Carol & Mel Clarke
7.	<p>Press Releases</p> <p>CSO'S Have now been given new powers, a move welcomed by C.I. Love. They are able to seize drugs, demand the name and address of those caught in possession of drugs and to also stop cyclists flouting the law (The Advertiser July 23rd).</p> <p>"Horse Watch", a dedicated network of horse owners who share information, are using SMARTWATER for protecting their saddles, bridles and other equipment.</p> <p>Two applications for play areas to become "Alcohol Free Zones" have been denied in Bromsgrove. This decision was made due to insufficient evidence, as only three incidents have been reported for the two areas in the past two years. As this has been a raised issue at Cofton Hackett PACT, Emily stressed the significance and importance of reporting all incidents to the police.</p> <p>Drink related incidents and antisocial behaviour are being tackled in Bromsgrove by the local Police Tasking Team (LPTT) by serving Section 27 notices. This can be used on anyone aged 17 or above and requires them to leave a specified area for up to 48hours(The Standard Aug 22nd)</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>-Sgt Wilkes provided 200 copies of a "Sorry, no Trick or Treat" poster which can be displayed to avoid unwanted callers on Halloween night. Further copies requested and an email version may be available.</p> <p>-The subcommittee were thanked for their efforts in organising Smartwater.</p> <p>- A member from Ashmead Drive has kindly donated <i>"The Home Security Handbook. How to keep your home and family safe from crime"</i> by D.G. Conway.</p> <p>- Special thanks and praise was given to Sgt Wilkes for his high standards in reporting information to our meetings and level of support.</p> <p>And now for Some Good News.....</p> <p>Cofton Hackett Post Office - subject to a 6 week public consultation, our post office has hopefully escaped the closures! The whole meeting was delighted with this news and send their best wishes to Barry, Teresa and family.</p> <p>Katie Mann – our "Chair" has got married! Warm congratulations to Rob and Katie, now Mrs Wardle, who tied the knot in New York.</p>	This book will be available at meetings for loan.
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 7th October, 8pm, Rednal Social Club.</p>	

For more information on Smartwater - www.smartwater.com

Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Minutes

Tuesday February 5th 2008

Acting Chair: Emily Mayne

Apologies: Katie Mann; Police; Sharon Imrie; Jo Lloyd; Mike Powell; Martin Linford; Hazel & Anthony Atwell; John Price; Phil Reeves; Peter Smith; Phillipa Fieldson; Garth Woods.

Attendance: 20 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	Minutes of the last Meeting: Minutes were agreed, however three members had not received their copies, apologies given for this distribution error.	Subcommittee
2.	Matters Arising: The litter bin from the Stoken area has now been replaced.	
3.	<p>Incidents: Sunday 3rd February, Incident No. 21L5030208, 08:42am two men seen acting suspiciously; appearing to be looking at houses without burglar alarms in Chestnut Drive and then looking at the rear access of houses in Oakfield Drive from The Stoken. Both men white, one approximately 5'6"; wearing a padded Dark Blue jacket with dark moustache. The second man was slim; 5'10", wearing a green jacket with "Jaguar" printed on the back across the shoulders; light grey jogging trousers; dark woolley hat. One co-ordinator recognised this description and stated they had been seen posting leaflets on Saturday (although type of leaflet not remembered, other members stated charity leaflets and garden / tree worker leaflets posted that day). No further alerts, however a further incident (witnessed on Ashmead Rise and not reported to the relevant co-ordinator by the time of the meeting), information provided by PC Jayne Willetts: Night of Sunday 3rd Feb /Monday 4th Feb, Ashmead Rise: Two males were arrested on suspicion of going equipped to steal a car from Ashmead Rise - they had gloves, hats and pliers which could have been used to commit a crime. Both males were from Stirchley . Concern regarding behaviour of groups of youths (Male & Females). Members mentioned incidents of vandalism including: For Sale signs being unearthed; Large garden boulders being moved from flower beds to the road and pavements; Coping Stones removed from a garden wall; Bollards knocked over and foul language being used. Members strongly urged to report such behaviour immediately in order to track incidents, the time they occur and to ensure that police can respond and identify those responsible. The meeting agreed that this behaviour must not be tolerated. Graffiti Unfortunately a number of incidents have been reported including :The Newsagents, Groveley Lane / Chestnut Drive Bus Stop, The Stoken; The Bus Stop at the bottom of Groveley Lane, Brick wall at the bottom of Groveley Lane and the green services cupboard in Groveley Lane. The Anti Graffiti Kit has been used to remove all the "Tags" by local volunteers after the police have taken photos.</p>	<p>Police to be informed by Carol</p> <p>PC Willetts will provide further information when available from the CID</p> <p>Please report all incidents to the police immediately.</p> <p>Please report all incidents to the police for photo recording. The Anti Graffiti Kit available from Carol.</p>

