

Kempsey PACT Meeting

held at Kempsey Community Centre on Tuesday 29th September 2009

Present: Joy Clee (Chair), David Harrison (Parish Council), Kay Hopcutt (Youth Club), Linda Jenkins (Neighbourhood Watch), Bob Bullock (County Councillor), CSO Colin Davies, Adrian Symonds (Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for West Midlands), Andrea Halford (Parish Council Clerk), Mike Legg (Parish Council), Claire Campbell (Parish Council), Sharon Joyce (Neighbourhood Watch), Terry Ward (Parish Council Chairman), WPC Sarah Ransome-Williams, Dena Falk (Youth Support), Denise Thorpe (Youth Support) and Chris Holloway (Worcestershire County Council transport)

Also Present: Roy Padden, Kathleen Padden, Bob Singh (Original Stores), Linda Rimell (Chairman Kempsey Tennis Club), Charlotte Underwood (Secretary Kempsey Tennis Club),

The chairman welcomed the group and the visitors on opening the meeting at 12.33pm. Items would be taken out of order as some members had to leave early.

1) Apologies: Marian Walters (District Councillor), Mike Biddle (District Councillor), Sgt. Ian Blanchard (our new police rep who has taken over from Sgt. Lloyd Cresswell), Diane Grazier (Festival Housing), Fiona Allen (Youth Offending Service), Mel Baker (Parish Council), Pam Gerrard (Parish Council), Jane Jones (Parish Council), Ann Hart (Parish Council), Ken Blackwell (Parish Council), Helen Willcox (Parish Council)

2) The minutes from the previous meeting on Tuesday 30th June 2009 having been circulated were agreed as a true record.

6) Neighbourhood Watch – 10 schemes operating in Kempsey with 14 direct contacts. Need to arrange meeting to discuss and include “Smart Water” – evening in November – Monday to Thursday say 7.30pm till 9pm. Need to support each other if there are problems and attend if possible. This was effective when problems occurred in Church Street a few years ago. Schemes are Brookend Lane, The Limes (2 schemes), Church Street, Elgar Drive, Meadow Close (2 Schemes), The Oaks, Windmill Lane, Old Road North – Bob Singh mentioned about the Anti Social Behaviour and the long time it takes for the details to be taken at the Police Hub. There is a standard procedure and this cannot be altered. All calls are categorized into type 1, 2 or 3 and a type 1 is an immediate response.

3) School Transport – response by Chris Holloway (Transport Planning Review Officer and 14-19 Transport Coordinator Integrated Passenger Transport) from Worcestershire County Council to submitted written questions (shown below underlined).

3.1 How is school transport funded? Funds are from central government and are approx £12m for Worcestershire County Council. Children under 16 generally have free transport provided. Post 16 transport is a discretionary responsibility of the County Council, therefore they do not have to provide transport but they have agreed to provide subsidised transport at present, with a contribution from parents.

3.2 Why historically has there been a difference between the cost of travelling to Hanley Castle High School 6th form and the Worcestershire 6th form college for students from

Kempsey? – The card issued for the First Bus service 32 provided cheaper travel through the Worcester City Severn Card but this service has now been withdrawn from Kempsey except for peak-times, and therefore also withdrawn from the City Severn Card and the service is replaced with service 362 operated by Diamond. Those entitled to subsidy from the County Council costs £156 per term and those not entitled to subsidy now cost £175.

3.3 How many students 11-16 and how many post 16 years are there travelling on school transport from this area/catchment to Hanley Castle High School? – Students also travel from this area for specialist courses at say Pershore and Evesham. The number of students U16 from Kempsey to Hanley Castle High School is 120, 16+ from Kempsey to Hanley Castle High School is 20/30 and 16+ Kempsey to Worcester College is 12. These are figures this term but the numbers change often. Other children come outside of the catchment area in St. Peters and Norton Barracks via Kempsey to Hanley Castle High School.

3.4 Why do Worcestershire County Council use a service bus as opposed to a contract bus for 11-16 year olds? – A double decker and a single decker coach are used from Kempsey (Astons Coaches) and another single decker (Astons Coaches) picks up in Brookend Lane, Green Street, Kerswell Green and then to Hanley but the 362 is used from St. Peters and Norton and travels along via Brookend Lane but as it is oversubscribed it will not pick up along the main road in Kempsey but picks up again from Baynhall. This Diamond bus service also picks up fare paying passengers – It no longer picks up the students at Severn Stoke as it is oversubscribed. According to legislation, Local Authorities can make use of service buses for home-to-school transport, and make use of the standing capacity of vehicles if they are designed to accept standees.

3.5 Why was Kempsey negotiated out of the timetable on the first bus to Hanley Castle School/Upton and also on the return bus at 3.25pm from Hanley Castle High School? – the 362 is full with 50/60 students from St. Peters and Norton so no room.

3.6 Who dictates fare structures on the service bus serving the village and why are fares with the same company different from say Redditch? – In Redditch there is good competition between First Bus and Diamond Bus and this has brought the fares down in this area. The same is happening in Worcester City but it is not likely that the fares will be reduced in rural areas as not likely any competition. Diamond are hoping to introduce a set weekly and monthly pass which will hopefully bring the cost down.

