

# Minutes of the Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership

1030, 10 January 2006, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present: John Stevens (Danehill Parish Council [PC]); Chairman), Keith Sinden (ESCC), John Gramolt (Withyham PC), Hew Prendergast (Conservators of Ashdown Forest; minute taker), Arabella Sackville (Withyham PC), Robert Watson (Forest Row PC). Also: Graeme Beattie (ESCC)

Graeme introduced himself as responsible for SIDs and their risk assessment.

## 1) Minutes of the last meeting

Under Item 2b) the meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert to delete the text in the sentence after “volunteers”.

## 2) Matters arising

John Stevens apologised for his absence at the last meeting, for medical reasons. John Gramolt reported that Withyham has committed funds to the Partnership.

## 3) Publication of the one pager in parish magazines

The one pager has so far appeared in Forest Row magazine (*Newslink*), in the Withyham magazine (less the graph) and will appear in the next issue of the Danehill magazine.

## 4) Installation of SIDs

Graham has done an initial assessment of sites on the Forest and handed out a report on six that have been approved, all on the B2026 except for one outside the Forest Centre. Graham reminded the Partnership that that the sites were those where accidents have occurred. Robert added that it was the B2026 that had been previously been agreed as the focus of the Partnership’s attention.

A series of chronological action points was agreed.

i) By the end of this week Graham will send Hew possible dates for 1.5 – 2.0 hour volunteer training sessions in the use of SIDs (am, pm and evening in one week) taking place at the Forest Centre in the second half of March.

ii) Before the end of January, Hew will email parish councils to ask them to look for 2-4 volunteers to attend the training sessions prior to operating the SIDs in *any* of the Forest parishes in April-May. Parishes need to respond by the end of February. John Stevens said that the success of the Partnership depends on the support of the parishes in this communal/Forest-wide approach, not simply parish-based. It was agreed that the email would be copied to Insp. Richard Allum (richard.allum@sussex.pnn.police.uk).

Hartfield PC has got a SID while Withyham is considering the purchase of one. ESCC has got a SID that could be used.

iii) Speed loops will be installed at three sites - those at the Forest Centre, Duddleswell and Kings Standing - in the week before, during and after the week of the launch (May;

see 3) below). Volunteers will work with SIDs at these sites in the week of the launch (the times to be fixed later). Graham said that parishes would need a copy of their public liability for cover of volunteers.

Keith said that, later, other sites might be assessed in order to maintain volunteer interest in parishes not covered by the present selection. Hew agreed to Keith's suggestion to ask for volunteers among the Friends of Ashdown Forest, and Forest residents and commoners.

iv) Keith will ensure that ESCC will bill each parish council.

## **5) The launch of the Partnership**

The meeting agreed to Keith's suggestion that that the launch takes place at the Forest Centre on either Tuesday 9 or 16 May 2006.

Invitees will include: the lead ESCC member (Matthew Lock), local members, parish clerks and chairmen, district and county councillors, Conservators, Charles Hendry MP, local businesses (e.g. garages, hotels), schools (represented by those, perhaps, who win e.g. a poster competition) and local media. The overall aim will be to encourage community support and get more people to sign up to the Commitment.

Keith offered to lead the launch, with support of the rest of the Partnership and the use of the ESCC press office. John Stevens offered to contact the schools in the Forest parishes: Buxted – Buxted Primary; Danehill – Danehill Primary, Cumnor House; Hartfield - Hartfield Primary; Forest Row – Forest Row Primary, Ashdown House, Greenfields, Michael Hall; Maresfield – Maresfield Primary; Nutley – Nutley Primary; Withyham - St Michaels Primary, St Thomas Primary (Groombridge), St Thomas, (Mardens Hill). Graham offered to work with John on a schools competition. Businesses could be asked to provide prizes for children – one prize for the best poster from each school.

## **6) The flier**

Comments and suggestions were made on a new draft. The meeting agreed that Hew would send the amended back page to Keith.

## **7) AOB**

Keith suggested that a representative from the Partnership attends the North Wealden Road Safety Group. This is interested in the use of a speed gun (Speedwatch) as well as SIDs. He added that he wanted to do a poster, with photos, to install in village halls, schools, at the Centre etc. He also mentioned getting the Partnership products onto websites, the fliers into dispensers, and stickers to go onto the back of vehicles, e.g. of those who have signed the Commitment. He will get a price for the production of the Slow Down, Give Space stickers.

Date of next meeting: 1030, Tuesday 14 March, Ashdown Forest Centre

The meeting finished at 1330.