

DERBYSHIRE SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP

STEERING/WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

28th August 2003 – at 9.30am

Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock

(Scarsdale Room, North Block)

1. Attendance:

Iggy Mitchell	City Council
Jon Pumfrey	City Council
Helen Griffiths	CPS
Phil Davies	Northamptonshire Partnership
Philip Bellefontaine	County Council
Pete Leigh	County Council
Paul Robinson	County Council
Ben Cooke	AMScott
Geoff Whittaker	AMScott
Gerry Goodman	Scott Wilson
Ellen Li	Police
Ian Windmill	Police
Maggie Ward	Police

2. Apologies:

David Fox, Jane Kirk (Magistrates), David Skinner (Police), Chris Mitchell (CPS), Graham Wheatley (County), Ian Butler (City)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

The minutes of the previous meeting of 10th July 2003 were read and agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

Maggie gave an update on the operations to date, as follows:-

Operations Update:

Data Collection/Enforcement Officers:

Roger Thomas commenced work with the team on the 11th August, and is making good progress with his training. Sarah Robbins is due to start work in the unit on 3rd September. Chris Sexton is to commence work on 8th September.

Finance:

The financial spreadsheet produced at the Partners Finance meeting of 30th July was circulated and discussed with the group.

CTO Workload/Enforcement:

August saw a reduced number of tickets generated, due to: annual leave commitments of the mobile officers, some tickets lost through a problem developing in Photographic, and the hot weather affecting the readings of the Truvelo data cards. 4000 Conditional Offers are still in the system awaiting payment. The workload is being controlled through the CTO/Enforcement meetings arranged each week.

The next four months are crucial as far as enforcement is concerned – the payments for the latter months 2003 will not reach the system until early 2004. Any enforcement after December cannot be guaranteed to be paid before March 2004.

Enforcement will need to be maintained at 6000+ per month.

StarTraq:

This company demonstrated their product (intelligent data processing) to the CTO on 13th August. It was a very impressive piece of equipment. The system views films/videos by fast-forwarding and is able to pick up offending vehicles only from the whole of the running time of a video. Many hours are taken up reading/viewing videos until offenders are identified on screen by the film viewer. There would be a huge time saving, i.e. StarTraq say that “two operators can process and verify in excess of 6000 violation images per day”.

The technology is quite expensive, but the system is to be included in the Operational Case, as the time saving, reduction of lost films etc. outweighs the cost significantly.

A visit to Thames Valley Partnership has been arranged for 10th September to view their StarTraq system that has been in place for almost a year.

PR/Marketing:

A Marketing and Publicity update, prepared by Mark Knight, was circulated and discussed with the group. (Promotional items distributed).

5. WORKING GROUP SECTION:

6. Site Selection 2003/2004:

The mobile sites have been assessed by Sergeant Windmill for suitability of parking. If some of those sites (unsuitable for parking) are accepted by PA Consulting for fixed sites, then they are to be included in the next Operational Case in a separate spreadsheet. PA will accept an adjustment of the criteria in order for them to meet the requirements.

European Legislation:

Advice from County (via Graham Wheatley) on purchase of camera technology is:

"...for work/services over £155,000 you MUST under European law advertise in the journal, this is so companies outside Britain can tender for the works. The 4 cameras alone will be in the region of £140,000, so we have no option. The advice I got last year was the works could not be split amongst the partners, to avoid advertisement. It does seem stupid though, as my specification does say any equipment MUST be compatible with our existing equipment ie Gatso/Truvelo. I am pushing hard our Central Purchasing to place the advert.....!"

Jon Pumfrey also spoke about the EU legislation, and said that City were to place the order for the ten Truvelo housings, once agreed by the Finance Partners on 24th September, ensuring that the legislation was followed.

7. Site Selection 2004/2005:

Ellen gave an update on the assessed sites. Approx 12 mobile sites have been identified and are awaiting speed surveys. There are two possible fixed sites (previously mobile sites). The group expressed concern that it was becoming harder to select sites due to the restrictions of the criteria.

Maggie is to remind Vipin Goyal (from PA Consulting) about a response in relation to the Grampian Way speed bumps, which have been taken out. It is City's hope that PA Consulting will allow cameras to be installed!

Jon raised the Abbey Street mobile site, and said that City were considering taking down the mobile signage, as the Inner Relief Road should resolve the problem, and asked Ellen to take Abbey Street from the list. Jon is to discuss this with Ian Butler and David Gartside.

Considerations on what future technology was to be included in the next Operational Case were discussed and the Group felt that for this year Gatso / Truvelo would be utilised.

Maggie updated the meeting on a recent Speed Check demonstration. (see item 16)

8. Red Light Sites:

Paul Preston (Project Manager for Notts Partnership) has been asked to give an indication of how their red light sites were selected, i.e. how they were justified to meet the criteria. – the causation of the collision/casualty is not always referred to in the stats 19! Paul is to respond to Maggie as soon as possible.

Pete Leigh explained that there is a red light site north of Glenfield (A50 / A511) – who is to investigate how the site was justified to meet the criteria.

9. Northampton Partnership:

Phil Davies (Project Manager from Northamptonshire) was welcomed to the group meeting, and spoke about a variety of subjects, as follows:

Variable Message Signs:

Phil explained that Northamptonshire were now running out of sites. Their KSIs have dropped by 36% in 3 years, and that their Partnership have an holistic approach to road safety/reduction of casualties, not necessarily through the use of speed cameras. Child passenger casualties KSIs are a big problem for them to deal with. Their red routes direct operations to 50 of the most dangerous routes in the County, they are treating stretches of road rather than hotspots. Northants blitz the road in

any way they can to deal with the problem. The red routes are now running out! Variable Message Signs go out on red routes, which are interspersed with mobile safety camera vehicles, usually parked some 50 metres past the VMS. "School ahead / junction / T junctions" messages are also considered a good idea identifying a hazard to motorists. TRL have been paid to undertake an evaluation. 85% of their enforcement is on red routes, and they respond to requests from members of the public to target "15% tolerance sites" – the public are on their side! £100,000 has been included in the Operational Case for VMS.

