

Amanda Scarce

From: Peter Rowbottom [peterrowbottom66@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 21 August 2012 09:02
To: BDC Scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Subject: PROPOSED TOPIC AMENDMENT
Attachments: img011.jpg

Committee Section
Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Bromsgrove District Council

NAME OF PROPOSER: PETER ROWBOTTOM
TEL NO: [REDACTED]
E-MAIL: peterrowbottom66@yahoo.co.uk
DATE: 21 AUGUST 2012

Since the proposed topic I submitted to you on 16 July 2012 at 20:36 hours, a residents' petition submitted to the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership brought about assurances from Bromsgrove Police, on 1 August 2012, that the shortcomings that formed much of the basis of my topic proposal (i.e. lack of PACT community engagement/consultation) were to be addressed. I have attached a copy of the reply from the Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group which details that.

Therefore, I hereby **modify** my original topic proposal to concentrate on the specific requirement of **parish councils involvement in the BCSP**, which was also part of my original proposal.

Consequently, I hereby respectfully propose that the following topic be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board for further investigation:

TITLE OF PROPOSED TOPIC:

Statutory obligations of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership and all parish councils within the Bromsgrove district to work in partnership under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, particularly under section 5(2) of that act which governs the right of parish councils to be consulted.

SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREAS TO BE INVESTIGATED:

To establish that all parish councils are being consulted as partners under section 5(2), and that all parish councils in turn carry out their own obligations by way of community consultation and engagement, and have published objectives and policies of their own which are available to their local communities by way of their websites or community noticeboards.

REASONS WHY THIS NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED:

To ensure that the effectiveness of district-wide crime and disorder policies are maximised by the full involvement of parish councils, thus ensuring local solutions to local problems by way of community consultation.

EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE NEED FOR THIS PARTICULAR INVESTIGATION:

1. Specific shortcomings in the responsibilities of at least Romsley and Clent Parish Councils, at least under community consultation requirements under the act, whereby those councils have failed to properly represent parishioners' views on crime and disorder with local police, thus failing to obtain answers from police (The response of these parish councils is to state that it is up to police whether or not they respond to parishioners' issues, when instead, under the act, parish councils should be insisting

on police responses on behalf of their parishoners).

2.No mention of parish council responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 on any parish council websites.

3.No published local parish plans detailing local priorities and planned actions with specific reference to the act.

May I also include in my evidence the joint NACRO/The Countryside Agency report entitled "Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - a practical guide for parish and town councils",a 24 page document.

This report states,amongst other things,that:

"Parish councils should be fully involved in their local crime and disorder reduction partnerships."

"The Act also ensures that the local authorities and police work with parish councils to seek local solutions to local problems."

"Parish councils need to be fully functional partners and actively engaged."

COUNCIL PRIORITIES IT LINKS TO:

A current council priority is "Sense Of Community and Well Being."

POSSIBLE KEY OUTCOMES:

A clarification that all parish councils are also fully aware of their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 so that local authority partners at parish,district and county levels can all work closely and effectively with police to reduce crime and disorder.

This can result in a greater potential impact on crime and disorder through increased agency involvement,and the pooling of resources to maximize effectiveness.

Amanda Scarce

From: Bev Houghton
Sent: 15 August 2012 15:16
To: Amanda Scarce
Cc: Chris Santoriello-Smith
Subject: FW: RESIDENTS PACT PETITION

Hi Amanda

Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager
Redditch - Tel: 01527 534187
Bromsgrove - Tel: 01527 881472
Mobile: 07775 513 346
Secure Email: bev.houghton@redditchbc.gcsx.gov.uk

From: Peter Rowbottom [mailto:peterrowbottom66@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 12 August 2012 07:17
To: BDC Community Safety
Subject: RESIDENTS PACT PETITION

dear Chris Santoriello-Smith(Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group)

thank you for your positive response on behalf of the BCSMG and for discussing the content of the residents' petition at your meeting on 1 August.

