

## Minutes of the

### Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Group

1000, 21 June 2005, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present: Keith Sinden (ESCC, Chairman), John Gramolt (Withyham PC), Rudabe Rudin (Forest Row PC), John Stevens (Danehill PC), Sheila van Maurik (Hartfield PC; arrived 1020), Hew Prendergast (Conservators of Ashdown Forest, minute taker).

Apologies: Hanno Fry (Maresfield PC), Robert Watson (Forest Row PC)

KS handed out a map of road casualties on the Forest between 1 January 2002 and the 31 December 2004. In terms of crashes with casualties, there were eight 'serious' and 39 'slight'; the B2188/2026 had four 'serious' and 11 'serious'.

JS asked about speed limit enforcement by the Police. KS replied that he thought there was little. Most enforcement is done with cameras, and in high risk sites such as towns. Cameras can only be sited according to set criteria. He emphasised that his role is road safety education. He said that most speeding will be done by local people, and that these people need to be targeted.

JG asked whether deer casualties reported by HP matched, geographically, the figures presented by crashes with casualties. HP thought that it would not be worth looking into the cause of the accidents – a time-consuming exercise – and that the attention of the Group should focus on the key issue of speed. He agreed, however, that the issue of apparently increasing deer casualties (and that of other animals) on the roads should contribute to the rationale of the overall campaign.

KS thought that signage at the entrances to the Forest would help recognition of the Forest area. SvM agreed about the importance of such an "impact and vision statement". KS wondered whether a board below such signage could be added to record human and deer casualties. JG suggested that reminder signage other than at the Forest entrances, e.g. at the exits from car parks, might be useful, as well as foreign languages signs in certain places.

Referring to Item 8a of the 6 May 2005 meeting (Item 8c was not deemed worth taking forward), KS said that there are criteria for the location of SIDs and that the B2188/2026 could offer several possibilities. Hartfield and Forest Row PCs share a SID, and Withyham has one too.

KS discussed the Slow Down, Give Space leaflet and said that 12,000 people have signed up county-wide to the Commitment to this message, and 800 in Mayfield where a campaign has been underway for nearly three years. SvM offered to do a Forest specific design and present it to the Group via email. KS could fund the production of leaflets, car stickers and posters. He said that Steve Ankers, Assistant Director, Transport and Environment, ESCC, has been supportive and, indeed, suggested this whole project for the Forest area.

KS passed round speed counts for Forest roads for scrutiny but said that his work, and the allocation of resources, has to be focused on casualty reduction. Sites with casualties and high traffic speeds could be identified for locating SIDs. It was agreed that basing the work of this Group on hard data increases its credibility.

KS will find out when the speed limit was put in on the Forest and asked all members of the group to think of key messages for the leaflet. JG agreed to look at the speed data counts and correlate them with the accident blackspots by the next meeting. HP said he would write up the eoen pager and circuit it for comments.

JS offered to take on the Chairmanship of the Group. The Group approved.

The meeting closed at 1155.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5 October, 1400

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