

**DUNMOW LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE held on
1 DECEMBER 2003 at COUNCIL OFFICES HIGH STREET
GREAT DUNMOW at 8.00 PM**

Present:- Mr P F Lewis Hatfield Heath Parish Council
Councillor Mrs S Flack Uttlesford District Council
Mr W Barry Great Easton Parish Council
Mr R Fox Great Dunmow Town Council
Mr J Gregory Takeley Parish Council
Mr P J Leeder Thaxted Parish Council
Mr P Hardy, Area Manager, Essex County
Council Transportation and
Operational Services Department
Rose Johnson Uttlesford District Council Road
Safety Officer
Inspector M Harman
and Alan Playle Essex Police
Mrs C Roberts Secretary

DRS162 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Staines (Little Easton Parish Council), Mrs V Spinks (Great Canfield Parish Council) and Mrs L White (High Roding Parish Council).

DRS163 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

DRS164 BUSINESS ARISING

Minute DRS 160 – Thaxted Primary School

In answer to a question from Mr P Leeder, the Area Manager said that amber flashing lights had been ordered and would be in place soon.

DRS165 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary informed the meeting that there were no items to refer to the Committee on this occasion.

DRS166 ROAD SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Road Safety Officer said that she was delighted with the new venture of "Stopwatch" plays but that these were not cheap. "Why did the chicken?" had been shown to four hundred year sevens at the Saffron Walden County High School, Newport Grammar and Stansted Mountfitchet School and would be shown in more schools in the New Year, hopefully including the Helena Romanes School, so that follow up work could be done in all senior schools.

The “Be safe be seen” and general road safety campaign was being pursued in the schools, and she hoped for some new walking ‘buses at Manuden and Wimbish.

In answer to questions the Road Safety Officer informed the meeting that “Stopwatch” plays were funded by contributions from CSAT, the Road Safety Working Group and the Road Safety Budget, and she agreed to investigate a Member’s suggestion that the Community Foundation and the High Sheriff’s Award might be willing contributors too.

The “Be Safe Be Seen” message was being conveyed by leaflets and press coverage.

DRS167 POLICE REPORT

Inspector Mark Harman submitted a comprehensive report on road fatalities and injuries in the District. Accidents were usually most common in good weather and the statistics had improved recently as the weather had worsened. Extra seat belt enforcement had been undertaken because recent bad accidents had been caused by people being thrown from cars due to not wearing seat belts.

Motorbike deaths and serious injuries figures were better than could have been expected, but the figures for slight injury accidents were much higher than before. It seemed that the focused enforcement and education activity were having a beneficial effect on numbers of motorbike casualties.

Inspector Harman informed the meeting that drink/driving would be targeted in the Christmas period, with particular emphasis on railway stations.

In answer to questions he explained that road deaths were not generally concentrated at the younger end of the driving sample; they usually reflected the predominant local age groups.

Alan Playle circulated for members information an internal police document showing statistics across the County of road accident causation factors, driver age, location and vehicle type.

DRS168 AREA TRANSPORTATION MANAGERS REPORT

Paul Hardy, the Area Manager reported as follows:-

Accident Remedial Sites:

There had been no new accident remedial sites reported to the department since the last meeting.

The position with the previous accident remedial site reported at the last meeting was:

- **B184 Walden Road junction with Jackson's Lane, Great Chesterford** – An estimate for the introduction of the agreed measures had been requested from the contractor.

- **Chaters Hill junction with Ashdon Road / Highfields, Saffron Walden** – A design brief had been placed with the contractor who was currently working on the proposals.

'Safer Journeys to School Initiative'

A meeting had taken place with the three new schools that had joined the initiative; they were Wimbish, Manuden & Radwinter Primary Schools. Each school would be undertaking a school travel survey to establish how far and in what direction the children travel to their respective schools.

The current schools from the District included within the Initiative had now agreed their engineering measures; the current position with these proposals was as follows:

St. Mary's C.E. Primary School, Castle Street, Saffron Walden:

- An estimate had been requested for new footway link within Caton's Lane.
- The proposed 20-mph speed limit had been approved for Castle Street and arrangements had been made to advertise the proposal.

Thaxted Primary School:

- Some of the new signs for the school zone had been introduced while the proposed flashing amber lights had been ordered. A number of objections were received to the additional waiting restrictions for the 'walking bus' route, although the majority of objections had been resolved one objection still had not been resolved and was delaying the introduction of the measures. The pedestrian guard railings outside the entrance to the school had been completed.

St Thomas More RC School, South Road, Saffron Walden:

- The design of a zebra crossing for Peaslands Road had been completed and the advert for the proposal had commenced but a further objection had been received and this would need to be reported to the next Environment and Transport Committee. The design for the traffic calming proposed for South Road in the vicinity of the school had been commenced and a preliminary design sent to the County's Passenger Transport section for their comments due to the road forming part of a bus route.

Other Items:

Bus Stop Improvement Programme

Following a Public Transport Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken by the County's Passenger Transport section a pilot scheme had been undertaken in Rochford and Brentwood last year involving the replacement of old bus stop poles, flags, timetable cases and where necessary hard standing on non Quality Bus Partnership routes. In addition, a database had been created for these bus routes so the bus stops could be monitored and identified when future maintenance work was required and reported to either the bus operator, Passenger Transport or the local Area Office.

Due to the success of the pilot scheme approval had been granted to extend the programme to Uttlesford. Starting in the New Year this process would be carried out initially in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden and then the A1060 route followed by the remaining villages within the district.

Mobile Safety Camera Site:

Hatfield Heath, Chelmsford Road: The consultants had undertaken a site visit with regard to the location of the camera signs and they were finalising the designs. Once they had been completed copies would be forwarded to the Parish Council for their information. (Site to become operational by the end of March 2004).

DRS169 CAR PARKING CHARGES – MARGARET STREET CAR PARK THAXTED

Councillor Mrs S Flack expressed concern that car park charging was being mooted for this car park which might result in cars being parked in other places to the detriment of the community. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been consulted about this possibility.

DRS170 ACCIDENT STATISTICS PUBLICATION

The Area Manager informed Members that in response to previous requests an accident statistics publication giving figures up to the end of 2003 would be available very shortly. Members asked to be given copies of this publication.

DRS171 THE RODINGS –TRAFFIC ORDER AND LINING

Councillor Mrs S Flack asked that consideration be given to extension of the speed limit at Hounslow Green and for re-painting of white lines on the B184 at The Rodings and Little Hall.

DRS172 GREAT DUNMOW TRAFFIC REVIEW

In answer to a question from Mr R Fox, the Area Manager explained that the review would be completed at the end of the financial review, but that it would be influenced by developments at Woodlands Park and that signing had to await the completion of the western by-pass. Pedestrianisation of the High Street was practically very unlikely.

DRS173 LIGHTING COLUMN AT TAKELEY

Mr J Takeley reported a visibility problem affecting a car park entrance and school sign at Takeley, for investigation.

DRS174 CINDER ALLEY, THAXTED

Mr P Leeder asked that Highways Officers investigate the status (for cycling or not) of Cinder Alley, off Captain's Hall Lane, at Magdalene Green, Thaxted.

DRS175 DECRIMINALISATION IN PARISHES

In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Area Manager explained that the double yellow lines in villages were usually provided for environmental or safety reasons and at present these would need to be enforced by a traffic warden but after decriminalisation this would be the responsibility of the District Council.

DRS176 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be 2 February 2004.

The meeting ended at 8.59 pm.