

DERBYSHIRE SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP

STEERING/WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

6th November 2003

Police Headquarters – CTO Meeting Room

1. Attendance:

Paul Robinson	-	Derbyshire County Council
David Walker	-	Derbyshire County Council
Neill Bennett	-	Derbyshire County Council
Graham Wheatley	-	Derbyshire County Council
Pete Leigh	-	Derbyshire County Council
Ian Butler	-	Derby City Council
Jon Pumfrey	-	Derby City Council
Maggie Ward	-	Derbyshire Police
Alan Bannister	-	Derbyshire Police
Ellen Li	-	Derbyshire Police
Ian Windmill	-	Derbyshire Police
Geoff Hall	-	Derbyshire Police
David Skinner	-	Derbyshire Police
Martin Cantrill	-	Derbyshire Police
Geoff Hicks	-	AMScott
Keith Sharples	-	AMScott
Andrea Charity	-	CPS

2. Apologies: Mags Young (David Walker attending)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 28th August 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:

Finance:

The financial spreadsheets were circulated and discussed with the group. The Partnership has accrued a steady surplus, which will need to be continually monitored. A surplus would put the Partnership in as bad a position as a deficit, and if possible additional expenditure will be made from this years Operational Case 2003/2004 before the end of March 2004.

CTO Workload/Enforcement:

Maggie updated the group on the regular Enforcement/CTO meetings held each week. Although a substantial amount of effort is being made by all concerned, it is still proving difficult to accurately predict the number of offenders captured in order to regulate the income. CTO have suffered an inordinate amount of problems due to loss of DVLA links, PNC connections, memory card failures etc. The meetings will continue to keep the team focused on the balance of enforcement.

PR/Marketing:

A Marketing and Publicity update, prepared by Mark Knight, was circulated and discussed with the group.

5. WORKING GROUP SECTION:

6. Site Selection 2003/2004:

Fixed sites – Graham Wheatley informed the meeting that the 4 fixed cameras and 11 housings had gone out to tender. The tenders had been received and being progressed to the next stage.

Mobile sites – signing – the majority of sites had now been signed ready for enforcement, and the Partners are to inform Ellen once the signing has finally been completed.

OPERATIONAL CASE 2004/2005

7. Site Selection 2004/2005:

Ellen produced a list of sites selected (see attached). These will be included in the Operational Case 2004/2005.

8. Red Light Sites:

The group were updated on this item from the Senior Partners Finance Group, which met on 24th September 2003.

9. Data Collection Admin Officer

Having a central collection point of speed data for the County has been identified by all the Partners as a crucial process. All the Authorities collect data in different formats, and none is available to the other Partner areas, unless a specific request is made. A Data Collection Admin Officer is to be included in the Operational Case which will benefit all the Partner areas – this function will be to retain a central collection of speed data, keeping it up to date and ensuring that all Partners have access to the information when required.

10. Variable Message Signs:

The following bullet points were raised at the meeting, but as far as the VMS on the Motorway/high speed roads were concerns (permanent/roadworks), the Partners agreed that any signing should be part of the roadworks contract and not a Police or

HA function, although the concept of using the equipment was fully supported. (also see item 23).

Motorway/High Speed Roads – Permanent/Roadworks:

- Roadworks planned
- Number required
- VMS Administrator/Officer (workforce)
- Storage
- Motorway permanent
- Number required

Semi-Portable/Permanent Message Signs (Education):

There are a number sites that have been identified as suitable for the installation of semi-portable/permanent message signs. Ten such signs are to be included in the Operational Case, and two are to be obtained in the near future, on a trial basis, in the County area – this is to be progressed by Pete Leigh after discussions with Sergeant Ian Windmill. The administration of the signing, if semi-permanent, will be undertaken by the local authorities.

11. Enforcement Vehicle

Maggie updated the group on the use of a covert vehicle, as the enforcement team are experiencing difficulties when using the fully liveried vehicles, as interviewees are refusing entry into their homes, or feigning absence from home. A covert vehicle would be very useful in these situations, and provision has been made for a van in the Operational Case 04/05.

12. Data Collection Equipment

The Senior Finance Partners approved the purchase of new speed data collection equipment, to replace the Hi-Stars currently in use. (see Minutes of meeting on 24th September 2003).

Today's demonstration by Counters and Accessories has been arranged to ascertain if this type of equipment will be suitable for the Partnership, i.e. radar speed data collection equipment.

The demonstration proved successful and the Partners are willing to be involved in a one-day trial of the equipment which is being arranged through Neil Bennett (County) and Steve Bowlzer (Data Collection Team - Police).

13. StarTraq System

The Film Viewing Section of the Central Ticket Office has suffered a number of frustrating system faults due to the functionality of the existing technology. Some of the problems experienced have had a significant affect on the numbers processed, in particular through smart card faults. There has also been occasions when whole films have been lost due to staffing shortages.

To alleviate the majority of the problems, and to reduce the inputting required, a Processing Centre has been developed by a company, StarTraq. This solution has

been extremely effective in other Partnership areas, and case studies have been developed and utilised by Derbyshire to justify the cost of implementation.

