

ROADS SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 November 2015

Chair:

Councillor Graham Simpson

Councillors Present:

John Anderson, John Cairney, Andy Carmichael, Peter Craig, Christine Deanie, Janice McGinlay

Councillors' Apologies:

Gerard Killen, Davie McLachlan, Richard Tullett

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Black, Lighting Adviser; S Laird, Traffic and Transport Engineer; C Smith, Assistant Road Safety Training Officer; G Wells, Roads Maintenance Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

T Slater, Administration Officer

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Inspector D Faulds; Sergeant G Wilson

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Roads Safety Forum held on 20 May 2015 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Improvements in Lighting Technology

D Black, Lighting Adviser gave a presentation on improvements in street lighting technology and the programme underway to replace the existing 60,000 Low Pressure Sodium (SOX) street lights in South Lanarkshire with Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights.

Information was provided on the advantages of using LED lights, which outweighed the disadvantages, and included:-

- ♦ energy savings (50%)
- ♦ carbon reduction (50%)
- ♦ maintenance savings
- ♦ improved optical control
- ♦ reduction in light pollution
- ♦ light could be focused on adopted areas

- ◆ improved colour rendition
- ◆ improved detail
- ◆ improved visual scene

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

4 Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives

A report dated 20 October 2015 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the range of road safety education, training and publicity initiatives being undertaken in South Lanarkshire.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the road safety education, training and publicity initiatives being undertaken in South Lanarkshire, as detailed in the report, be noted; and
- (2) that future road safety education, training and publicity initiatives in South Lanarkshire be supported.

[Reference: Minutes of 20 May 2015 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor McGinlay left the meeting during this item of business

5 20MPH Speed Limits

A report dated 20 October 2015 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the promotion of 20mph speed limits in residential areas and the guidelines used to ensure that they were introduced in a consistent manner across the Council area.

Lowering vehicle speeds in residential areas to approximately 20mph had a proven record of reducing casualty numbers and severity. However, as with all speed limits, it was essential that drivers understood why the limit was in place to encourage compliance. It was, therefore, important that 20mph speed limits were introduced at appropriate locations and the guidelines would help to achieve this.

In January 2015, Transport Scotland issued the "Good Practice Guide on 20mph Speed Restrictions" which replaced all previous guidance on 20mph speed limits. Whilst the Guide's fundamental principles remained, there had been some changes which made it appropriate for the Council to revise its guidelines.

The 2 parts of the road network where 20mph limits were appropriate remained as outside schools and residential areas. The new Guide removed authorisation to create new advisory 20mph limits, however, existing advisory 20mph limits could remain in place with the existing signage but not road markings.

It was proposed that the following guidelines be used when determining 20mph speed limits for the following types of location:-

Outside Schools

- ◆ where mean speeds were greater than 33mph, introduce part-time mandatory 20mph

- ◆ where mean speeds were in the range 25 to 33mph and existing advisory 20mph speed limits were in place, use Vehicle Activated Signs to encourage drivers to adhere to the 20mph limit during school hours. Speed to be monitored for the first year after implementation and, should speeds reduce during school times, then further consideration to be given to mandatory 20mph limits
- ◆ where mean speeds were less than 25mph, introduce a mandatory 20mph speed limit

Residential areas

- ◆ where traffic calming was present, create a 20mph zone
- ◆ where mean speeds were restricted by the nature of the road environment to less than 25mph, introduce 20mph mandatory speed limit
- ◆ existing advisory 20mph limits to be assessed to determine their suitability for mandatory 20mph limits

The Forum decided: that the guidelines for determining the most appropriate type of 20mph speed limit for various circumstances, as detailed above, be supported.

6 Dates for Future Meetings

A report dated 7 October 2015 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted proposing that future meetings of the Roads Safety Forum take place at 10.00am on the following dates:-

- ◆ Wednesday 17 February 2016
- ◆ Wednesday 29 June 2016
- ◆ Wednesday 7 December 2016
- ◆ Wednesday 1 March 2017

The Forum decided: that future meetings of the Forum be held on the dates detailed above.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Police Scotland Initiatives/Campaigns

The Chair agreed that the Forum be provided with an update from Inspector Faulds and Sergeant Wilson on the following initiatives/campaigns being led by Police Scotland:-

- ◆ the establishment of the Lanarkshire Road Safety Governance Board, the membership of which included Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lanarkshire and North and South Lanarkshire Councils
- ◆ 2 road safety campaigns within the North and South Lanarkshire areas to target the spike in road accidents that occurred at this time of year, one aimed at pedestrians entitled 'Can you see me?' and one aimed at drivers entitled 'See and be seen'
- ◆ an initiative to stop the inappropriate and illegal use of quad bikes and to educate the public on this matter
- ◆ the development of a dedicated mailbox for complaints about roads issues such as driving, speeding and parking issues. Once operational, the details of the mailbox would be circulated to members to assist at surgeries and with reported complaints