

**ASHDOWN FOREST VILLAGES SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
Minutes of Meeting on 6th December 2006 at 10.00 hours**

Present:	John Gramolt	Withyham PC	(JG)
	Hanno Fry	Maresfield PC	(HF)
	Matt Elder	East Sussex FRS	(ME)
	Keith Sinden	ESCC Principal Road Safety Officer	(KS)
	Arabella Sackville	Withyham PC	(AS)
	Diana Curta	Danehill PC	(DC)
	Graeme Beattie	East Sussex County Council	(GB)
	Robert Watson	Forest Row PC	(RW)
	Mike Chapman	High Weald	(MC)

Apologies: Hew Prendergast Clerk to the Conservators (HP)

1. JG agreed to chair. RW to take the minutes.
2. Mike Chapman, a plantations officer from the High Weald ANOB gave an illustrated presentation on a recent visit to the 'Green Forest' near Tilburg in Holland. It was both interesting and relevant –even though there are differences. Cyclists (not always angelic!) are a big factor, worth considering more over here. Speed and traffic calming are major considerations – as is political pressure. It was agreed it would be good to meet the Dutch connection if they came over. Mike would contact them. KS would put him in touch with the County Engineers.

JG suggested that the following should happen:

- a) HF would investigate funding. EU might help.
- b) KS would see if ESCC would invite the Dutch Municipality.
- c) JG would look at communications within the community with RW.
- d) ME would produce some ideas – recognising the FRS'S limited resources.

This would be an agenda item next time.

Mike was sincerely thanked for his presentation and interest.

3. The minutes of 5th October were agreed, subject to line 1 of second page Being deleted – "Keith.....anything"
4. Matters arising:
 - a) The ESCC magazine (winter 2006) provoked many enquiries and KE had sent a number of our leaflets.
 - b) All partners had paid, ESCC for the speed loop installation, except Danehill. DC said she would raise it at her Council. £ 225 is the figure. It was noted that Danehill PC provided the first chairman and had benefitted as much as other Parishes in the Partnership.
 - c) GB gave out the posters (A3) for each parish. Would send to those absent viz Buxted and Hartfield. He would also send to Parish clerks via e-mail.

- d) GB will be contacting SID operators with a 6 month summary. Details now available, they were distributed. ME will assist with FRS statistics. 313 deer had been killed in/near the Forest since January 1st 2006.
- e) HF was still concerned with the police reaction to his queries re Speedwatch and traffic calming. The Deputy Chief Constable had avoided his question at a recent North Wealden meeting. Maresfield PC was contacting the Chief Constable and the leader of ESCC, Cllr. Pam Doodles, chair of Safer Wealden Partnership, was being helpful in involving her Partnership with the problems – we await!
- f) RW raised the issue of deer signs. Many have gone and not been replaced. HP had told a Forest Row resident, Mrs Crook that “we (conservators) did indeed take the signs down from the Forest boundary. They were old.....rusty or had disappeared”. RW said some 6 local residents had complained about the absence of these warning signs on the A22 between Forest Row and Nutley, particularly since visitors did not expect deer to appear suddenly. KS said he would look into it. It was appreciated to be an ESCC responsibility not the conservators for areas outside the Forest. ME talked about the one huge herd. He queried how many cars found twisted around trees were due to deer – or alcohol – or bad driving at speed. Was culling on the cards? He asked. It was agreed that clear warning signs on busy roads can help.

5. 2007

JG introduced the future by asking

- I. Who are we?
- II. Where are we going?
- III. What are our terms of reference?

HF felt we should have written terms of reference. KS thought our Leaflet set out our objectives.

It was agreed we did not want a talking shop. It was also agreed that the May 2006 speed reduction initiative was excellent. The SID teams were good and so were the Fire and Rescue services. The Police were also active. It was agreed that 2 SID weeks should be organised for 2007. (GB offered to go to Danehill to introduce SID if requested).

Discussion developed as to whether our partnership should be led by ESCC and the Conservators, who had initiated it – and who had some, if limited, funds, facilities for printing etc, some political nouse and personnel. HF was keen that the parishes should have at least an equal say. ME said that now FSR were chairing one of the Safer Wealden Partnership sections, they would be pleased to work with Safer Wealden , a good idea he thought.

- 6. It was agreed to hold 2 SID weeks in 2007. April 16-20th and September 17-21st. We could vary the sites. All Parishes must be involved. KS would chase the absent parishes. HF said we must do more than we have been doing and stressed how necessary it was to have active police involvement. It was agreed that we should not be too ambitious. As ME said, we cannot control all the commuter based traffic, but 2 effective speed calming weeks would help. GB would see if the Sussex Safety Partnership Exhibition vehicle would be available. It could move from one SID site or Parish to another on specific days.

7. GB said he could provide SID training on Wednesday 11th April and Wednesday 12th September as and where required.
8. The Chairman expressed the deep sympathy of all members at the tragic Losses suffered recently by members of the FRS. Matt Elder appreciated the sentiment and said he would pass it on.
9. The next meeting would be on Wednesday 7th March 2007 at 10.00 hours at The Forest Centre. HP would be available – so RW would not have to do amateur minute taking!