

KENT & MEDWAY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 22 August 2007

PRESENT: Keith Hanshaw (Chairman), Medway Council (KH)
Ian Procter (Vice Chairman), Kent County Council (IP)
Richard Burton, Highways Agency (RB)
Chief Inspector Adrian Moody, Kent Police (AM)
Rachel Wall, Communications Manager (RW)
Katherine Barrett, Communications Officer (KB)

APOLOGIES: Chris Rogers, Project Manager (CR)
Sarah Pattinson, Her Majesty's Courts Service (SP)

1) Presentation by Trevor Hall (TH) & Ian Duncan (ID), ACPO National Road Safety Support (RSS)

ACPO RSS is a non-profit-making private company which will offer support to Safety Camera Partnerships, Road Safety Partnerships, LTP authorities if they want it. Medd Hughes is currently Director.

Services offered include: national and regional meeting structures, support with legal challenges, legal advice, advice on signing challenges, technical support with Home Office Type Approved equipment, phone support, sharing good practice, liaison officers, IT support, intranet for FAQs and information. RSS is FOI exempt - will provide information, but does not have to.

A Senior Lawyer with a background in traffic will provide support for legal responses to questions, particularly signing challenges - defendants trying to expose loopholes. A Communications professional could also be hired to co-ordinate national media and provide support to other comms staff if this is wanted.

HA are funding some of it and are working on documents.

RSS are working with CSS and want to work closely with all partners. Currently looking into possible outsourcing of back-office function, but need to ensure it is cost effective and the integrity of data and legal process will be preserved. ACPO not promoting the idea, but will develop guidance if it is something SCPs wish to pursue.

IP asked if SpeedAwareness activity is likely to be co-ordinated nationally. TH said it might be possible to co-ordinate one database as it is in everyone's interest to centralise, however the differences in Partnerships need to be addressed.

IP raised the issue of the community responsibility in promoting safety and condemning bad driving. TH said Manchester have been nominated for a Prince Michael Award for their intelligence-led campaign, which focused on bad drivers who are cheating the system. It could become a blue-print for a nationwide campaign because community support is key.

IP said it was vital to reduce the fear of crime and disorder - have been told to deal with reality not perception, but could be failing people by not addressing the fear aspect - are RSS promoting a qualitative approach as well as quantitative? TH said it is vital to gather intelligence and deal with it properly to ensure the correct messages are being conveyed to motorists and the community.

AM asked if the work is on behalf of Medd Hughes or ACPO? TH confirmed that Medd is cabinet member of ACPO and a portfolio holder. He has retained Head of Roads Policing, but is also Chair of RSS, supported by ACPO - he is involved as it is his private concern and he is unpaid. AM said he was not sure why SCPs would pay for the RSS service when they should be receiving it from ACPO anyway (which Kent Police already pay in to).

KH asked what role the DfT played in RSS because when the National Office ended they could have looked at costs to continue the operation and divided them up among the LAs or police, but they were advised otherwise. TH said the DfT are supportive of RSS and wider road safety partnerships, but funding is confirmed only for 2 years - expecting to see what SCPs have done with additional funding for 2 years, that will be the basis for the funding for the next 2 years. TH said the Home Office were previously funded by DfT, now no money to fund. If funding existed, would offer service for free.

85% of RSS costs are to support legal costs, and it is advisable to sign up to it because people are now opposing the system. Also looking for other funding streams - aim is to reduce costs for the future. All partnerships to contribute 0.85% of the LTP amount, so Kent & Medway - £29,651. Welsh Assembly, Transport for London, HA are paying fixed fee due to their different funding mechanisms. Turnover is £900,000 in year 1. £250,000 set-up costs. External audits will be available to members - don't need to provide, but want to be transparent.

TH said the training that can be provided is aimed at operators, admin, technicians. So far the courses have been successful and claims that two thirds of SCPs have joined up. The courses are working with industry - internal certificated courses, 200 courses, working to get it to a professional NVQ qualification. Useful for conflict resolution, legal processes, people who speak to members of the public. Members of RSS will have discounted rate.

RW asked if the comms role will be the same as Kelly Garratt from DfT. TH said it would be similar and provide support and advice to local staff and give advice about national issues.

Newsletter will be emailed to all, then members only after that.

Board Members agreed that an informed decision will be made after the National Conference in October.

(TH and ID left the meeting)

2) Minutes of and Matters arising from previous Board meeting (28 June) if not otherwise on agenda:

- **1 - Intranet** - RW confirmed the intranet will be up and running shortly.
- **2 - Speed Shatters Life** - RW confirmed the signs are down. KH said invoice needs to be split between MC and KCC - send to Jim Pearce, KCC.
- **3 - Use of cameras for CaRe Group** - IP said Keith Ferrin saw the potential, but is concerned about the possible political response. IP to follow up. **ACTION: IP**
- **4 - Board response to KCC transformation proposal** - integrated into IP's response as an appendix - will be sent shortly.

3) COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Recent press activity**

Dartford and Detling cameras have recently been vandalised – there has been a short-lived spate of damage which has now passed - BBC interview given as well as interest from papers. Cameras repaired to restore road safety benefits; mobile cameras used when fixed cameras are down.

'Driving me crazy programme' on ITV on 21st August was anti-camera, and concentrated on vandalism, inaccuracy of signage, alleged LTI20-20 discrepancies. Focus seems to have shifted from money-making accusations to loopholes in the system.

