

Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative
Minutes of Working Group Meeting

02 July 2009

Gateshead Civic Centre
Development & Enterprise

Present:

Ray King
Jeremy Forsberg
Danny Barker
Sara Smith
Neil Frier
Rohail Ahmed
Kelly Wilson
Alan Bawn
Bryan Mullan
Neil Fraser

Chair
Communications Manager
Data Analyst
Senior Support Assistant
Gateshead Council
T & W LTP
Gateshead Council (Finance)
Northumberland County Council
Newcastle City Council
Northumbria Police
HMCS
North Tyneside

Apologies:

Allan Calvert
Sia Mahmoodshahi
Neil Thorpe
Peter Morris
Hazel Walton

Sunderland Council
South Tyneside Council
Newcastle University
Highways Agency
Sunderland

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

New Sites

Press release was sent to media Thursday 23rd April. Sites in North Tyneside and Northumberland have gone live. RK noted that no new sites would be visited without signed site certificates.

Route Enforcement has been identified and need to now agree on signing with Northumberland and South Tyneside. A camera warning sign is needed every 1km (in both directions) along each route.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Project Issues and Progress

a. Site Hardening and Grass Crete

The main issue would be the cost of grass crete as to whether appropriate to use. NFrier recommended tarmac or solid hardening as Gateshead would not use Grasscrete on adopted highway. Local authorities to determine cost before next meeting.

Action: All LA's

b. Route Signing

Speed Camera and signing for A696 – AB and A1300 – SM. DB to forward length of route in Northumberland. Signing should be a minimum of one camera warning sign per KM of route.

Action: DB

c. Site Certificates

Site certificates are required for all new sites before any enforcement can take place. New Site Certificates have only been received from Northumberland and North Tyneside. SS to forward certificate to NFrier.

Action: SS

d. 880 Signage at mobile sites

A decision was to be made as to the use of 880 signs at mobile sites as there has been a change in legislation which now allows this. NFraser noted that the signs would be there even if the van was not. The signs remind drivers of the speed limit. However, it was noted that 30mph repeaters aren't allowed any where else on the road network and may cause confusion with the public, particularly since the enforcement van is not always parked at the site.

The decision by Local Authorities was unanimous that no 880 signs were required at mobile sites, the main reasoning being to reduce signage clutter on the roads.

5. National Update and Issues

a. Future Funding and Digitization

At the recent RSS Annual Members Meeting it was understood that it is unclear as to future funding post March 2011. DfT have not yet given any indication regarding future funding to partnerships.

The RSS are in talks with DfT regarding a one off capital funding for digitization, therefore it is recommended that the partnership keep money aside until a decision has been made

b. Bench Marking and Best Practice

A unanimous agreement was requested from the principle partners with regards to the Road Safety Consultation.

Question 1 would require the views of Local Authorities in their own documents.

AB noted that in question 12 regarding 20mph zones, personal views will differ from executive views

The proposal has been put to the Steering Group today and has been agreed by the Working Group

6. NDORS Surplus Fund

The response from the last Working Group meeting was put to the Steering Group who all agreed. The discussion paper has gone to Steering Group members for approval with the intention to go live end of July.

BM queried whether schemes already committed by CTP funding were eligible. RK responded ones that are not high priority were not eligible. JF noted that the availability of the funding would be beneficial to promote the educational side.

BM also queried if bids by LAs would be refused by the administering panel. RK replied it was very unlikely due to the 75% capped amount being available to LAs any bid endorsed by the designated signatory and demonstrating a road safety benefit would likely to be approved.

Once NDORS bids come in and are approved the local authority are to email KW with what amount is expected and will not be charged until the invoice has been received.

Newcastle Council to email RK with formal response to the discussion paper

7. Finance

Accounts closed 08/09 subject to audit.

£521k under spend

£271k used

£250 pending

LTP claims are in. Local Authority claims to KW by 15 July 2009. KW to send an email reminder to all.

Action: KW

8. Communications

JF informed the group of the launch of 'Already Dead' media campaign, which used students from South Tyneside College to develop the concept. There was very good media coverage and some members of the group had seen the campaign.

JF also said that he was pleased that partners were using the T&W simulators and there had been several bookings. He encouraged colleagues to use the simulators and contact him for future bookings.

JF also informed the group that a sub-group including the police, Northumberland CC, the fire services and NSRI had been formed to look at a motorcycle strategy and that the ideas would shortly be circulated wider to road safety officers once there a bit more work had been completed.

9. Any other business

BM queried the latest on red light cameras and level crossings. RK replied the outcome from a recent meeting is that the camera is now obsolete. Permission needs to be requested from the home office regarding another camera.

The first red light digital camera will be trialled at South Tyneside.

10. Date of next meeting

10am, Thursday 17 September at Scottish Life House, Newcastle