

Informal notes of PACT Meeting, Monday 2 December 2024 held at Highfield Church Centre

Apologies in advance - these are only notes and not taken verbatim. Some items might have been omitted and/or misinterpreted.

The PACT Meeting was well attended and included, among others, Roger Brown, Barbara Claridge, myself, three other representatives from the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group and the three Ward Councillors. Malkeat Singh (SCC Engagement Officer) took the Minutes, with PC Adam O'Neill chairing and PCSO Hayley Morrison also representing Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Roger Brown queried how attendees received the Minutes and Malkeat Singh decided to hand round a sheet of paper towards the end of the meeting for attendees to sign up with their email address, should they wish to receive them.

The main and relevant items covered were:

Follow-up on Action Point from PACT 9/9/24 - Belmont Road

This is a dangerous situation where people are sometimes going the wrong way and ignoring No Entry signs. It is well signposted. The police will keep an eye on it and there have been no further concerns since the issue was raised.

Follow-up on Action Point from PACT 9/9/24 - Operation Sentinel

Nadine Johnson asked if Francesca Prior had followed up on this Action Point and found out about the additional Home Office funding, what areas would be covered and if this included Portswood.

PC Adam O'Neill responded that the local authority receives funding from the Home Office for various actions to be carried out both by the police and Community Safety. Portswood is included in Operation Sentinel. Chris Brown, Service Manager for Stronger Communities/Community Safety is the budget holder. The funding expires in March 2025. For the Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team, one of the actions is to conduct short patrols of Portswood High Street on calculated dates and times, recording such things as GPS location, destination and how many steps taken. This data is sent to the Home Office to marry up with crime reports for their trial research. Portswood police had thought that some of the money would fund some police overtime, but this was not the case. For Community Safety, some of the funding is used to support Street Pastors for additional Warden patrols in Portswood High Street.

People cycling on the pavements

PC Adam O'Neill confirmed that the police do challenge them (although a member of the public disputed this in cases they had seen). The advice is that members of the public should not intervene in case the cyclists respond aggressively. All incidents should be reported to the police on 101 or online, giving dates, times, locations and descriptions, otherwise the police would not know this has happened and the incidents would not be recorded in their area statistics. Videos can be uploaded if the reports are made

online: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>

E-scooters/e-bikes on pavements and on the road / Problems with some food or other delivery vans

One member of the public (MOP) raised cargo bikes/food delivery electric bikes as a particular concern as they are large, heavy and dangerous and are sometimes ridden on the pavement. They asked if these could be targeted by the police in particular because of the danger they pose.

Food or other delivery vans are sometimes driven by people whose English is sometimes their second language and when unloading goods, they do not always park legally, creating health and safety issues. Could the Council engage with businesses and drivers to comply with safety regulations? This also applied to cargo bikes/food delivery bikes.

Of the e-scooters, only the Voi rental scooters are legal and there is a proper reporting system in place:

Use the online form at Report a Voi

Email support@voiapp.io

Call the 24-hour customer service helpline on 0808 501 5724.

All other e-scooters are unlawful and can only be used on private land. While having no registration numbers, incidents should still be reported to the police giving the time, date, location, description (as with bikes - see above). Police enforcement procedure is education for a first offence. If this is not adhered to, then the e-scooter is seized and destroyed. The latter does require waiting for a recovery truck which can take time.

PC Adam O'Neill appeared to take the view that these are mechanically propelled vehicles which should be governed by the same laws as other vehicles on the road ie they need to be insured, have MOTs, drivers should have helmets, there should be an age limit, they should adhere to traffic regulations, etc

He asked if Councillors could find out the number of Voi e-scooter penalties there had been.

PC Adam O'Neill said they were planning a big operation - a 'Day of Action' - with the Road Policing Unit to take place soon. This would target e-scooters, delivery drivers, cycling on pavements, etc. They will assess the effectiveness of this operation and publish the figures for the community.

In conclusion, PC Adam O'Neill said that if the police spent their time on the above, they would not have time for anything else. It was therefore important that the public report everything so that all incidents can be reflected in the area statistics which would then attract the necessary funding. He would also continue with his existing action to educate the public on social media, through emails from Hampshire Alert/Hampshire and the IOW Constabulary.

Proportion of police time spent in a normal working day in Portswood High Street

Roger Brown raised this question. The police were unable to quantify this, given the number of issues they have to deal with, including backfilling 999 emergency teams. No two days are the same. The area they cover has been extended considerably over the years. It used to be just the Portswood area, but it now goes

as far as Mansbridge and the General Hospital. They try to get to Portswood High Street as much as possible but they could not guarantee it being daily unless it was for a call-out. Malkeat Singh said he would also ask the Manager of Community Safety, Chris Brown, the same question and copy Roger Brown into the correspondence as this was clearly a big issue with the audience.

Speeding on Highfield Lane

A pre-meeting PACT update was emailed about action taken on this by the Highways Team. This subject had been raised at several previous PACT meetings. See below.

One MOP mentioned that after Glebe Court, motorists would just speed up as the 20mph speed limit only extended from the junction with Portswood Road to Glebe Court. Was it not possible to extend it all the way along Highfield Lane? Barbara Claridge commented that there was also a lot of speeding in Westwood Road.

"Ahead of tonight's PACT meeting, please see below reply from our Highway's Team, regarding concerns raised at the last PACT meeting on 9 September.

Speeding on Highfield Lane:

In regard to Highfield Lane we are looking at installing a couple of our Vehicle Activated Sigs (VAS) signs here. Units will be in a location for a month and then will move elsewhere. .We have two locations earmarked for units to be on Highfield Lane as follows:

In January, towards the Portswood Road end of Highfield Lane. Units will be placed in the vicinity of Glebe Court in February. A number of other locations around Portswood have also been identified in line with the trial Portswood scheme.

We would welcome any feedback from residents on where they feel speeding is most prevalent on Highfield Lane and we can see if there are other opportunities to place the VAS units there too.

As speed enforcement is carried out by the police, we'd encourage residents to continue to report issues to the police to assist with their intelligence, should any availability for enforcement become available. [Making a road traffic incident report | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#). It is also now possible to submit video footage to the police – details are on the webpage link.

Guardian Court, Westwood Road:

We wouldn't usually support a request for restrictions across an access without evidence that it is being blocked on an on-going basis. We would recommend that the owner considers applying for a H-bar marking to highlight the presence of the entrance in the first instance"

Thomas Lewis Way

Over recent years, flooding appeared to have got worse in this area, particularly the area round the junction with St Denys Road. Part of TLW was closed recently with Storm Bert which caused traffic chaos; about 6 roads were inundated. It was acknowledged that this was a Highways issue and Councillors were waiting for a report.

Break-in: a storage container belonging to-Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery

Barbara Claridge reported that FoSOC had recently had some very expensive tools stolen. Before the call to 101 to report the incident ended, they were told that nothing would happen. They were disappointed and upset. PC Adam O'Neill said that he would follow this up as it should not have happened.

Safer Places Scheme

Cllr Barbour said that the Scheme had been relaunched and she would send an update to Nadine Johnson for publishing.

Future dates and venues for Portswood PACT meetings

Monday 24 March, 6.30-8pm 2025 (Hall, Highfield Church Centre)

Monday 16 June, 6.30-8pm 2025 (Hall, Highfield Church Centre)

Monday 8 September, 6.30-8pm 2025 (Lounge, Highfield Church Centre).

Nadine Johnson

Digital Communications

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