

ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 JANUARY 2004 at 2.00 pm

Present:- Mr Michael Young – Deputy Chairman.
PS Bob Beckwith – Essex Police; PS Ashley Seymour – Saffron Walden Police; Mrs V Harris, Mrs R Hutchinson, Mrs R Johnson and Mrs L Bunting – Uttlesford District Council.

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2003 were approved as a correct record by the Deputy Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 3 – Any Other Business – (i) Cycle Lights Check

Rose Johnson reported on a series of early morning checks on newspaper deliverers' cycle lights which had been undertaken during November, around the District. Information booklets had also been distributed to the cyclists.

(ii) Minute 3 – Any Other Business – (iii) Responsible Rider Campaign

This item should have been included on the agenda for today but due to an oversight, had been omitted. The campaign would be reported on later in the meeting.

(iii) Essex County Council – Representative

The absence of Paul Hardy, Divisional Engineer, was discussed and it was decided that Rachel Hutchison would write to him, inviting him to attend. His presence was especially important at the next meeting to be held on 15 March when the Action Plans for the coming year would be discussed and any Highways Department projects should be taken into account.

ACTION: Rachel Hutchinson to write to Paul Hardy, pointing out the importance of his attendance at the next meeting to discuss Action Plans.

4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES

(a) Delegated Budget

Ideas were requested for the use of the next financial year's use of the delegated budget of £2,500.

Rose Johnson referred to the Stop Watch Theatre Company production, which had recently performed at three schools in the District, with a total of 705 students being able to attend. The cost for four performances had been £1,400, which had been paid for from the delegated budget for the current financial year. She was hoping that the success would be repeated next year and hopefully would include the Friends School and Helena Romanes School.

Also referred to was a suggested scheme to put the road safety message across to the public by advertising on the reverse side of car parking tickets. Rose Johnson explained the costs of the scheme and the Group discussed the possibility of using this way to advertise. Sponsorship by supermarkets with car parks, such as Waitrose and the Co-op, was discussed. The Deputy Chairman referred to a contact he had from the Co-op and said he would enquire whether such sponsorship was feasible.

Rachel Hutchinson referred to Community Safety Grant Funding and said that the closing date for applications for grants up to £75,000 was 27 February 2004. These grants were aimed at schemes for the benefit of the community, of one to two years in length and on a larger scale. Specific ideas were required.

ACTION: Rose Johnson was to organise the application for Grant Funding for the Motorwise event.

(b) Road Accident Figures

PS Bob Beckwith gave details of the casualty figures up to last November of road accidents in the District. The figures showed a rise of 60% for Saffron Walden and a rise of 66% on motorway accidents. The figures for Great Dunmow generally showed a downward trend. These figures were based on monthly casualty numbers.

It was considered that the Responsible Rider scheme worked well to prevent motorcycle accidents and had an impact in bringing numbers down but this could not always be proved.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

(a) Motorcycle Death Rate Initiative – Road Signs

This scheme, for the provision of road death rate signs to be positioned in the sight of road users on private land and commissioned by parish councils, had reached fruition before Christmas and the signs had been put in position.

Unfortunately, Essex County Highways had vetoed the signs on the grounds that they contravened regulations. Most of the signs had now been removed.

(b) Stop Watch Theatre Company – Review

Rose Johnson had reported on this issue earlier in the meeting under the delegated budget item.

(c) Christmas Drink Drive Campaign

Rose Johnson reported that 3,768 leaflets on the dangers of drink driving had been delivered in two sessions at Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden and also a postal delivery. Advertising had also been in the local press and good support had been received from the Police.

PS Beckwith reported that, in the Braintree Division, 129 breath tests had been taken with 15 proving positive. In the County as a whole, 6,591 had been taken with 225 proving positive. Some of the readings had been very high which showed a worrying trend. A further 23 drivers had been stopped suspected of being under the influence of drink or drugs.

(d) Great Easton Primary School – Road Side (Speed) Safety Event

Rose Johnson reported that, before this event could take place, the children had to carry out some preparation work, such as posters. As the School had only just returned after Christmas they had not be able to organise themselves to do this work.

(e) Road Safety Campaigns – Venue Birchanger Service Station

It was reported that at Birchanger Service Station had been suggested as a possible venue for the location of road safety display units. The Group discussed various themes which could be used for the information of customers at the Service Station.

(f) Responsible Rider

It was reported that the next Responsible Rider event would take place in Hatfield Heath. The Parish Council had granted permission, although a date had yet to be finalised. It was hoped to arrange a suitable date that was not in conflict with other motorcycle events, such as the date for the British Super Bike.

ACTION: Rose Johnson was to liaise with the local press to advertise the event when a date had been arranged.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Child Seat Checks

Rose Johnson reported that it was hoped to arrange a date for the checking of child seat fittings. The Council Offices car park was suggested as a suitable venue on a Saturday.

(ii) Action Plan

Rachel Hutchinson reminded the Group that the Action Plans for 2004/05 would be discussed at the next meeting.

(iii) Action List

- 1 Advertising on car parking tickets
- 2 Delegated budget – ideas/ grant funding applications
- 3 Great Easton School signs
- 4 Follow up on Birchanger Services idea
- 5 Responsible Rider dates
- 6 Child Seat checks
- 7 Action plans
- 8 Rachel Hutchinson to write to Paul Hardy

7 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Dates for the next round of meetings are as follows:

- Monday, 15 March 2004
- Monday, 5 July 2004
- Monday, 11 October 2004

The meeting ended at 3.25 pm.