4.	<p>A Big Thank you The Subcommittee and members would like to thank Val Blunn and Barry Hodgson for their hard work in removing the graffiti and helping to maintain the appearance of Cofton Hackett. Mrs Price has requested that we express and record, her utmost gratitude to Barry Hodgson and Neighbourhood Watch for the swift graffiti removal in Groveley Lane which had caused obvious concern and distress.</p>	
5.	<p>Police Update. Provided by PC Jayne Willetts. Apologies given for no police presence at this months meeting. Provided the information on the incident Sunday / Monday night in Ashmead Rise as recorded above in item 3. States that Criminal Damage has increased across the village, namely "Tagging". Anti Social behaviour – a group of youths, giving a local address, appear to be forming relationships with local girls and gathering on The Myhill Field and Stoken area. The police request that we report any antisocial gatherings as they would like to identify this group and any others.</p>	<p>Carol to provide relevant feedback on tonights meeting. All – please report all incidents.</p>
6.	<p>Annual Subs Collection. Some members have completed their collections bringing their forms (attached to the Jan. Minutes) and money to the meeting. Can all co-ordinators collect their subs and bring to the next meeting please.</p>	<p>All Co-ordinators</p>
7.	<p>Report from Subcommittee meeting 10th January 2008: Due to the recent vacancy on the subcommittee it was decided to review the present roles (as some have grown quite considerably over recent years!). The present subcommittee members are happy to remain with their basic roles ie., Katie – Chair; Carol - Secretary & Police Liaison; Emily – Treasurer & Vice chair; Keith – Communications , Co-ordinator Liaison and Minutes distribution; Sharron – PACT and Minutes distribution and Garry – Printing. Two further roles have therefore been identified: 1. Newsletter Co-ordinator / External Communications 2. Organisation of outside speakers; Thank you letters; Liaison with Park Rangers etc. <i>This will hopefully provide any interested members to consider these roles. We also welcome any new ideas. Names to be put forward prior to the April AGM. Please feel free to contact any subcommittee member if you have any questions.</i> Expenditure Ideas. There is presently approximately £800 in the kitty and this year's subs will increase this total. Some ideas expressed were: Energy Saving Light bulbs, Wind-up Torches for co-ordinators and a NW / PC notice board in the Myhill Field / Stoken area which would be visible to young mothers, dog walkers etc. Concern regarding vandalism was voiced; however this will be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting. Please report any ideas that would be of value to the community and have a NW theme.</p>	<p>Vacancies open to any member who feels they can fulfil the role and be available to meet, on occasions, between meetings. Expenditure ideas please! Keith to raise at PC meeting. Barry to provide subcom. a catalogue on public notice boards.</p>
8.	<p>Police Liaison Meeting – attended by Keith & Sharon. Keith provided a brief feedback on the meeting: The Chief Constable reported that West Mercia had performed well in 2007. In fact, West Mercia is the best performing force in the country with its Northern Division (relating to our area) being its best! A number of Crime figures were presented: Violent Crime has increased, Burglary rates are down and Police detection rate is less than 30%.</p>	

	Keith gave praise to Sharron, who at a Question and Answer session, asked why, when cross boarder co-operation had been promised, that West Midlands police were not attending our PACT Meetings? This was deemed a good way forward and the Chief Inspector agreed to contact his West Midlands colleagues.	
9.	Consultation on Proposed Merger of Crime & Disorder Partnerships (CDRPS) in North Worcestershire. A copy of the document, with Emily and Carol's response on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, was available at the meeting. This had been forwarded to us by Keith and The Parish Council. There are presently teams in Bromsgrove, Redditch and The Wyre Forrest with a "North Worcestershire" merger proposed.	Please contact Carol or Emily if you require a copy.
10.	Recent Press Reports - Emily 1. The Standard. Jan 4th : Top Marks for the West Mercia police from the Audit Commission 2. The Advertiser / Messenger Jan 2nd: The Numbers up for police – a report that the present use of 0845 numbers to call the police to report a crime is penalising good citizens. They can cost anything from 3p – 40p per minute dependant upon whether you are calling from a land line or a mobile phone with varying service providers. Keith remarked that this subject was brought up at the police meeting (item 8). 3. Recurring articles on Car Crime – another reminder about not leaving property in cars, including Sat Navs; problems with parking at local beauty spots and the safe storage of car keys. 4. The Standard , Jan 18th: Elderly woman from Bromsgrove was a victim of a distraction burglary on a Wednesday afternoon – 6' White man, claimed to be from the Water board and asked to check the stop cock while she used the taps. 5. The Village Feb 2008 – new NW scheme in Alvechurch.	
11.	Any Other Business Alcohol Free Zones: A member asked why this scheme, presently in use in Rubery and Alvechurch, could not be adopted in Cofton Park? The meeting was advised to bring up this issue at the next PACT – particularly if attended by West Midlands Constabulary police. Cofton Hackett Youth Club: An appeal was made for Male Volunteers to give some time (even just ½ an hour)to help supervise at the new youth club on Wednesday evenings 6.30 – 9pm at The Village Hall. Volunteers will need to be CRB checked which will be organised and funded by the club. The youth club has a growing membership, presently standing at 17. Anyone interested should contact Fran Phipps or Sandra at The Salon. Mavis warned people about a recent Water Supply Pipe Insurance Cover, brought to her attention, by elderly residents. She urged people to read the small print – after contacting the insurers, it seems you wont be covered if your pipes are in poor condition or if they have to remove or replace concrete/ paved/tarmac driveways! The Library building has now gone! Parish Council are trying to get Hard Core down to enable either the erection of possible portacabin buildings in the future or car parking. Car Speed Wires on The Barnt Green Road organised by Councillor McDonald.	Next PACT Meeting: 24 th April , 8pm Village Hal Please spread the word!!
12.	Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2008. 8pm. Rednal Social Club, Barnt Green Road.	All Welcome

Cofton Hackett PACT relating to alcohol problems

The discussion around Cofton Hackett having an alcohol free zone was first raised at PACT on 24th April 2008.