3.7 Could you explain the Health and Safety rules for 11-16 years travelling on school transport both contract and service i.e. seat belts, numbers carried, etc and the rules post 16 years? – Contracted coach service has to provide a seat and seat belts. There is no legal obligation for the children to use the seat belts – only that they are there and a notice is usually on every window that seat belts are fitted. With regard to the service bus (362) there is no legal obligation to have seat belts and the bus can carry the maximum number permitted – usually x number seated and say 30 standing. Each bus has to clearly state the numbers permitted both sitting and standing as this is agreed by VOSA (Vehicle Operating Services Agency) for the government for each particular make and model of bus – a discussion took place and it was stated that some parents had withdrawn their children from this 362 as it was totally unacceptable for children to be stood for 14 miles on this bus with their books etc on the way to school and back home. Chris Holloway stated “that this was not an ideal situation” but was permitted under the current regulations.

3.8 Our concerns for many years has been the lack of transport for those attending after school activities. We were led to believe the new service bus 362 would address this problem; it does not. We would like to see the bus leaving Upton at 16.55pm call at Hanley Castle High School and all bus passes accepted on this service – There is now a 362 bus leaving Hanley Castle High School at 16.53pm from 21st September. The Contract bus passes are not yet valid on this service and children will have to pay as the passes for Diamond and Astons are not yet compatible. It is possible that the contract busses may be converted to a full bus service and regulated with VOSA but there is a 56 day lead time to agree this. The same vehicles would likely be used. **NOTE the ½ price fare from Hanley Castle High School is 70p each way to Kempsey.**

3.9 Other Questions and comments.

3.9.1 By 2013 all single decker buses must conform for full access for disabled including all school busses. This means that there have to be no steps. By 2015 all double deckers have to conform to the same regulations.

3.9.2. 6th Form transport to Worcester on Service bus included unlimited travel anytime on Diamond busses whereas the pass to Hanley is only one trip each way per day to Hanley/Kempsey? Answer – this may be sorted out if the Kempsey school bus becomes a service bus and then the passes will be valid on all busses.

3.9.3 There were problems with the timetable and driver training on Diamond but this is now better. Worcestershire County Council has bus surveys made by council members who are travelling on the busses and asking travelers. It is difficult as there are over 12,000 students within Worcestershire to sort out travel arrangements and this varies every term. The County Council staff work during the school holidays to sort all this out ready for the start of the school term. Any person experiencing problems with a bus – overcrowding, not picking up, not on time – should contact Worcestershire County Council.

3.9.4. Post 16 use subsidised transport in Worcestershire – some counties are dearer and some FOC – we are roughly in the middle.

4) Matters Arising

4.a) Youth Club. Fun day very good but not too well attended. Over £100 raised for children's charities. – Youth club on Monday and Thursday evenings are getting busier. Play rangers are doing more projects on Mondays. There have been some problems on Thursdays on the Tennis Courts with water bombs thrown – can cameras be installed near tennis courts and children's play area. Parish Council can apply to Malvern Hills District Council. PACT to write to ask Parish Council to apply to Malvern Hills District Council to install temporary camera at/near tennis courts if possible. Need a little more liaison between Tennis Club and Youth Club – exchange mobile numbers – not always youths that are at Youth Club but just “hanging on” near the youth club. Can Tennis Club go to youth club and talk to the children – can Tennis Club do any tennis coaching of youth club members? Report description of any person causing problem to Youth Club leader (Kay Hopcutt).

4.b) Drains. Letter needs to be sent to our Malvern Hills District Councilors as debris (acorns and twigs etc.,) on Old Road North and other areas will be washed into the drains and then cause problems. – the drain over Hatfield Brook on A38 has been worked on by Worcestershire County Council and this should now alleviate the flooding problem in this area.

4.c) Parking outside school. The school are trying to have dedicated parents on corner by school to form a “drop off zone” to alleviate the need for parents to park. Need more parents before it will be operational.

4.d) Agenda on the website and Notice Boards. Must have more input to get the information regarding PACT meetings to the parishioners of Kempsey.

4.e) Hedges. Some hedges are dangerously overhanging footpaths and roads. Full information to be passed to County Councillor (Bob Bullock) and he will deal with each incident. Need as much information as possible including a detailed map. Two immediate areas need attention – Brookend Lane backing onto The Limes Play area and footpath down A38 on the east side.

5) Dates for Future Litter Pick – this was set as Thursday 29th October 2pm to 3.30pm with collection at 4pm by Malvern Hills District Council subject to confirmation from Youth Club and Alan Biddle.

7) Anti Social Behaviour - some items included in 6 – Neighbourhood watch and also at 4a – Youth Club

8) Letter of Support for Kempsey Parish Plan working Party’s bid for additional play equipment funding – It was agreed by all persons present that a letter of support from PACT be sent to the Parish Plan working party supporting the need for play-areas at corner of Brookend Lane/The Limes and at Kings Hill area and also for play equipment in these areas.

9) Any Other Business

9.1. Footpaths overgrown – footpath 631 from Freemantle Drive where there is a tree blocking the route and very overgrown and also footpath 573 from Main Road to Meadow Close overgrown and this is impassable by parents with young children and students due to nettles and brambles. The Notice Board for footpaths outside the Parish Hall is damaged. – All items have been notified to The Worcestershire Hub but nothing yet happened – Bob Bullock to take these up.

9.2. Vehicle Speed Signs. These have been asked for by Bob Bullock to Worcestershire County Council and been promised for approx a 3 week period before Christmas. The cost if the Parish Council wish to purchase are approx £5,000/£6,000 each

9.3. Pedestrian Crossing – still being pursued particularly with the proposed increase of play areas and post office at the north end of the village. Bob Bullock informed the meeting that Worcestershire County Council is looking into this.

10) Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 26th January 12.30pm Room 1 at Kempsey Community Centre with tea/coffee available from 12 noon.

The meeting closed at 2.28pm

Thank you to those that provided the drinks, and biscuits, etc.

Joy Clee Chairman.