- **New cuttings system**

Changing to new electronic cuttings service and therefore more environmentally friendly and cost-effective. Excel report will be sent to one or two people per partner who will then be asked to circulate accordingly. Those people confirmed as:

Kent Police: Guy Rollinson

Medway Council: Su Negus

KCC: IP, David Hall, Deborah Benton, Phil Scrivener, Claire Knight

HA: will view it on the intranet site

HMCS: need to ask SP

- **'Know the Limits' update**

Launches this Friday 24th August at Bluewater, expecting press and radio coverage.

- **'DB-S' update**

Seminar on Corporate Manslaughter (law come into place 6th April) now taking place on 14th January in the lecture theatre at Kent Police HQ.

- **'Grow up. Slow down.' update**

Campaign runs Oct -Dec and consists of magazine adverts, bus backs, press release, editorials, leaflets, screenwipes, banners at Further Education colleges, commercial on Kent TV and Medway TV, crash reconstruction at FE college. Kent TV also to feature KMSCP 'where are the cameras?' TV advert.

KB asked for confirmation that KMSCP and Kent Fire & Rescue Service logos can go on all materials again this year. It was agreed that this could be the case apart from on bus backs where no logos would feature (high profile advertising - message important, logos less important).

- **County Show and other events**

'Fit for the Road?' stand won 3rd prize in the Public Sector category. Competition forms showed 62% respondents rated the stand as "excellent".

Other events to happen: Know the Limits x 5; Lydd Airshow; Canterbury Police / Fire Open Day; Medway Police Station Open Day; Medway Community Day; Kent Legal Advisors Training Day.

- **District Council magazines**

RW has contacted district council magazines and secured free editorial opportunities and reduced rates on advertising. Will be use to promote cameras in general as well as campaigns.

- **Anti-social website**

Websites have been developed by a few local Partnerships whereby local residents can report people on a website who are behaving anti-socially / illegally, e.g. driving whilst using mobile phone. The person receives a letter from the police and if they are reported a number of times the police can chase it. Good for public perception.

4) APRIL 2007 AND BEYOND - THE NEW ERA

- **Future operations - what?**

AM has been asked by the Chief Constable, via the ACC, to ask about the future tactical operations and deployment of camera vans and whether Kent Police can use them on a flexible basis for community safety and intelligence-led operations - need to know if KMSCP resources can meet the agenda - Lynn Castle is in the process of drafting a response.

AM used the example of the Gumball Rally through Kent - wanted to mobilise camera vans in response to an emerging risk, but could not due to the tight remit of the existing Partnership. AM asked if the principle deployment of cameras could be to reduce KSIs at camera sites, but that they could also be used to satisfy the risk of other issues, using a considered approach.

IP said one of the reasons for success of KMSCP is the focus of the operation. If vans to be used elsewhere it is likely it would be to address road safety issues other than casualty reduction and therefore would not be in the remit of the Partnership. What if a van is being used for something other than casualty reduction and a crash happens at a camera site - reduces performance of KSMCP. RB said it could also result in negative publicity.

KH said there is a need to move with the times and CR is researching what KMSCP can expand into. Project Team know that remit might change in future, but more likely to focus on mobile phone use, anti-social / dangerous driving - this could then be incorporated into work done by the CaRe partnership.

AM to report that the Board recognises issues and there is some movement to push the boundaries. Experience, intelligence, science shows that some events are high risk, and therefore can possibly use vans, e.g. bike events, Gumball Rally, high terrorist threat - perhaps rank in order of priority, similar to the Kent Resilience Forum.

However, this can not be addressed until there have been formal talks about possible expansion of use of KMSCP resources. **Meeting to be organised to discuss (see CaRe Group below).**

- **MoU - signing process**

RB not seen final version - happy with previous version as no risk, but has since been given guidance about what HA are able to sign up to - circulated copies - should not be anything contentious.

IP had the MoU signed by KCC's Director and sent out, but this has not been received - IP to print, sign and circulate another copy. KH said Medway are willing to sign, however still need to need to look closely at the funding - should not be a problem. **ACTION: IP**

5) SPEEDAWARENESS

IP said the project requires visible weight behind it - MF has now left so who is the Police representative? IP suggested Guy Rollinson would be ideal to lead casualty reduction partnership working. AM to speak to Lynn Castle as items such as this often get passed straight to a Sgt. AM to address. **ACTION: AM**

6) FEEDBACK FROM OTHER MEETINGS AND SUB-GROUPS:

- **Road Safety Communications Group**

Nothing to feedback.

- **CaRe Group**

AM said it is developing well and the problem profiles are gradually being addressed. The profiles need to be qualified and quantified because at the moment they are based on people expectations. Need to be ranked by importance. IP said he has received positive feedback. KH said he was concerned that it is moving forward rapidly because need to get approval of Members. AM agreed the branding was premature and it is bottom up leadership at the moment. The strategic gap needs to be filled, possibly utilising this Board (which was mentioned at the last CaRe meeting). KH said KMSCP is looking for a way to move forward and expand its remit, so perhaps could expand into broader roads policing group who drive the tactical group.

KH, IP, AM, GR, someone from HA / Interroute to meet to discuss - KH to invite RB, but RB will find out who is most appropriate to attend and that person will meet.

ACTION: KH to organise meeting

RW said the RS Comms Group are waiting for direction from the CaRe Group for terms of reference. IP said there is a need to close the previous Forum and formally get together to set terms of reference.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

8) Date of next meeting: TBC

IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND PLEASE SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.

- **Road Safety Communications Group:** Tues 11 September, Doubleday House.