

LUTON ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

13th January, 2003 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Felmingham
Mr. A. J. Draper - Warden Hill Residents Association
P.C. R. Bratton - Bedfordshire Police (Traffic Division)
Mr. C. D. Brown - Leagrave Residents Association
Mr. R. Smart – Royal British Legion

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. D. Frost – Road Safety Manager
Mr. M. Khan – Highways & Structures Engineering Manager
Mr. M. Hussey - Democratic Services Officer

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

(2) MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Council held on 7th October 2002 be received and noted.

(3) MATTERS ARISING (REF: 2.2)

There were no matters arising

(4) REPORT OF THE ROAD SAFETY OFFICER (REF: 3)

The Road Safety Officer updated the Advisory Council on:

- In Car Safety

Schools had taken part in a competition for pupils to design an In Car Safety poster. The overall winning poster was used to launch an In Car Safety Campaign at the end of October 2002. The overall winner was presented with a prize in an Assembly and the poster was disseminated all around Luton to Health Centres, Schools, etc.

Leaflets for the Infant Love Seat Loan scheme were distributed to expectant mothers by the Luton & Dunstable Hospital. All the Health Centres and Doctors surgeries kept a supply of In Car Safety Leaflets. A Road Safety Officer had visited the Ante Natal Clinics and Health Centres to give advice parents on In Car Safety.

Luton Road Safety Team (RST) had worked together with BUSK (Belt Up School Kids). This campaign had been aimed at 12-16 year olds by disseminating book marks which contained two very poignant messages “Wear a seat belt at all times” and “Never use a mobile phone whilst crossing the road”.
- Theatre In Education

The Luton RST had acquired the services of the Tiny Giants Theatre Company performed to 20 schools (Junior & Primary) w/c 25th November 2002 & w/c 2nd December 2002. The play – Spike covered rules of the road, seat belts and crossing between parked cars,

amongst other important road safety issues.

- Be Seen Be Safe Campaign

Ten performances of Legal Weapon (Ape Theatre Company) had also been booked for the w/c 10th March 2003. The Luton RST, working in partnership with Bedfordshire Road Team, had also booked Legal Weapon for w/c 17 March 2003 & w/c 24th March 2003. Luton Schools had taken part in a competition for which pupils were asked to write a poem entitled Be Safe Be Seen. Winning entries would then be read on BBC Three Counties Radio. The RST had also be visited supermarkets etc., and handed out leaflets to parents and children during autumn half term week.
- Walk to School Week

During May 2002, 20 schools took part in Walk to School week, and pupils also took part in a competition to write a newspaper article in which they compared their journey to school with that of their parents or grand parents. Schools had also been provided with free resources.
- Vehicle Car Checking Day

28 schools took part in the October Walk to School Week. The RST provided free resources and ran a competition in which children had been asked to write a poem about road safety

The Council supported National Road Safety Week by offering free car safety checks on 27th September 2002. The RST worked in partnership with STS Holburn Tyres and Exhausts. The aim of the day was to raise awareness to the driver of the vehicle and to check a few basic requirements that should be completed on a regular basis. 32 vehicles were checked. (Note: A team of six mechanics can only manage to check 40 cars per day working flat out).
- For My Girlfriend (Make the Commitment)

The For My Girlfriend display was being moved to different venues in Luton, such as local businesses, 6th form colleges etc. The RST were in the process of producing a newsletter relating to speed issues, which would be available at the end of October.

RST with other local authorities in the Eastern Region would re-launching this campaign on Valentines Day 2003, with a crash reconstruction in Market Hill, Luton. The Fire service, Police and Ambulance Service would be working in partnership with Luton's Road Safety Team to deliver a hard-hitting launch to the campaign.
- Road Safety Resources

All schools had been sent copies of the Road Safety Resources catalogues, together with a poster offering help introducing Road Safety into the National curriculum with classroom work etc. Year six students had been sent a magazine on Road safety entitled "Route 1", Walking Bus leaflets and School Travel Plan leaflets had also been sent to all schools, and Posters and leaflets sent to all Luton Libraries.
- Safety Around Schools Project 2002/03

Seven schools had taken part in the SAS project.
- Drink Drive

A Summer Drink Drive campaign was launched with publicity materials being displayed in all public buildings and sent to public houses and clubs. The winter campaign

was launched at ASDA stores, where members of the public were invited to taste a non-alcoholic alternative to their usual seasonal tipple.

