

Minutes of the
NETTING OFF STEERING GROUP MEETING
held at
Drayton Park Golf Club
Wednesday 20th July 2005

Present

Trevor Dove	Milton Keynes Council (Chairman)
Neil Mathews	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Anuradha Fitzwalter	Buckinghamshire County Council
Brian Butler	Buckinghamshire County Council
David Condon	Buckinghamshire County Council
Graham Choldcroft	Crown Prosecution Service
Martin McMahon	Highways Agency
James Mead	Mott MacDonald
Vaughan Norris	Reading Borough Council
Maria Madeley	HM Courts Service
Bryan Pritchard	Thames Valley Police Fixed Penalty Support Unit
Janet Brydon	Thames Valley Police Fixed Penalty Support Unit
Claire Benson	Thames Valley Police Traffic Management
Glyn Hollinshead	Thames Valley Police Roads Policing
Mick Doyle	Thames Valley Police Roads Policing
Malcolm Collis	Thames Valley Police Roads Policing
Paul Thornton	Thames Valley Police Roads Policing
Pat Knight	Thames Valley Police Roads Policing
Chris Scroton	Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership Project Manager
Richard Owen	Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership Operations Manager
Dan Campsall	Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership Communications Manager
Ian Wilson	Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership Data Manager
Prof. Frank McKenna	University of Reading
Phil Frost	West Berkshire Council

1 Apologies

The following members of the Steering Group send their apologies for their absence:

Tony Carr – Slough Borough Council
Lynn Shepperd – HMCS
Rob McDonnell – Wokingham District Council

2 Minutes of last meeting

Actions

- Letter from a number of local authorities sent to the roads minister: This action was completed through the Local Authorities group.
- Circulation of public perception survey: Completed and available from saferroads.org.
- Review of Public Attitude Survey methodology and results; was delayed due to the questions over continuity of funding, but can now proceed.
- Collision clusters on Highways Agency roads: Project Team will have reviewed possible sites on HA roads by early August.
- Freedom of Information: Actions completed
- Cancellation reasons: BP to present on cancellation reasons (on substantive agenda)
- Project review group: process has begun through TD (on substantive agenda)

All agreed accuracy of minutes

3 Matters Arising

No matters were raised in addition to the substantive agenda.

4 Rule Compliance

CS reminded the group that there are clear rules for the scheme and that non-compliance with those rules can be costly to the partnership. Station Road, Amersham was highlighted as an example wherein DfT have refused to allow the partnership to net-off the revenue from £20k of offences.

The suggestion has been made that all highway authorities, under their SLA commitment to meet the rules of the scheme, will have a programme of ongoing maintenance.

Action: Highway Authorities to schedule regular checks and treatment to sites that are at risk of being obscured by foliage.

Action: HA's to continue to move towards centralised maintenance contract, to be discussed at next HA meeting.

Action: Partnership to commence programme of marking sites (with permission from the relevant authority) at 60m or 100m with VASCAR road markings.

Action: RO to circulate list of potentially high risk sites to HA's.

5 Cancellation Reasons

Presentation by Bryan Pritchard (presentation slides will be made available)

Action – BP to circulate totals for all cancellation numbers with the minutes.

6 Cameras & Crime Policing

Presentation by PC Pat Knight (presentation slides will be made available)

The presentation raised a question about the case for front facing technology i.e. using Truvelo cameras in place of the present Gatos installation? There are other technologies being developed, but there is presently no cost beneficial solution available at the moment. The steering group would like to see additional communications work being undertaken to clarify for the public the partnership's work on bringing criminals to justice.

Action: DC to liaise with PC Knight

7 Police Enforcement Issues

Presentation by Malcolm Collis (presentation slides will be made available)

SAS places taken have now risen to around 35,000, TVP are still pioneering as far as high speed courses go.

Points scheme for roads policing officers is resulting in higher rates of detection for mobile phone, seatbelt and other offences.

Community speedwatch – planned pilot in West Berks once the database has been developed, roll-out is hoped to be around the end of the year.

Operation Triumph will be doing a major check every month through the summer months.

Action: MC to look to involve the Highway Authorities, this will be encouraged through the Road Safety Officers meeting.

8 Operational Case Submission

CS updated the group on the process for the 2006-07 operational case.

AF requested that all the partners should have sight of the operational case in advance of its submission. Questions were raised over whether there was time within the bid submission process to allow for an additional period of consultation.

Action: HA group to meet in August in order to co-ordinate their bid for the 31st August deadline.

Action: Project Team to circulate a copy of the 2005-06 operational case.

9 Service Level Agreement

The revised and updated SLA (version 5) has been circulated to all partners for comment. TD identified that the reference to TTU needs checking – bottom page 6.

Action: Project Team to amend and circulate for signing

10 Project Review Sub Group

TD gave an overview of the role and scope of the review group that had been agreed would proceed from the last meeting.

RO presented on the ongoing work of the operations group. (Presentation slides will be made available)

CJS presented on the review meetings that are under way and the cost comparators between TV & other partnerships nationally. (Presentation slides will be made available)

11 Research Update

Presentation by Prof. Frank McKenna (presentation slides will be made available).

There will be a meeting to look at future research possibilities being hosted by University of Reading (24th August). FM extended an invitation for all interested parties to attend.

Action: All to advise FM if likely to attend the meeting (maximum capacity c40).

12a Project Updates - General

CS informed the group that SCS (who produce the SPECS system) had again failed to provide the level of information that the partnership requires to consider proceeding with any installation of the system.

Finance: paid offences in Q1 are in line with predictions.

12b Project Updates - Data

IW presented on the partnership casualty figures for 2004 compared to the previous 5 years. (Presentation slides will be made available).

Significant results from 2004 casualty data

- 20.5% reduction in KSI across all TV
- 44% reduction in KSI across all TV camera sites

12c Project Updates - New Technology

RO presented on the introduction of new handheld PC devices for automating witness statements. (Presentation slides will be made available).

12d Project Updates - Community Concern

RO presented on the development of the partnership's community concern policy and site selection. Within the current system the process is often stuck awaiting one of the three necessary reports (most commonly from a Highway Authority), the importance of receiving all reports was restated.

There is a potential problem being created by raising expectations that concerned residents have about speeds, when there remain limited resources to deal with the complaints.

Action: All authorities wish to be informed of any sites (including exceptional / community concern) occurring within their area. (RO)

Action: An amendment to letter to complainants is required in order to formalise the time scale for complaints. (RO)

Action: Where enforcement is to be withheld because of a lack of suitable location, then further discussion should be entered into with the Highway Authority. (Project Team)

12e Project Updates - Communications

DC presented an update on partnership communications activity (presentation slides will be made available).

13 Any Other Business

No items raised.

14 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th November 2005, Drayton Park, Abingdon.