

**ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON  
ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 15 JULY 2002 at 2.00 pm**

Present:- PS B Beckwith – Essex Traffic Police; Mr P Hardy – Essex County Council (Highways); Councillor W F Bowker, Mrs R Hutchinson, Mrs R Johnson, Mrs V Harris and Mrs L Bunting – Uttlesford District Council.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Mr M Richardson, PS Ashley Seymour and Insp Mark Harman.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs Rose Johnson, Road Safety Officer, chaired the meeting.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by Rose Johnson.

**3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES**

**(a) Road Safety Working Group Action Plan**

Rose Johnson circulated copies of the Road Safety Working Group Action Plan to update members of the Group on the work achieved since the last meeting.

With reference to the Action Plan, Paul Hardy said that work on the A1060 had now been completed but he considered that it would be some time before any results were seen. The Action Plan stated that highway routes would be annually identified for engineering improvements. The Police would support any new initiatives by enforcing any new speed restrictions.

**(b) Highway Signs Report**

A report was presented to the Working Group on an investigation carried out by Rachel Hutchinson into the possibility of erecting roadside signs advising motorists of fatalities and accidents year to date, and also displaying the current Government initiative, eg "Tiredness Kills – take a break". A similar project was currently being carried out in the County of Lincolnshire. The report provided information on the basic cost and management of such a project.

Paul Hardy considered that if the project took place it would have to be implemented at County level as it would be too labour intensive to achieve at District level. He said that he would take the suggestion through to County and report back at a later date. He also thought that Lincolnshire County Council must have had to obtain approval for each of their signs from the DTLR as it is illegal to place signage on the highway.

**(c) Draft Terms of Reference**

Rachel Hutchinson circulated draft terms of reference for the Road Safety Working Group. She asked that any comments be forwarded to her before the meeting of the Community Safety Action Team on 23 July 2002.

**(d) County Strategy**

Paul Hardy reported that the County Strategy was currently being printed.

**4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – ROAD SAFETY ISSUES****(a) Motorwise**

Rose Johnson reported that the arrangements for the next Motorwise event were currently progressing well. She reported that she was still hoping for the County High School to become involved although there would be financial implications if they did as there would possibly be an additional 280 students.

**(b) Responsible Rider Campaign**

Rose Johnson reported on this event which had been held earlier in the month. A total of 29 motorcyclists had now signed up to the campaign. PS Bob Beckwith considered that the events needed planning earlier and advertising should be placed in motorcycling publications outlining the aims, purposes, dates and locations of the events.

**(c) Seat Belt Enforcement Days**

Rose Johnson reported that two sessions of seat belt enforcement had taken place at Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. At Saffron Walden nine vehicles had been stopped with eight drivers and one passenger found not wearing a seat belt. At Great Dunmow 12 vehicles had been stopped with total of 12 drivers and two passengers not wearing belts. They were all given the choice of an on the spot fine or watching a video showing the dangers of not wearing a belt.

**(d) Police Update**

A report was circulated showing a breakdown of serious injuries and fatal collisions in the Braintree Division up to June 2002. This revealed a general downward trend overall, with Uttlesford faring better than others, although the Braintree District had suffered the worst increase. The proactive activity for July will be targeting summer drink driving.

**(e) Common Car Park Campaign**

Rose Johnson reported that this campaign, which was to help promote a better relationship with youngsters who currently gather at the Common car park in the evenings, was ongoing and hopefully would be up and running in the near future.

## 5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### (a) Local Road Safety Advisory Committees

Councillor Bowker referred to the Saffron Walden and Dunmow Local Road Safety Advisory Committees and said that representatives from parish councils felt that there was no feedback regarding their meetings. They felt that some sort of link between themselves and the Road Safety Working Group would be useful to raise the profile of the Advisory Committees. Councillor Bowker asked that the minutes from their meetings be raised at the Working Group meetings to take on board any relevant points.

### (b) Low Bridge, Newport

Councillor Bowker expressed his concern at the number of vehicles hitting the underside of the railway bridge in Newport and asked whether more signage or rerouting could be provided. Paul Hardy stated that adequate signage was already in place and said he felt that drivers did not take time to consider the height of their loads. He also reported that risk assessments were currently being carried out on all bridges in the County. PS Bob Beckwith said that the Police were aware of the problem and recently had attended two accidents at the bridge in one day.

### (c) Bike to Work Day

Rose Johnson reported on the Bike to Work Day which had been held recently. Only six people participated at Uttlesford District Council and she said that a breakfast of bacon sarnies or croissants had been provided for them and enjoyed by all.

## 6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Road Safety Working Group is Monday, 21 October 2002 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm.