

**ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 2 APRIL 2007 at 2.00 pm**

Present:- Michael Young – Chairman;  
C Stoneham and R Johnson – Essex CC Highways;  
Darren Riddell – Essex Fire Service;  
Sgt B Beckwith and Keith Whiting – Essex Police;  
L Bunting and N Morton-Swain – Uttlesford District Council.

**1 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

**2 REVIEW AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Michael Young had been asked whether he would continue to stand as the Working Group's Chairman and he had agreed.

**ACTION:** It was unanimously agreed that Michael Young continue as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that he had written letters regarding road safety matters to Uttlesford Council and Essex County Council but was still awaiting replies. He also reported that he had attended a RAG (Responsible Authority Group) meeting and said that there was a new coordinator, Evette Wetton. Chris White had now resigned as Chairman of the Group. All Working Groups had provided comprehensive reports on their activities.

**4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES**

**(a) CSAT Update**

Nicole Morton-Swain reported that the budget for this financial year had all been allocated with £6,500 going to Motorwise. She explained that the CSAT pooled fund was available for any initiative applied for throughout the year. A reality road show for year 9 students was to be held next February and Crucial Crew, which was aimed at year 6 pupils, would take place later this year and the schools were all happy to be included.

**(b) Road Accident Statistics**

Sgt Beckwith circulated a casualty update report which outlined a downward trend in the number of injury collisions occurring in the Uttlesford District between the months of December to February 2005/2006 in comparison with the same period 2006/2007. However it was disappointing that there was an increase in the number of serious injuries occurring during the last December to February period in comparison to the previous year. Sgt Beckwith said that February 2007 had been an encouraging month for Uttlesford as it appeared that there had only been one serious injury.

### (c) Essex Website

Rose Johnson referred to an Essex website called [www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org](http://www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org), which gave details of road traffic statistics. The Chairman said that he had visited the site which he considered was good and provided some very useful information.

### (d) Highways update

Chris Stoneham gave details of the current programme of highways work being carried out. He said that there was a tight budget in this financial year with less money available for maintenance but there was still a great deal of work to undertake. During the next 12 months, there would be some possible road closures to enable some works to commence. This year's programme was mainly in the Saffron Walden area and from the locally determined budget. Fly parking in Takeley was also mentioned and an experimental scheme was to be underway for 12-18 months.

### (e) Fire and Rescue

Darren Riddell updated members on the issue of the difficulty that emergency vehicles had negotiating parked vehicles in the town and the proposal to place advisory obstruction notices on poorly parked cars. Funding had been agreed for this and the agreement of the Ambulance Service was awaited.

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## PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

### (a) Campaigns – Safety Belt/Mobile Phones

Rose Johnson reported that two sessions had been held in March. The breakdown of those drivers stopped was as follows:

| Date/Time                              | Venue                               | Seat Belts | Mobile Phones | Tinted Windows |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Thursday 15 March<br>9.30 am – 2.00 pm | Great Dunmow Primary School – B1256 | 31         | 3             | 7              |
| Friday 23 March<br>9.00 am – 12 noon   | Walden Dairy, Thaxted Road – B184   | 33         | 2             | 0              |

It was considered that the Walden Dairy location was not large enough and that a possible future venue was the Saffron Walden Golf Club car park. Sgt Beckwith said that next time there would be one session per district for seat belts, speed and eye sight tests.

### (b) 'Perfect' Road Safety Play

A report was circulated containing details of a road safety play for year 9 students on the consequences of not wearing safety belts. The play would be performed by the 'Perfect' Tiny Giants Theatre Company and would be presented as follows:

| Date             | School  | Time     | Student numbers |
|------------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| Monday 19 March  | Saffron Walden County High School   | 10.00 am | 300             |
| Monday 19 March  | Friends School, Saffron Walden<br><i>The play had been offered to Helena Romanes School in Great Dunmow but no reply had been received so was offered instead to Friends School</i> | 1.00 pm  | 46              |
| Tuesday 20 March | Mountfitchet High School, Stansted  | 8.50 am  | 97              |
| Tuesday 20 March | Newport Free Grammar School   | 12.10 pm | 165             |

