

Minutes of the Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership

10.00, 17 Sept 2007, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present John Gramolt (elected Chairman; Withyham PC), Robert Watson (representing Forest Row PC), Keith Sinden (ESCC Road Safety Officer), Arabella Sackville (observer), Tony Allen (Maresfield PC), Matt Elder (East Sussex FRS), Graeme Beattie (ESCC SID Co-ordinator), Hew Prendergast (Conservators). Minutes taken by Tracy Buxton.

Action:

1. **Apologies received:** Ray Galley (Maresfield PC)

2. **Minutes of last meeting.**

Two slight amendments were made, one in those present and a spelling error. After these alterations were made the minutes were adopted.

3. **Matters arising.**

3i. Danehill and Hartfield Parish Council participation was discussed. The Committee hoped that these Parishes would be able to participate in the future. There was agreement that the participation of the villages in this new period of development was vital. Robert Watson suggested that a summary be sent to the Parish Chairmen and Clerks. After discussion, there was agreement that the SID data, highlighting enforcement successes, education achievements and announcing future SIDs, be sent out to Parish Chairmen and Clerks. It was thought that some time after 12 October 2007 would be appropriate for this to happen and that the letter be followed up by an e-mail communication, one week later, to all Parish Councillors. This letter would come with a request for the issues highlighted to be Parish agenda items.

It was agreed that a short informative summary giving a flavour of what has been done and what is planned be drafted along with a covering letter from the Chairman and forwarded to the Chairmen and Clerks of the Parish Councils.

HP/JG

It was agreed that the above communication be followed one week later by an e-mail communication to all Parish Councillors.

HP

There was a short discussion regarding costs, contributions and ways of reducing the financial burden for Parishes. There was agreement that reducing the financial burden would remove the barriers for some Parishes. It was explained, however, that no costs were foreseen at this stage.

It was agreed that Matt Elder would make enquiries regarding finances.

ME

3ii Speed awareness courses were discussed and Keith Sinden reported programme / system development work was still in progress.

3iii SID data were briefly discussed and there was agreement that a summary sheet of SID data would be compiled that would include the new data when ready.

It was agreed that all SID data would be gathered together and presented in a short summary sheet.

JG

4. SID week 1 to 5 October 2007.

Graeme Beattie reported on the organisation for the next SID week which would be from the 1st to 5th October 2007. There was a short discussion on using a route strategy and agreement that this strategy would be utilised on Wednesday 3rd October on the B2026 and the B2188, when three SIDs would be used - facing south in the morning from 07.30 to 09.30 and facing north in the afternoon from 16.30 to 18.30. Two volunteers would be required to operate each system and Graeme Beattie would liaise directly with the Parishes to organise this. The sites selected would be Wood Eaves /Chuck Hatch / Junction of B2026 at Fairwarp.

The advantages and disadvantages, for having a police presence, at and/or away from the SID sites were discussed. Keith Sinden commented that SIDs were found to be more effective when followed by Police enforcement. There was concern, however, that volunteers manning SIDs near Police enforcement sites might be 'tarred' by association with enforcement. John Gramolt offered to contact PCSO Steve Etherington to enquire as to his availability and to inform Inspector Steve Grace of the planned SIDs.

Matt Elder asked that ESFRS be informed of the location of all SIDs so that a highly visible support could be in place and it was agreed that Graeme Beattie would do this. He went on to report on the success ESFRS were having in signing people up to making a commitment not to speed and they would use SID week as an opportunity to engaging members of the public in conversation in Forest car parks and asking them to sign up.

Tony Allen reported on the current volunteers training situation and this was discussed. He went on to say training sessions were arranged at Groombridge Parish Hall and Nutley Parish Office.

There was a short discussion regarding data that had been gathered during past SID weeks and it was agreed that the data be analysed by John Gramolt and made available by 12 October for the communication to the Parish Councillors as discussed above.

There was a short discussion about making a press release via ESCC Press Office and direct to the local media on SIDs week. There was agreement that the key message be one of education, enforcement and partnership involvement. The contact for further information should be Graeme Beattie.

It was agreed that the Police be contacted to gain their support during SIDs week. JG

It was agreed that the data be analysed and made available by 12 October. JG

It was agreed that a press release be drafted and circulated to local press and ESCC communications office. HP/JG

9) Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd December 2007 at 10.00

The meeting finished at approx 12.00.