- Speed

In partnership with Bedfordshire Police Luton's Road Safety Team had organised two sessions of Operation PRIDE in April and October.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

(5) REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE CASUALTY REDUCTION OFFICER (BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE TRAFFIC DIVISION) (REF: 4)

(a) Collisions/Injuries

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that during 2002, there was an increase in fatalities for the County compared to 2001. There were 53 deaths resulting from 45 collisions compared to 39 deaths from 37 collisions in 2001. Of the 53 deaths for the County, 9 occurred in Luton (One on the M1 Motorway in the Borough of Luton), compared to 4 deaths in 2001. Almost one third of all fatalities involved a driver who had been impaired by either drink or drugs, and one fifth had not been wearing a seat belt. PC Bratton felt that if the drivers concerned were had been wearing a seatbelt they might have survived. Because of these factors, the police would be reviewing their program of campaigns, and enforcement activity for 2003.

The total number of casualties caused by collisions in Luton, during 2002 was 1668 compared to 1647 in 2001.

(b) Collision Location History

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that the police were now able to identify certain 'hot spots' at an early stage, and therefore would be able to liaise with other bodies earlier in the process with a view to remedy the problem. Areas identified during 2002 included Leagrave High Street junction with Lewsey Road, where an anti skid surface is planned, also Waller Avenue Junction with Beechwood Road where improved signage is planned.

(c) All Speed Enforcement

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that speed enforcement throughout the County had increased dramatically. This had been due to the setting up of the Beds and Luton Road Safety Partnership, which administers the speed or safety cameras. New locations had been identified, and would continue to do so for the siting of cameras. All locations would be by strict criteria relating to injury history. He added that cameras couldn't be installed at a location because local residents had complained about vehicle speed, or perceived danger. Any area identified must have a recorded history.

PC Bratton went on to report that casual speed enforcement had reduced, in the main, due to the reduction of available officers. He reported that during 2001, camera enforcement was 2364, casual enforcement 932. Total enforcement was 3296 plus 488 advised. During 2002, camera enforcement was 15290, and casual enforcement 1313. Total enforcement was 16603 plus 387 advised.

(d) Seat Belt Campaigns

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that two separate periods of enforcement had taken place in Luton during 2002. Lower Schools had been targeted during one exercise, where approximately 80 matters were dealt with, the second was held during December, in Bedford Road, targeting vehicles close to the town centre, where approximately 100 matters were dealt with. He added that the police planned to be more pro-active in its

relation to seat belts due to the high number of casualties and fatal collisions, where non-compliance with seat belt legislation had led to injury or death.

(e) Vehicle Condition

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that police in conjunction with ATS, hold campaigns each year specifically looking at vehicle condition. During 2002, checks were held in Bedford Road and Stopsley. Most matters were dealt with by way of good advice, however, any serious matters, such as a vehicle with two or more defective tyres, resulted in prosecution.

(f) Taxi Checks

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that taxi checks had taken place during April and October 2002. Police in support of Luton Borough Councils enforcement officers stopped taxis. Engineers from the Vehicle Inspectorate were also on hand to examine the cabs to identify any mechanical defects. He added that taxis in Luton are in good condition, due to the stringent control by the Licensing Department coupled by the checks. He continued by saying that Bedford had taken example some of the practices used by Luton in an attempt to tighten up control in Bedford.

(g) Future Plans

PC Bratton informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that a full and comprehensive program of activities had been planned for 2003, which would be carried out in conjunction with partners in road safety.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

(6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS (REF: 5)

Colin Brown raised concern at the lack of attendance of the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council, and suggested that a further recruitment drive take place. The Chair added that Area Committees and Community Forums also deal with road safety issues, and suggested that Road Safety should be placed on the agenda, and that attendees should be welcomed to the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council.

David Frost informed the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council that staff, are present at each Community Forum, and that a report is given which would include road safety. He added that the issue of membership had been an issue for sometime. He continued that the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council needed to be plan for the future either with the current panel or by other means. Mehmood Khan added that the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council needed to be more focused.

Resolved: That the Director of Environment & Regeneration, and the Head of Local Democracy be requested to undertake a review of the aims and objectives, terms and overall structure of Luton Road Safety advisory Council and report back on the outcome at the next meeting of the Road Safety Advisory Council.

(7) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Luton Road Safety Advisory Council will be held on Monday 7th April 2003, at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 4.

(Note: The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.)