The implementation of the StarTraq system is planned for April 2004. In order to deal with the anticipated increase in speeding offences generated from fixed and mobile cameras, a dedicated team of twelve clerk/film readers is required. One member is employed in a supervisory role to ensure that performance and quality is maintained. Five clerk/film readers and a supervisor were in post as from 1 October 2001 with the remainder of the staff being appointed throughout 2002.

14. Administration/Filing Clerk

A substantial amount of filing is created within the Central Ticket Office due to the increase in the operations, and it is anticipated that a full-time Administration/Filing Clerk will be recruited in April 2004.

15. Enforcement Threshold

The subject of enforcement, and lowering the threshold, has been raised on a number of occasions by the Partners and the Department for Transport – this was discussed further as follows:

As far as the Police Partners are concerned, the view is that public opinion would not support any further lowering of the thresholds at the present time. Having lowered the thresholds year on year for the last few years, that a period of stability is now appropriate to allow us to build on the casualty reduction aspect and work towards achieving more widespread acceptance of safety cameras by the motoring public.

It is felt that, in simple terms, we don't currently need the additional revenue that reducing the threshold would generate and, as we are achieving our casualty reduction targets without the reduction, there is no point in 'upsetting' the motoring public still further at the present time. We will, of course, need to keep the situation under review and might need to reconsider at some stage in the future but, for now, are happy that the current threshold serves our purposes in terms of our current capacity and level of enforcement.

This view will be included within the Operational Case 2004/2005.

16. Enforcement:

Mobile:

City:

Abbey Street: This site is an existing mobile, but is not suitable for enforcement. Jon is to look at the site again and inform Ellen of the results.

Normanton Road: This site was suggested by City to be included in the Case for 2003/2004, but as there is not a speeding problem, and education would be more appropriate, it was decided that this would not be included in the Case for 2004/2005.

Ashbourne Road: This site will stay as a mobile site, but has roadworks until the end of 2003.

County:

Matlock Bath: This location is too close to the 30mph sign to use the mobile, but the site is also unsuitable for a fixed housing.

Dale Road/Longhill, Buxton: This site has already been agreed for 2003/2004, and is to be resurveyed in the Spring and will be considered after the survey results.

A6 Duffield: This section of the A6 route is not currently enforced. City and County are to get together and sign the whole route, with the exception of Duffield as there is nowhere for a mobile to be sited.

Fixed:

City:

Duffield Road: After discussions this site will not now be included in the Op Case 2004/2005.

17. Photographic

The Photographic Section frequently produce photographs for Court hearings – this service often experiences delays due to the lack of appropriate equipment. The cost of equipment is in the region of £6,000 and will be included in the Op Case 2004/2005.

18. Magistrates:

Any additional staffing, equipment etc. will be assessed when the full case has been finalised and the proposed tickets to be collected has been ascertained.

19. PR/Marketing Strategy

See paper prepared by Mark in draft form.

20. Speed Workshops:

Although the Chief Constable is keen to progress Speed Workshops, the Department for Transport have advised that until there is a National Scheme no further Workshops should be implemented. (See notes from Senior Partners Finance meeting of 24th September).

Paul Robinson informed the meeting that the Northamptonshire Speed Workshops had shown very good results.

21. Any Other Business

Andrea Charity:

Andrea reported that the camera files, previously dealt with at the Buxton court, were taken very seriously, but since the work had moved to the Derby court it was considered by them to be a “waste of time and too trivial”. The workloads are great, but the courts are not willing to cope with the extra work either. Andrea asked if this could be raised at another meeting possibly the Senior Partners – Maggie to arrange. Geoff offered to take to the Criminal Justice meeting he was having with Shelley Webb the same day.

Andrea also asked when the correct costs on the Summons sheet would be updated from £35 to £43 – again Geoff offered to take up the matter, and this is now being addressed.

Andrea raised for the information of the group that Inspector Louis Martin had provided a Road Traffic Law pack in order to assist the asylum seekers, which had proved very useful.

22. Geoff Hicks:

Geoff Hicks discussed Motorway roadworks and the use of VAS (vehicle activated signs), and reported that from TRL studies it has shown that collisions have been reduced substantially when VAS are in operation. It was Ian Butler's view that that the signing was not effective if not backed up by enforcement. Jon Pumfrey thought it would be interesting to see what studies had been undertaken in relation to the "keep your distance" chevrons used on some Motorways.

The Group felt that if VAS signing was to be used on Motorway roadworks it was something which should be included in the contractors plans, and not for the Safety Camera Partnership to become involved in.

23. Ian Butler:

Ian asked if an analysis of collision data could be included at each Working Group meeting to assess the reduction in casualties and any changes required on targeting sites. It was unanimously agreed that Ellen would be asked to provide analysis at each Working Group meeting (also at each Senior Partners Finance Meeting).

24. David Skinner:

David raised the categorisation of speed enforcement, and the changes that had recently been made to the "Classification of Speed Enforcement Sites". These changes had been made in line with the Site Selection Criteria of the Safety Cameras. The changes will allow the Partnership to operate at Category 3 sites where there is at least one injury, (classified as speed related and an 85thile of 10mph or above the speed limit). David will forward to each of the Partners the new document, once agreed by the Senior Officers.

25. Date of Next Meeting:

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