### (c) Road Safety Education Update

Rose Johnson had worked with several primary schools and circulated a report containing details. A summary of her visits was as follows:

| School and Year                      |                       | Description                               | Number of Pupils |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| Hatfield Broad Oak                   | Year 1                | Road Safety walk                          | 14               |
| Chrishall                            | Reception             | Road Safety walk                          | 25               |
|                                      | Year 1 and 2          | Road Safety walk2                         | 22               |
|                                      | Year 3 and 4          | Stopping distances/reaction times         | 31               |
|                                      | Year 5 and 6          | Traffic data collection / radar gun       | 22               |
| Debden                               | Reception             | Road Safety walks                         | 25               |
|                                      | Year 1                | Road Safety walks                         | 25               |
|                                      | Year 2                | Road Safety walks                         | 22               |
|                                      | Year 5 and 6          | Traffic data collection/radar gun         | 31               |
| Thaxted                              | Reception x 2 classes | Road Safety walks                         | 42               |
|                                      | Year 1                | Road Safety walks                         | 32               |
|                                      | Year 2                | Road Safety walks                         | 32               |
| Great Dunmow                         | Reception             | Road Safety walks                         | 30               |
|                                      | Reception             | Road Safety walks                         | 30               |
| Dame Bradbury                        | Reception x 2 classes | Road Safety walks                         | 28               |
|                                      | Year 1 x 2 classes    | Road Safety walks                         | 40               |
| Felsted Preparatory                  | Year 3 x 2 classes    | Road Safety walks                         | 32               |
|                                      | Year 4 x 2 classes    | General road safety                       | 46               |
| FKS                                  | Year 3 x 2 classes    | Safety Belts – Forces and friction        | 20               |
|                                      | Year 4 x 2 classes    | Stopping distances / reaction distraction | 33               |
|                                      | Year 5 x 2 classes    | Speed traffic data / radar gun            | 33               |
|                                      | Year 6 x 2 classes    | Hazard perception/route planning          | 26               |
| Thaxted                              | Year 3                | Road Safety walk                          | 30               |
|                                      | Year 4                | Speed traffic data/radar gun              | 29               |
| Great Chesterford                    | Year 4                | Road Safety walk                          | 28               |
| Dame Bradbury                        | Year 2 x classes      | Road Safety walk                          | 42               |
| TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT NUMBERS |                       |   | 797              |

Also in the report were details of the following:

Cycle Training (Bike-Ability Scheme) – Essex County Council was in the process of working towards gaining National Standard Accreditation for the ECC Cycle Training Scheme which would fall into their Level 2 Scheme.

Holiday Cycle Training – Cycle Training Course for children aged 10 years and over – two part course Monday 2 April and Wednesday 4 April – venue Katherine Semar Primary School and Ross Close, Saffron Walden.

Cycle Skills Course – for children 6 to 9 years old – two hour course on Tuesday 3 April – venue Saffron Walden County High Schools Tennis Courts.

In car safety and child seats – Since January Rose Johnson had attended parent craft sessions at Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted clinics at which she had delivered lectures on fitting child seats and safety in the car.

Rose Johnson had also assisted a number of schools in compiling their road safety plans and listed below are those to have completed or are in the process of doing so:

Little Hallingbury Primary School  
 Rickling Primary School  
 Radwinter Primary School  
 St Mary's, Stansted  
 Debden Primary School  
 FKS School, Felsted

**(d) Road Safety Personnel update**

It was reported that there had been no progress on the replacement of an Assistant Road Safety Officer. Nicole Morton-Smith said that she would be happy to send a letter to the appropriate authority to help things progress further.

**6 FUTURE EVENTS – 2007****(a) Motorwise**

Rose Johnson reported that the first organising meeting had now been held. The event would be 17 September – 26 September. Approximately 800 students were expected to attend.

**(b) Drink Drive – Stansted Airport**

A free standing display board, containing drink drive information, was to be erected in Enterprise House at Stansted Airport in May.

**(c) Quiet Lanes Project – Felsted**

This scheme was to be piloted in Felsted and the launch would take place in the Memorial Hall on 16 May. The aim of the Quiet Lanes project was to maintain the character of rural roads by seeking to contain rising traffic growth. Signage would be erected to highlight that priority would be given to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders over other road users by natural calming. Three areas had been selected but two had dropped out.

**(d) Bike Safe**

It was hoped that the next Bike Safe event would be held in Finchingfield, probably over two days.

**(e) Primary Schools Speed Session**

Rose Johnson was to set a date for the next event which would be held at a primary school in the Rodings area.

**7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****Nicole Morton-Swain**

Nicole Morton-Swain reported that this would be her last meeting as she would be leaving the Council to take up a different post at the end of April. The Chairman thanked her for all her work and the Working Group wished her luck in her new project.

**8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date for next meeting is Monday 25 June 2007

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.