

**ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN on 25 JUNE 2007 at 2.00 pm**

Present:- Michael Young – Chairman;  
Nicola Foster, R Johnson and C Stoneham – Essex CC Highways;  
Sgt B Beckwith and PS A Seymour – Essex Police;  
L Bunting – Uttlesford District Council.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bellingham-Smith, Keith Whiting, Alex Stewart and Jason Thomson - Essex Fire Service.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

**3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that he had attended a RAG (Responsible Authority Group) meeting at which a glowing account had been given for Rose Johnson. Her good work was considered to be a benefit to the District.

The Chairman said that he had now received a reply from Essex County Council to the letter he had sent earlier in the year regarding road safety issues. The letter did not answer any questions but offered him the chance of a meeting to discuss the matters raised.

**4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES**

**(a) CSAT Update**

Rose Johnson reported that no replacement had been appointed as yet to replace Nicole Morton-Swain, who had left the Uttlesford Authority earlier in the year. She said that this was causing much frustration as continuity had been lost within the CSAT groups. Rose said that the Crucial Crew event will now not be held until next June and the weeks may have to be split.

**(b) Road Accident Statistics**

Sgt Beckwith reported that statistical comparison for the period March to May 2007 with the same period last year was very encouraging, especially when trying to meet the challenging targets which had been set to reduce casualties on Essex roads. Figures for April and May this year had decreased quite significantly in some categories. Uttlesford had not had any fatal RTCs from March to May 2007. There was however, a fatal motorcycle RTC on the B1057 in April which had been only just in the Braintree district and was on part of the route through Uttlesford. It was noted that a number of road traffic collisions involving motorcycles had occurred in the same period in 2006. The weather for that period in 2006 had appeared dryer than that being experienced this year and therefore it was thought this would have encouraged more motorcycles out on the roads. Other than the weather aspect no other pattern can be identified. It was also assumed that the new safer A120

continued to have an impact on casualty figures in Uttlesford as well as the good work on enforcement and road safety education.

| RTCS by month       |      |      |
|---------------------|------|------|
| Month               | 2006 | 2007 |
| March               | 20   | 22   |
| April               | 20   | 14   |
| May                 | 16   | 14   |
| Casualties by month |      |      |
| March               | 28   | 31   |
| April               | 35   | 21   |
| May                 | 22   | 18   |

| All RTCs by severity |    |    |
|----------------------|----|----|
| Fatal                | 1  | 0  |
| Serious              | 16 | 12 |
| Slight               | 39 | 36 |

### (c) Highways update

Chris Stoneham distributed a programme of works showing the schemes proposed around the District for the next year from the Locally Determined Budget. He said that there were still some carry-overs from last year which it was still hoped to push forward this year. Certain highway improvement schemes were still awaiting funding through the Local Transport Plan.

Sgt Beckwith asked a question regarding 'keep left' signage on Hadstock airdrome to remind foreign drivers of lorries leaving delivery locations on the site. Chris Stoneham said that minor improvements had already been made. Two very good 'man-made' signs had been erected by the owners of the site but it was felt that there was a need to reinforce the message. Nicola Foster said authorisation from the Department for Transport would be needed before signage in other languages could be erected. Sgt Beckwith said that he had concerns for Hadstock parishioners.

**ACTION:** Chris Stoneham was to liaise with Councillor R Chamberlain who was the District Councillor for the Ashdon Ward which included Hadstock.

Chris Stoneham also reported on three 'safer route' studies which would take place in High Roding, Takeley/Bush End and Little Hallingbury. He also said that some solar powered Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) had been ordered which were already earmarked for Clavering, Littlebury and Hempstead. Several other parishes had expressed an interest in obtaining VAS.

The Chairman referred to the 'quiet lane' pilot schemes in Felsted where the signage had now been erected. The launch would be held on 18 July at the Memorial Hall. A similar scheme was proposed for Ugley.

### (d) Fire and Rescue

Rose Johnson introduced Nicola Foster who was Rose's Line Manager at Essex County Council. It was reported that the post of Road Safety Assistant had been advertised and there had been quite a lot of interest so far.

Rose also reported on Fire and Rescue open days being held by Essex County Council.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

### (a) Campaigns and Events update

- (i) Speed in Schools - The proposed 'Speed in Schools' event in the Rodings area did not take place.
- (ii) Drink Drive/Drugs - Stansted Airport - The information promotion which had been held at Stansted Airport on 8 May had received a good response. It was proposed to hold a summer campaign as follows:
- 7 August - Saffron Walden Tesco  
8 August - provisionally at Birchanger Services  
9 August - Great Dunmow Tesco
- (iii) Bike Safe - The event had been held in the Braintree District at Finchingfield and had been reported to have been successful. Further Bike Safe events were being planned for July and August.
- (vi) Motorwise – The event was planned for 17 – 26 September. Rose explained that the format would be as before and everything was booked. All schools invited were attending plus one from Danbury and another from Harlow. She referred to the public liability insurance for the event which was delayed but this would be cleared by September.

### (b) Road Safety Education Update

Rose updated those present on progress with the theatre groups who would be performing their road safety plays during October as follows:

| Date                  | School                              | Theatre Group              | Time      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, 11 October  | Helena Romanes – year 9             | Tiny Giants – Perfect Play | Morning   |
| Thursday, 11 October  | Mountfitchet High School – year 9   | Tiny Giants – Perfect Play | Afternoon |
| Friday, 12 October    | Saffron Walden County High – year 9 | Tiny Giants – Perfect Play | Afternoon |
| Tuesday, 16 October   | Mountfitchet High School – year 7   | Stop Watch – Chicken Play  | Morning   |
| Tuesday, 16 October   | Newport Free Grammar – year 7       | Stop Watch – Chicken Play  | Afternoon |
| Wednesday, 17 October | Helena Romanes – year 7             | Stop Watch – Chicken Play  |           |

Rose also reported that cycle training was progressing well.

## 6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### (i) Neighbourhood Speed Watch

Bob Beckwith reported that parishes were on board with this and feedback was good. A great deal of data was coming in and people were slowing their speeds.

## 7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for next meeting is Monday 22 October 2007.