It was raised as a priority at this meeting and has remained the top issue on the subsequent meetings on

17th July 2008

16th October 2008

15th January 2009

And is current for the forthcoming PACT meeting on 23rd April.

It is clear that the majority of the problems are actually on West Midlands as Cofton Park is the where most of the alcohol incidents are being reported as taking place, but the residents live in Worcestershire and so the impact is felt more there as they over look the park, and have the youths roaming around the streets whilst under the influence of alcohol, setting fire to the trees, and causing asbo.

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APPENDIX 'E'**Sharon Smith**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 April 2009 09:50
To: licensing
Subject: Alcohol Free Zone in Cofton Hackett

Good morning – I am a resident of Cofton Hackett and live at [REDACTED] Oakfield Drive. I have only just been informed of the proposal to make parts of Cofton Hackett an alcohol free zone and understand that Oakfield Drive might be included.

I have lived at [REDACTED] Oakfield Drive for almost 10 years and have only been disturbed about half a dozen times by 'revellers' being noisy as they pass my house – most of these have been by people leaving a neighbours house after a party. I do not consider this a nuisance. We sleep at the front of the house with our bedroom window open so are likely to be disturbed by any loud noise.

I understand that the main problem of noise from drinkers is more felt on Groveley Lane, Ten Ashes Lane and perhaps Chestnut Drive and can fully understand the need to make that an alcohol free area. However, Oakfield Drive is well away from these roads and does not suffer from this nuisance.

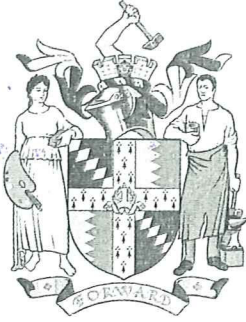
Please do not include Oakfield Drive in this exclusion.

I am aware that several of my neighbours feel the same and I hope they make their feelings known to you.

Regards – [REDACTED]

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Birmingham City Council



Stephen Hughes
Chief Executive

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Our ref: SH.NG.lkL1Apr2309

23 April 2009

Sharon Smith
Principal Licensing Officer
Planning and Environment Services
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA

Dear Ms Smith

I am responding to your invitation to comment on the proposal to make a Designated Public Place Order to restrict public drinking in the Groveley Lane area of Cofton Hackett.

I appreciate that this invitation provides me with an opportunity to offer adverse representations to be considered by Bromsgrove District Council's Licensing Committee in May 2009.

We have consulted with our police colleagues and recognise that Bromsgrove must make its own assessment of the situation, as well as the appropriateness of the course of action proposed, and therefore offer no objection to this proposal.

We will watch with interest as implementation proceeds and will obviously take account of any increase in nuisance drinking which may occur in the Cofton Park area and, should the situation arise, consider what response we may need to take here in Birmingham.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Hughes
Chief Executive

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Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



Department:
Title:
Scale:

Designated Public Places Order
Groveley Lane
1:1167

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List of previously granted Designated Public Places Orders

Area	Granted
Ryefields Road recreation area, Stoke Prior Shaw Lane recreation area, Stoke Prior Hanbury Road recreation area, Stoke Heath	Granted 15 th July 2003
Worcester Road, Hagley Church Street Hagley Sweetpool Nature Reserve, Hagley Hagley Playing Fields Hagley Railway Station	Granted 25 th June 2004
St. Chads Park, Rubery Callowbrook Public Open Space Alleyway between Meadowfield Road and Belmont Road, Rubery	Granted 25 th June 2004
Recreation Ground off Braces Lane, Marlbrook Recreation Ground adjacent to Lingfield Walk, Catshill	Granted 2 nd November 2004
Drakes Cross and Hollywood	Granted 18 th November 2004
Belmont Road including junction onto Rednall Hill Lane, Rubery	Granted 8 th April 2005
Recreation Ground, Aston Fields	Granted 1 st December 2006
Bromsgrove Town Centre and the immediate surrounding areas	Granted 22 nd January 2007
New Road, Rubery	Granted 2 nd October 2007
Various locations in Alvechurch	Granted 15 th January 2008
Fairway Drive, Valley Farm Road, Links Drive and Bilberry Drive, Rubery	Granted 28 th October 2008
Beacon Hill, Heather Drive, Rednal Hill Lane, Stockhill Drive, Beacon View, Lander Close and the alleyway between Rednal Hill Road and Beacon Close, Rubery	
Alleyway between Belmont Road and Waterhaynes Close, Rubery	

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