

## **YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLAIN TO THE POWERS THAT BE !**

A New initiative, which has been running in Blandford town for some months now is to be extended to the surrounding villages in North Dorset. This is PACT, which stands for "Partners and Communities Together" where Partners means Police, Fire Service, Youth Services, Health authorities, and Councils.

A Safer Neighbourhood Team has been set up in the North Dorset area, with representatives of all services and members of the public meeting every three months. The Police have issued postcards inviting members of the public to make known **"what issues are of concern to you so that we can work with you and our partners to tackle them"**.

The Parish Clerk holds a stock of these postcards and anyone with serious concerns about safety in its widest sense in our area, should contact me (881348) to obtain one. The issue must be specific and detailed so that the problem can be addressed. For example, don't just put 'Cars driving too fast through the village' but 'Cars speeding between x and y at such-and-such a time' on working days', and have some evidence to support your complaint.

The cards will be evaluated, and the most frequent complaints identified – so if you have a serious problem which is shared by your neighbours, get them to fill in a Postcard as well – numbers count. The highest numbers will be put before the next Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting, who will hear your evidence, and decide which to tackle. The various bodies involved will address the problem and report back at the next Team meeting as to any success in dealing with it. In Blandford for example, they have been successful in reducing the incidence of noise and disturbance late at night in the town centre

The big advantage of PACT is not only that this is a grass-roots way of finding out what is troubling people, but also that a multi-service approach will be made to tackle the problem. If it is vandalism for example, then not only police but schools, and youth services etc will all be involved.

Pat Gubbins  
Hilton Parish Clerk