Thank you also for clarifying that PACT is a police-led initiative,as PACT is the method chosen by West Mercia Police to carry out their local policing community engagement responsibilities.

(I have been present at all Hagley and Rural PACT meetings from 2008 up to the final one in January 2011; at **no time** did individual concerns overshadow wider community issues;infact any individual concerns were specific examples of the **same wider** community issues e.g.parking, speeding,ASB etc).

I would also like to thank you for the resultant Bromsgrove Police response which includes assurances relating to on-going street surveys(the petition was partly prompted by there not being one for 9 months or so),the consideration of methods of feedback as asked for in the petition(to that end I have asked Hagley Community Association if they can directly link their PACT section into details on the West Mercia Police website),and the rotation of various locations to maximise engagement.It is also perfectly reasonable for there to be no need to re-appoint a PACT chair whilst the absence of PACT public meetings is compensated for by the street surveys(which evidence of feedback shows have been successful).

21/08/12

I will now circulate copies of your response to all signatories of the petition.

I have also copied in Hagley and Rural PACT Panel individual members, Hagley Parish Council as a partner, the Bromsgrove Police Inspector, and the Chief Inspector for Local Policing in North Worcestershire, for their information so everyone is now aware of the situation regarding Hagley and Rural PACT community engagement.

Thank you once again for your co-operation in this matter.

yours sincerely
Peter Rowbottom

From: BDC Community Safety <CommunitySafety@bromsgrove.gov.uk>
To: Peter Rowbottom <peterrowbottom66@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2012, 18:38
Subject: RE: PACT PETITION

Dear Resident

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group in response to the petition you signed regarding concerns at the lack of community engagement and feedback via PACT.

PACT is a police-led initiative, Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group do not organise or have any responsibility for PACT events, however, the information that is collected at PACT events is used to help inform community safety priority setting each year and is also used as an indicator of public concerns.

Therefore, on 1st August 2012, the Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group met to discuss the concerns raised in the petition. It was noted at the meeting that Bromsgrove Police felt that the PACT meeting format was proving ineffective at engaging with the wider community, due to increasingly low attendance and individual concerns overshadowing wider community issues. In order to address this an alternative form of public engagement has been implemented. Hagley and Rural Local Policing Team now provide the opportunity to engage with the Police through publicised PACT survey events.

The next event is a face to face PACT survey on Wednesday 22nd August 2012, 10:00am at Hagley Village Centre.

In direct response to the points the petition has raised, Bromsgrove Police have informed the Community Safety Management group that:

- There will be no new appointment of a PACT Chair because due to low attendance the PACT meeting format has ceased for the foreseeable future.
- Street Surveys are on-going with the details of the next survey outlined above.
- The results of PACT surveys are published on the West Mercia Police web-site. The Hagley Community Association can link their website to the West Mercia Police PACT webpages should they wish. Other methods of feedback suggested in the petition will be considered by the Hagley and Rural Local Policing Team.
- PACT survey events will be rotated around various locations to maximise engagement with different residents within the local policing area.

If you wish to find out more about PACT events in the Hagley and Rural area please go to www.westmercia.police.uk/localpolicing or contact your local policing team on 101.

Yours sincerely
Chris Santoriello-Smith
Senior Community Safety Officer
On behalf of Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group
Community Safety Team
Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove B60 1AA

From: Peter Rowbottom [mailto:peterrowbottom66@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 07 July 2012 18:50
To: hagleyandrural.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk; Steven Colella; Chris Scurrrell; Ed=0AMoore;
Hagley Parish Council; BDC Community Safety
Subject: PACT PETITION

To whom it may concern

please find attached a residents' petition calling for a return to full PACT engagement in Hagley and Rural, in contrast to the current lack of public engagement which fails to comply with public bodies' statutory duties and other previous agreements, as explained in the petition.

Thank you.

yours faithfully
Peter Rowbottom

