

Minutes of the Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership

10.00, 2 June 2010, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present John Gramolt (Co-opted member & Chairman), Graeme Beattie (ESCC Road Safety Trainer), Alison Beck (Withyham PC), Mike Colenutt (Hartfield PC), Nigel Manger (Forest Row PC), Hew Prendergast (Conservators), Arabella Sackville. Minutes were taken by Hew Prendergast.

1. **Apologies** **Action**

Neil Banks (Wealden Safer Partnership), Jeremy Upton (East Sussex FRS).

2. **Minutes of last meeting (5 November 2009).**

The Minutes were adopted.

3. **Matters Arising.**

3) Matters arising

HP said he had not, on further thought, written to WDC about the lack of recommendations made about the Partnership in the report *Sharing responsibilities – changing behaviour. A review of the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads*. He considered that submissions made by individual parish councils (as agreed at the last meeting that Forest Row and Hartfield would do) would be more effective.

5) Next steps

It was agreed that it was difficult to see the added value to the Partnership of a representative from the Safer Wealden Partnership.

6) Speed gun training and campaign programme for 2010

JG said that, subject to Police agreement, parishes could ask for speed guns anywhere. They discourage speed gun use outside 40 mph limits or where there have been recent (in the previous six months) changes in roadside furniture. The latter delay is to allow Highways to assess the effectiveness of such changes. GB confirmed that it allowed drivers to 'adjust'.

The first port of call is PCSO Iain Thomsett who has the specific role within Wealden for speeding. PCSO Karen Juniper (Forest Row) will organise training and for 'her' area will allocate usage to 30 mph areas only. Speed gun sites are *not* the same as SID ones.

4. **Report on speed gun training**

JG and MC said that they, along with seven volunteers from Hartfield and 10 from Withyham, are now trained up, with PC Steve Etherington and two PCSOs attending. The training involved both classroom and roadside training. Anyone travelling > 10% + 2mph over the speed limit is sent a letter by Sussex Police. Follow up letters to repeat offenders from the Police increase in their severity, the third (only after a *Police* record of speeding) indicating that offenders will be visited by them.

GB offered to ask if there is an exchange of data between speed gun records and those received via Operation Crackdown. He also reported that Danehill PC (Mr Wales) had asked for a SID site appraisal and noted that Danehill School had not

had a Road Safety Week, the only other local school in this situation. The Partnership welcomed the opportunity to encourage the PC to be more involved in it.

It was noted that the speed camera in Nutley is a very prolific recorder of speeding offenders. These offenders are given the option of either three points on their licence plus a £60.00 fine or no points plus taking part in, and paying for (at £105.00), a speed awareness course providing one-to-one training.

Finally AB said that there was yet more demand from additional volunteers for training. They see speed guns as more effective than SIDs.

5. Speed gun training and campaign programme for 2010

It was reported that parishes have to sign up to the Speedwatch campaign by writing to Insp. Wakefield. Withyham PC is doing this and Hartfield PC will do so too.

Monday 5 July was suggested as a first date for campaigns in the above two parishes - in villages rather than on the Forest. AB and MC will ask, respectively, PCSO Sarah Roberts and PCSO Julia Perrin if this date is OK and if they (the PCSOs) could be present.

AB, MC

The week beginning 4 October was proposed for a Forest road campaign, using sites selected from numbers 2 (Broadstone car park), 3 (Shadows car park), 5 (Half Moon pub), 9 (near Kings Standing Police Station) and 10 (Kings Standing car park) listed in the Road Policing Unit (RPU) report on *Speed sites, Ashdown Forest area* (14 September 2009). The number of days would depend on the availability of volunteers.

JG's suggestion of trying to cover at least the 0800-0900 and 1700-1800 periods was agreed, bearing in mind that exact times may have to change if it is too dark.

6. AOB

AB said that she did not recognise the SID dataset from September 2009 that had been sent to HP by GB on 7 April 2010.

HP reported the occurrence of a 999 event in Forest Row on 21 May and that the RPU had been at Four Counties car park for much of a day last month stopping speeding vehicles. He agreed to ask Karen Juniper if she can find out how many drivers were pulled over and prosecuted.

HP

It was agreed that it was a good idea for JG to contact Meridian local radio (East Grinstead) to publicise the next campaign.

JG

7. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the result of the July campaign would be emailed round and that the next meeting would be at 1000 on Wednesday 29 September. The meeting finished at 1140.

All concerned