

**Notes of the meeting of Ashdown Forest Road Safety Campaign held at the
Forest Centre on Friday 6 May 2005 at 10.00 hours.**

Present:	Keith Sinden	ESCC Principal Road Safety Officer	(KS)
	Hew Prendergast	Clerk to the Conservators	(HP)
	Jim Lusted	Hartfield PC	(JL)
	John Gramolt	Withyham PC	(JG)
	Arabella Sackville	Withyham PC	(AS)
	Hanno Fry	Maresfield PC	(HF)
	Robert Watson	Forest Row PC	(RW)

Absent Danehill Parish Council
 Buxted Parish Council

- 1 This meeting was convened by KS to be the first working party of the appropriate villages, who are concerned with and by safety and environmental situations in Ashdown Forest, as suggested at an inaugural meeting.
- 2 JL expressed some hesitation as to what could realistically and effectively be done, which had not been tried before without success. He was persuaded by KS and others at least to have an open mind.
- 3 KS outlined some measures and research in which his Department had been involved:

 i.e. SID exercises at Maresfield, Forest Row and elsewhere;
 Nutley traffic signs;
 Hartfield Road, Forest Row traffic calming;
 School displays at Maresfield and Hartfield attracting high TV profile;
 Three year exercise at Maresfield on speed reduction; and
 Ringmer's speed control measures.
- 4 The underlying motive was both to reduce human casualties (often caused by vehicle speed) and also to make the Ashdown Forest area safer and more environmentally friendly for residents and visitors, and specific user groups such as riders and cyclists. HP added his concerns about increasing deer casualties on roads in and around the Forest and suggested that an overarching theme for the project could be enhancing the Forest area as a special place.
- 5 The meeting endorsed the sentiments expressed and thought that an effective working party involving all six parishes abutting the Forest, the ESCC and the Conservators should be established. It should liaise with the Police, schools, businesses, local EPSOs, the Fire Service and other groups working in complementary directions as advised by HP.
- 6 On HF's suggestion, today's meeting was designated as the first of the working party.
- 7 The next step was to prepare a concise, yet factual, informative and persuasive presentation for the Parish Councils, benefit and, hopefully, ratified. To this end the following data would be collated by HP and sent to him

- a) relevant speeding statistics from the Police (KS);
- b) incidence of deer casualties (HP);

It was recognised, as noted by JG, that some residents preferred 'everything' rather than deer in their gardens.

- c) SID statistics from Forest Row (RW); and
- d) speeding statistics from Withyham (JG).

HP would also draft, in consultation with KS, an appropriate presentation to be finalised at the next meeting.

- 8 A number of topics for future debate were aired:
 - a) the location of SID vis-à-vis junctions for safety (KS);
 - b) having 'safe lanes' by another name (HP);
 - c) using camera evidence where and when appropriate (KS); and
 - d) making the Forest an even more 'special place' (HF).
- 9 JL raised the question of the availability of funding. Could the County find any funds? KS thought some help may be possible from his Transport and Environment Department (not a promise!). The County's Safety Budget may be a possibility.
- 10 The title of the working party was suggested as 'The Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Group'. KS thought it could be very influential. He stressed the educational training and publicity aspect of its role.
- 11 Mention was made of the Safer Wealden Partnership Initiative with which HF and RW are associated. It has many features in common with this concept with possible close future association.
- 12 The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 21 June 2005 at 10.00 am at the Forest Centre. KS would invite Danehill and Buxted Parish Councils. RW gave his apologies and hoped Forest Row Parish Council would send an alternative representative.
- 13 KS asked for suggestions, as appropriate for the Forest, to the ESCC and Sussex Police leaflet "Slow Down – Give Space".
- 14 RW "volunteered" to prepare and send some notes of the meeting to HP who would kindly circulate them to all via their emails where available.