

**ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON  
ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 4 APRIL 2005 at 2.00 pm**

Present:- Mr Michael Young – Chairman.  
Mrs V Harris, Mrs R Johnson and Mr C Stoneham – Essex County Council - Highways;  
Sgt B Beckwith and Insp M Harman – Essex Traffic Police;  
Mrs R Hutchinson and Mrs L Bunting – Uttlesford District Council.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor W F Bowker.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

**3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that he had attended both the Dunmow and Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committees'. He considered that they only discussed very localised issues but had been interesting. He mentioned that Rose Johnson and Vivienne Harris would continue to be based at Saffron Walden for the time being.

**4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES**

**(a) Chairmen's Review**

A meeting had been held recently between the four Working Group Chairmen to discuss ways of aligning their action plans and strategies for the next three years. CSAT, as the responsible authority group, was to give direction to the Working Groups and the Chairmen would meet after each group meeting in the future.

**(b) Review of the Terms of Reference**

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the Road Safety Working Group's terms of reference were reviewed annually. There had been no changes apart from membership, with the Fire Service replacing the Primary Care Trust who were no longer involved.

**ACTION:** A representative from the Fire Service was to be invited to attend the next meeting.

It was also reported that the Chairman of the Working Group should be reviewed and re-elected annually. The terms of reference stipulated that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman could not be elected from Councillors or officers of the Council.

Rachel therefore proposed that Michael Young be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year and all those present at the meeting agreed.

**(c) Review Road Safety Working Group Action Plan for 2005/06**

Rachel reported that the draft of the Strategy Plan was to run for three years with audit data included. It was considered that the plans must include achievable aims.

Both Insp Harman and Sgt Beckwith said that they had not received a copy of the Strategy, therefore it could not be discussed at the meeting as had been planned.

**ACTION:** Rachel was to send copies of the plan to the Police representatives and the meeting would be reconvened at a later date to discuss the action plans.

**(d) Devolved Budget**

Rachel reported that a devolved budget of £2,000 was anticipated. This amount was usually used to finance the Theatre in Education scheme which was offered to all senior schools. The cost of the scheme last year had been in excess of £3,000.

**(e) Road Accident Statistics**

Insp Harman had not been able to prepare an up to date report on accident statistics and said that he would circulate a report before the next meeting, although he indicated that figures were well down on all aspects of road accidents.

**ACTION:** Insp Harman to prepare a report on accident statistics before next meeting.

On the subject of road safety campaigns, Birchanger Services was considered to be a good place to hold these promotional events and dates would be discussed at a future meeting.

**(f) Highways update**

Chris Stoneham reported that the new roundabout at the junction at Sparrows End Hill was progressing well. The 12-month trial of viable message signs had now been completed and it was possible that fixed signs may be placed in problematic areas.

**5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ROAD SAFETY ISSUES**

**(a) Motorwise**

Rose Johnson reported that this year's Motorwise would be held 19 – 28 September and the event was in the early stages of organising and funding was available for this. However, this year there would be no funding available for the transportation of students to the event and letters would be sent to the schools to let them know.

**(b) Seatbelt Enforcement/Education**

This year's seatbelt scheme was discussed and a change of location in Saffron Walden was suggested. The use of mobile phones while driving was also referred to. It was reported that over 500 mobile users had been stopped in the Braintree division and given penalty points

**(c) Speed Initiative at Roding Primary School**

This initiative at Roding Primary School was to take place on Wednesday, 6 April. The school were very enthusiastic with approximately 30 children taking part.

**(d) Police Initiatives update**

There would be a variety of initiatives taking place this year. It was reported that a mobile phone enforcement drive would be held this month and a drink/drive campaign would take place during August.

It was considered that the motor cycle initiative which took place annually could not be sustained in the same way and a compromise would have to be made as last year's event had not been satisfactory.

Mobile cameras were to be positioned in the district and signs would be erected before this took place.

The eye-testing scheme which took place last year would be repeated this year as it had proved to be useful.

A road safety initiative would take place during July and an HGV campaign was planned during the autumn concerning sleep deprivation.

**6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****(i) Swards End – Road Closure**

The Chairman reported, for information, that there would be a road closure in Swards End for approximately 13 weeks during July to September to enable Anglian Water to undertake works on the foul sewer. Alternative routes would be advised.

**(ii) Lady Drivers and Driver Awareness Courses**

Rose Johnson said that the lady drivers' course was on hold at present. She was also investigating the workability of the Driver Awareness courses, which were usually held over a 4-6 week period.

**7 DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Road Safety Working Group would be held on 4 July 2005 at 2.00 pm in the Lodge Meeting Room.