

**Minutes of the
Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership
10.00, 11 March 2010, Ashdown Forest Centre**

Present John Gramolt (Co-opted member & Chairman), 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), Alison Beck (Withyham PC), Graeme Beattie (ESCC Road Safety Trainer), Jeremy Upton (East Sussex FRS).

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

The Minutes were adopted.

3. Matters Arising.

3) Matters arising

Nigel Manger showed a copy of a report, *Sharing responsibilities – changing behaviour. A review of the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads*, produced by a working party of WDC's Community Scrutiny Committee and published in January. Mike Colenutt said he had received the report only in the last two weeks. Hew Prendergast said that the report referred to a lengthy submission he had made to WDC, mentioning the work of the Partnership, but that there was no recommendation about the Partnership's efforts. The Partnership agreed that Hew Prendergast would draft and circulate a comment on this point and, once approved, send it to the WDC officer responsible, Dr Jeremy Leach (copying in Cllr Johanna Howell, the Chairman of the working party). Mike Colenutt and Nigel Manger said that they would ask their respective parish councils to respond to the report and suggested that other Partnership members do likewise.

HP

4) The 14-18 September campaign

It was agreed that Hew Prendergast write to ESCC to get speed loop data.

John Gramolt reported that he had spoken to Neil Banks about representation on the Safer Wealden Partnership (SWP) but the idea had been turned down.

HP

5) Next steps

With respect to Neil Banks's email of 1 March (attached to agenda) about the Rural Speed Enforcement Campaign from 22 February to 3 March, John Gramolt reported that speed guns had been used recently in Groombridge and Withyham and Mike Colenutt reported similar activity in Hartfield. Hew Prendergast said that he was surprised that the Partnership had received no word of this until the date of the email (1 March). It was agreed that he write to Neil Banks to ask why this was so and how he saw the role of the Partnership within the SWP.

HP

John Gramolt reported that he had visited Uckfield Police Station after the last meeting and talked to PC Charlton who has an interest in traffic and road safety and in training in the use of speed guns. Uckfield has three of these, Crowborough one. Speed guns are 'legally accurate' and need a team of three to operate and record speed data and vehicle registrations. Sussex Police supply

teams with yellow jackets and undertake an H+S assessment of sites where guns may be used; there are, apparently, ten of them in and around the Forest. [NB. See attached document received from Sussex Police after the meeting that shows the location of the sites.] John Gramolt offered to find out their precise locations from a Crowborough-based PCSO. He added that PC Steve Etherington of Crowborough has been promoted to Acting Sergeant. JG

4. Verbal report by Parish Council representatives of road safety initiatives over the last 12 months and plans for 2010/2011

Alison Beck had previously (10 March) circulated Withyham PC's plans for speed gun operators.

With regard to speed guns, we have fourteen volunteers willing to be trained in their use, and Sarah Roberts, our PCSO, will be liaising with PC Steve Etherington about training dates. Once these are confirmed, we'll advertise them in the hope of attracting a few more volunteers. I envisage the training taking place at Groombridge Village Hall, so if other parishes want to join us, they'd be very welcome. I'll keep you posted.

Nigel Manger had discussed training with PCSO Karen Juniper. He added that a 30 mph limit had been extended on Prioory Road in Forest Row because of the presence of a school. This cost tens of thousands of pounds and had taken two years! Forest Row PC had made representations to the Chief Constable via the Sussex Association of Local Councils for speed gun enforcement and the introduction of 20 mph limits. Volunteers were no longer willing to use SIDs because of the lack of Police enforcement. He added that there had also been consultations with West Hoathly PC (*West* Sussex) about the need for better signage at the cross roads at Courtlands.

Mike Colenutt said he had no news for Hartfield of the use of the SID (shared with Forest Row) but that those trained in it were still willing to carry on. John Gramolt said that Sussex Police use speed gun data for general intelligence gathering that is also shared around. Anyone exceeding limits three times gets a Police visit. Nigel Manger reminded the meeting that PCSOs may not give speeding tickets.

5. Report on speed data from the September 2009 campaign

No data are available. Graeme Beattie needs to download them onto a PC at the Forest Centre where he has previously installed the appropriate software.

6. Speed gun training and campaign programme for 2010

This subject had already been covered (above). It was agreed that a campaign was needed this summer. Nigel Manger said that those trained in speed guns may use them anywhere and he will report back on how many may be trained at a time. Any 'vacancies' arising out of his discussions with Karen Juniper could be offered to other parishes. NM

7. Operation Crackdown

It was agreed that parishes would be circulated with information, from Neil Banks's 1 March email, about Operation Crackdown, as follows.

Since August 2007 Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.org) has received over 18,000 reports. This has generated over 100 letters of advice to local motorists plus over 500 intelligence reports which have been disseminated to the Road Policing Unit. 120 uninsured vehicles have been seized, 212 warnings/seizures have been made using Section 59 of the Police Reform act and 43 drivers have been arrested. Data from the Sussex Safer

Roads Partnership shows that in Sussex, almost 80% of casualties involved in collisions occur within 10 miles of their home.

8. Suggestions for further circulation of minutes

John Gramolt suggested PCSO Sarah Roberts, Crowborough.

9. AOB

There was none.

10. Date of next meeting

1000, Wednesday 2 June.

The meeting finished at 1140.