

**Minutes of the
Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership**

1030, 14 March 2006, Ashdown Forest Centre

Present: Graeme Beattie (ESCC), Steve Grace (Sussex Police), John Gramolt (Withyham PC), Hanno Fry (Maresfield PC), Jim Lusted (Hartfield PC), Hew Prendergast (Conservators of Ashdown Forest; minute taker), Arabella Sackville (Withyham PC), Keith Sinden (ESCC), Robert Watson (Forest Row PC). Also: Mr Matt Elder (East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service).

Apologies: Colin Reed (Buxted PC)

John Gramolt chaired the meeting in the absence of John Stevens (who subsequently sent his apologies).

1) Potential new member of the Partnership

Mr Matt Elder (East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service [ESFRS]) explained that ESFRS has a remit to reduce collisions on the roads. He handed out maps of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) in the Forest area. From 1 January 1996 to December 31 2005 there were 354 RTC; in 121 people were cut out of vehicles. The main sites were on the A22, A26, B20206, and in Crowborough and Forest Row. **The Partnership agreed to welcome ESFRS and Steve Grace (Base Commander, Polegate) on behalf of Sussex Police, in place of Mark Dunn.** There was some discussion of broadening the Partnership. **It was agreed not to extend it further at this stage but to send minutes to WDC and Crowborough Town Council.**

2) Minutes of meeting of 10 January 2006

Corrections were made to the numbering of the minutes.

3) Matters arising

a) Publication of one-pager in parish magazines

Maresfield PC has published the feature. Hartfield PC has published an extract of the one-pager (this was delivered).

b) Slow-down .. give space' flier; freebies (tax disc holders etc.)

The meeting agreed to add ESFRS to the list of participants (see 1). All PCs present confirmed their telephone numbers were correct. Keith Sinden offered to check the numbers of Buxted and Danehill PCs. The heather has been removed from the image. Keith Sinden said that this would allow a wider use of the stickers.

Hanno Fry wanted it recorded that he would prefer the inclusion of the words "Speeding is a crime." Steve Grace suggested that this Partnership is appealing to people's better side, not to highlight criminality. Keith Sinden said that the problem is that some people think speeding is socially acceptable. Steve Grace said he is keen to give speeding more Police attention. **All agreed to changing the wording to "Speeding is an offence and also anti-social."**

Keith Sinden said that the best way of getting people to sign up is on a one-to-one approach, although mail-shots can work. Maresfield and Forest Row PCs will distribute fliers to each household. Fetes and Road Safety Weeks in schools (Keith may be doing one in Forest Row) provide another opportunity. Matt Elder expressed an interest in supporting involvement with schools and said that stickers could go onto ESFRS appliances.

Rear window stickers have been ordered. The printing of fliers takes two weeks, the stickers longer. All will be ready by the time of the launch. Keith is planning to produce a poster with photos of horse riders (e.g. being overtaken by a vehicle), deer, crashes etc. on the Forest, showing why speed reduction is necessary. He requested pictures from the Partnership. Shops are asking for A4 pictures. Steve Grace suggested targeting local businesses to display stickers.

c) Training of volunteers in use of SIDs (discussed after d))

Graeme Beattie said that the absence of John Stevens, who had been tasked to coordinate recruitment of volunteers, made it difficult for him to say anything. Hew Prendergast said that he had emailed the PCs on 12 January with a request for them to recruit attendants for SID training. He had had no responses.

Graeme handed out a SID manning roster. Volunteers should commit to a three hour session, working in pairs. The rush hour periods are the key ones. At a minimum four volunteers are needed for each day. Robert Watson suggested that each PC looks to find volunteers for each session for each SID, and to let other PCs know if they need more volunteers. Matt Elder said he would his line management for the use of ESFRS personnel for SID training (but they would always be liable to emergency call-out duties).

It was agreed that PCs should communicate with each other directly about volunteers.

Hartfield has eight trained SID volunteers while Forest Row has six who are active.

John Gramolt said that Withyham PC has got training sessions booked with Graeme Beattie for Tuesday 18 April at 1630 and Wednesday 19 April at 1830 Groombridge Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend. Robert Watson said he would attend on 18 April.

Graeme Beattie offered to act as a float where needed at the last minute

It was agreed that Hew Prendergast would ask John Stevens if he had received any volunteers for the March sessions. If not, the March sessions would be cancelled and the Groombridge ones would be open to anyone interested. It was also agreed that a back-up session would take place at the Forest Centre at 1630 on Wednesday 3 May if required.

NB John Stevens reported (20 March 2006) that four volunteers from Danehill have been trained in the use of SIDs since the January meeting. He added that volunteers from Maresfield have also (already?) been trained.

d) Installation of SIDs

Graeme Beattie handed out updated maps of suggested SID locations and casualties (between November 2002 and October 2005). Two new SID sites have been added: no. 6 (Wood Reeves) and no. 7 (Chuck Hatch). SIDs will be operated in Week 2 (16-22 May) at three sites: no. 6 will be covered by Withyham PC (the SID provided by ESCC), no. 4 by Hartfield PC (using its own SID), and no. 2 by Maresfield PC (provided by ESCC). The Partnership agreed to the three SID sites, all chosen because they match up with recorded casualties.

NB John Stevens reported (20 March 2006) that Danehill may use ESCC or Forest Row SIDs.

Speed loops will be installed in the three weeks before (9-15 May), during (16-22 May) and after (23-30 May) the launch at site nos 2, 4 and 6. These are manned. [Each loop costs £300; this is what PCs have been asked to help fund.] Matt Elder said he would ask if the ESFRS could contribute to funding.

The Partnership welcomed, and agreed to, Steve Grace's offer of Police speed enforcement on 16 May (this date must be kept confidential), and at random times from 23 May onwards. It was noted that schools break up on 26 May.

It was agreed that, three weeks after the launch, the Partnership should meet again to review the success of the whole operation.

e) The 16 May launch

This will run from 1030-1130. The print-run for invitations was estimated to be about 100 (including 15 for ESCC; six for each of the six parishes; 20 for the Conservators; also Police and ESFRS, schools). **It was agreed that Keith Sinden would send them to Partners by 16 April, the RSVP being made to the Forest Centre. Each Partner would then send them to their own list of invitees, along with fliers. It was also agreed that ESCC would lead on the wording and media release of the invitation and ESFRS and Police would suggest media outlets above and beyond those contacted by ESCC.**

For the media there will be a presentation of poster competition winners as well as photographs of deer, riders and horses, and of overtaking cars. Keith Sinden suggested that horses and dog be present. All invitees will be asked to sign up to the Commitment.

The Partnership welcomed ESCC's offer to pay for refreshments (tea, coffee, soft drinks, biscuits).

Graeme Beattie wondered if John Stevens had made any progress on the involvement of schools (as minuted in the last meeting), competition winners among whom would be invited. He added that schools would need contacting in the next few days so that children can design posters over Easter. If no contact has already been made, he suggested that Parish Clerks approach them. He handed out a draft of a letter that might be sent to parents. Keith Sinden suggested that contact is made directly with Headteachers. Nutley and Maresfield Schools have participated in Road Safety Weeks.

NB John Stevens reported (20 March 2006) that he had not contacted schools but will do so.

f) Other

There was no further discussion.

4) Formal appointment of Secretary

Despite his best intentions, Hew Prendergast was appointed to this post!

5) Date of next meeting

1000, Thursday 20 April.

It was agreed that John Gramolt would liaise with Hew Prendergast on the agenda. The hope was expressed that Buxted PC would be able to attend the next meeting. The meeting finished at 1330.