Ian Windmill expressed concern that 15% tolerance sites were no longer to be targeted, even though the majority had been identified by the community, and felt that the Partners should reconsider targeting these vulnerable sites.

The running of the VMS function is resourced by 2 persons, using a specified vehicle. This is managed by the Partnership, who record the speeds, locations visited – they are also set up at 15% tolerance sites.

8 Enforcement officers (Enquiry Officers) complete enquiries to trace drivers of vehicles. Northants will also undertake enquiries for other forces.

Phil went on to explain that Northants will be asking for additional funding within the next 2 years as they need support from Government. They have the proof that casualties have reduced, confirmed by reduced fire/ambulance/hospital call-outs.

Signage on trunk roads is giving huge problems for Northants!

Truvelo "new" sensors are also giving a problem!

Covert operations are undertaken.

Support staff are used for the mobile operation.

Community Speed Watch:

Northants have an intelligence led Community Speed Watch group, which has hit the national headlines. They have a commitment from residents to reduce speeds by 20%. Residents are provided with speed guns (12 residents) who are risk assessed by a Police Officer and undergo a training programme. The residents take down vehicle reg. numbers and pass on to the Pole, who then pnc the vehicle, a letter is then generated. After three 'strikes' the vehicle is then sent a notice. This is thought to give ownership back to the residents. Sites are usually in the 30mph limit.

10. Mobile Operation (demonstration)

A further demonstration has been arranged for 25th September 2003 at 2.00pm. The group will meet in the CTO building and will go to the Ripley site for a Truvelo and Mobile demonstration, then move on to a Gatso site.

11. Signing:

2003/04:

Pete is to check that signing is now complete. All Partners are to inform Ellen when the signs are up, so that the sites can be scheduled in for use.

Cleveland signing – clarification:

In view of the difficulties experienced by Cleveland, their signing has been replaced.

The Derbyshire concerns have been clarified and all signing appears to be legal. Maggie circulated a copy of a paper produced by PA Consulting/DfT earlier this year.

12. Magistrates:

The move date of the Magistrates from Derby to Ilkeston is still unknown, but a provisional date of 29th September has been pencilled in.

A few security matters have been identified and will be resolved as soon as possible.

13. Analysis:

Ellen has been asked by the City Partners to provide some information on times/enforcement at sites. The Group decided that if they require additional information on times at sites etc they would get in touch with Ellen when required. Jon to report back to David Gartside.

14. Speed Workshops:

The Chief Constable has queried when Derbyshire proposes to develop and implement a Speed Workshop. Maggie has produced a paper for Superintendent Bateman when he next meets with the Chief Constable.

Phil Davies spoke about the Speed Workshops running within Northants. 18000 are put through the scheme. Northants now operate at the ACPO threshold (as from 1st Sept 03). They do not give points on licences, but a fee of £60 to attend the course is paid. £400,000 is in their budget for SW – 4 persons take bids from the community forums on road safety matters i.e. cycle helmets for schools, m/cycle training, kerb craft etc. Those attending the course are at the 35 mph threshold only. 14 person in a classroom situation with a driving instructor/ex police driver. 17/24 year olds, newly qualified drivers, are taken out onto a skidpan (CarCraft) – 60% go on an Institute of Advanced Drivers course within 12 months. Phil raised a concern that an issue of fairness between partnerships on the difference in threshold for Speed Workshops, PA not grasping consistency generally.

15. “Speed Limit and Other Traffic Signs” – paper by John Gray DfT

Maggie circulated a copy of a paper on the above.

16. Speed Check demonstration:

A demonstration at Castle Donnington of the Speed Check technology was given to Maggie, Ian and David on 20th August. The equipment is excellent, easy to use, along routes as opposed to “spot” sites. The back office system is also extremely user friendly, and hardly any inputting/checking required. Is very expensive. Speed Check also produces variable message signs. Maggie is awaiting a price list. Unfortunately, because the technology is front capturing, the ideal route may be A6, but as this route is very popular with motorcyclists may not be suitable for Derbyshire.

17. Any Other Business

Gerry Goodman:

Gerry updated the meeting on the progress of the 7 ex trunk road routes. 2 sites were being commissioned today 28th August). The Bakewell housing has been replaced, and vegetation at the (N) Darley Dale site has been cut back. ID/site locations for these sites is to be passed to Truvelo by John Shelton upon his return from annual leave on Tuesday 2nd September.

Ben Cooke:

Ben raised a concern over mobile signing which is not included in the RS+GD manual. Signage No. 878 is acceptable, but the current wording in use throughout the County "mobile enforcement cameras" is not approved. If the County Council can provide written approval, given at the time of the implementation of signing, this will be acceptable. Pete is to check the signing, follow up and report back to the next meeting.

Ellen Li:

Ellen asked the meeting if the routes where we do not have space for the mobile van to park, and the site no longer has a casualty problem, should the signs be taken down?

Pete informed the group that Mike Ashworth requires the signage to be left up, and although no longer fits the criteria, would remain a "site" (although not enforced). Mike is to raise this at the Finance Partners meeting.

18. Date of Next Meeting(s):

Thursday 30th October 2003 - at 9.30am – ***New Conference Room – (Main Reception) Police HQ.***

Thursday 22nd January 2004 – at 9.30am - ***New Conference Room – (Main Reception) Police HQ.***