

Minutes of the Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership

1000, 20 April 2006, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present: Graeme Beattie (ESCC), Matt Elder (East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service; arrived 1104), Steve Grace (Sussex Police), John Gramolt (Withyham PC), Hew Prendergast (Conservators of Ashdown Forest; minute taker), Arabella Sackville (Withyham PC), Robert Watson (Forest Row PC).

Also: Tanya Herbert (Communications Manager, Transport & Environment, ESCC)

Apologies: Keith Sinden (ESCC)

John Gramolt chaired the meeting in the absence of John Stevens (Danhill PC).

1) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were adopted.

2) Matters arising

Item 1. Hew Prendergast said he would ensure WDC (via its Chief Executive) was sent the minutes of the last meeting. They had already been sent to Crowborough Town Council.

Item 3b). Examples of the final version of the flyer were handed out. A full print-run (14,000) will be printed by the end of the week. Pictures are still being obtained.

Item 3c). Two SID training sessions, for 27 volunteers, were done this week in Groombridge. Volunteers were asked for, and all offered to provide, help to operate SIDs in approved sites between 16-22 May. The Withyham Parish Clerk will be coordinating volunteers for site no. 6 (Wood Eaves; which will also have a Speed Loop), Maresfield? will do site no. 2 (Duddleswell) and Forest Row site no. 8 (outside the Forest Centre).

Graeme reported that a permanent Speed Loop was installed by Traffic Monitoring (ESCC) at site no. 4 (Kings Standing). The site's speed data will be available before before 16. Loops will be at sites 2 (Duddleswell), 6 (Wood Eaves) and 8 (Forest Centre) will have Speed Loops.

On prioritising the manning of SIDs, the order is site no. 6 (to be covered by Withyham – which has sufficient volunteers), no. 2 (by Maresfield – that has insufficient volunteers), ~~no. 4~~ and no. 8 (Forest Row). For the launch date (16 May) site no. 8 is the priority.

The meeting emphasised that it was the responsibility of the Parish Clerks to get SIDs within their parish manned, and to contact other Parish Clerks (of Hartfield, Withyham and Forest Row) if they lack sufficient volunteers of their own.

SIDs will be made available to Withyham and Maresfield PCs. Clerks should arrange their collection from the Forest Centre between 1400 and 1700 on Monday 15 May and their return there by 1200 on Wednesday 23 May. For ease, collection and return should be made via the works, not public, entrance to the Centre (i.e. via the shared entrance with the Scouts Association site).

Manning times on 16 May will be 0930 –1230 and 1430-1600. On 17, 18, 19, 22 May the times will be 0730 – 0930 and 1630 – 1830. (The table below shows these times and dates and may be adapted to record the availability of volunteers. Sites are listed in priority but note that no. 8 is the priority for 16 May, the day of the launch at the Forest Centre.)

Site	Parish	May									
		Tues 16		Wed 17		Thurs 18		Fri 19		Mon 22	
		0930-1230	1430-1600	0730-0930	1630-1830	0730-0930	1630-1830	0730-0930	1630-1830	0730-0930	1630-1830
6	Withyham										
2	Maresfield										
4	Withyham										
8	Forest Row										

Graeme will monitor the safety and operation of the SIDs. The machines are reliable and can work in all weathers.

There is a final training session at 1630 on Wednesday 3 May at the Forest Centre.

On 16 May, Steve said that that Sussex Police will conduct speed checks during the period of operation of the SIDs. Graeme suggested that checks are done northbound between SID sites 2 and 4.

(Matt Elder arrived.)

Item 3d). Matt said that no funding, and no manning of SIDs, was available from ESFRS.

Item 3e). Invitations have been printed and an electronic version has also been sent out (but not to Steve or Matt). Volunteers have been told that they are welcome to attend the launch. Graeme will print more invitations and send sufficient to each parish for distribution by the respective Clerks. Acceptances must be indicated to ESCC by Friday 12 May.

Parishes not attending this meeting will be sent their hard copies of the invitation.

Tanya reported that she is planning to see local media (*Courier, Sussex Express*) and to run a series of stories over about four weeks. Starting with the launch it might include the

commitment campaign, statistics from speed loops, the number of people stopped by the Police, poster competition etc. Journalists might also want to contact residents. Angles worth promoting are the working together of the parishes and the involvement of local people (e.g. the volunteers) in issues affecting their own communities. For Southern Counties Radio there might be an early morning or afternoon session.

Broadcasts might take a different, one-off, approach. BBC and Meridien do not like both to cover the same story. Southern FM may also be approached. ESCC will also bring a photographer in case other media do not turn up.

Graeme handed out what has been sent to 12 local schools, asking for their involvement in designing "Slow Down – Give Space" posters and in signing up to the Commitment. It was noted that St Johns Primary School (Withyham) was omitted. Graeme will phone the schools tomorrow to gauge the schools' reaction.

3) Deer/vehicle collision workshop, Forest Centre - 24 May

Hew handed out information about this workshop he is organising. Matt said ESFRS would be interested from a road safety side and also from the perspective of Crowborough Station being a focal point in the region for animal rescue.

John Gramolt wondered at the idea of deer wardens for each parish, in the same way as they have tree wardens. Hew suggested that Withyham PC submit a half page account of its perspective of the issue of deer on the roads, as requested from all those invited to attend the workshop.

4) Beyond the launch (e.g. – monitoring casualty and speed statistics, no. of local people signing up to the Commitment).

John said that there needs to be a follow-up to the launch. The meeting agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.

Steve offered to try to obtain Police statistics of accidents involving animals.

5) AOB

Matt said that ESFRS is hosting an Extrication Challenge in Brighton for authorities nationwide that will bring a lot of publicity for animal rescue.

6) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 2 May at 1000. Steve Grace will be unable to attend.

The meeting finished at 1203.