

WARWICK DISTRICT SAFETY FORUM

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 December 1999 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Davis (Chair); Councillors Gill, Guest, Mrs Leddy, Mrs Pavier, Short (Warwick District Council).

Mrs C Ackley (Warwick Town Council)

Mr N Armstrong (Cycleways)

Mr M McGreavy (Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service)

Mrs G Peppitt (Kenilworth Safety Committee)

Mr B Snook (Institute of Advanced Motorists - Retired)

Mr K Thompson (Warwickshire County Council - Education Dept)

An apology for absence was received from P.C. G Knight.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 1999, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(1) KENILWORTH FIRE STATION

Mr McGreavy reported that although Kenilworth Fire Station had recently had four new recruits, it was not right to say that the station would be fully operational twenty-four hours a day. Whilst the station would be fully operational during most hours, circumstances may dictate that there would be times when it was not fully operational.

(2) CYCLE HELMETS

The Forum noted that Royal Mail had still not responded to a request from this Forum asking why Postmen did not wear cycle helmets whilst making the postal deliveries on bicycles. The Forum were disappointed that the Leamington Spa delivery office had not responded and it was agreed that a letter could be sent to the Coventry sorting office to see whether they would respond.

(3) BADGE MAKING COMPETITION

Mrs Peppitt referred to the recent badge making competition aimed at four to ten year olds, where children were asked to design a badge on the theme of "Be Seen at Night". The competition was a success and the winning entry would be made into a children's badge.

(4) ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE

Mr Snook informed the Forum that he had recently attended a road safety conference where it was reported that Loughborough and Leicester Universities had carried out research into the effects of driving whilst using mobile phones. The research had concluded that there was no difference to a drivers concentration whether they were using a hands free or hands on mobile phone, or whether they were driving a manual or automatic car. Most accidents occurred within ten minutes of finishing the conversation on a mobile phone largely due to drivers being too close to other vehicles. Loughborough and Leicester Universities intended to carry on their research.

3. HEALTH PROMOTION ACTIVITY

The Forum considered a report from Georgie Carrington, from Environmental Health, on the work currently undertaken on safety issues. Current initiatives included continued work with the Warwickshire Action on Accidents Alliance and the Warwick District Home Safety Equipment Scheme.

Mr Thompson commented on the Warwickshire Schools Safety merit award which had been awarded to twenty-one schools in the County.

Over half of the schools in the County had now participated in the scheme, including Kenilworth Nursery School which had recently been awarded the Silver Award.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

The Forum considered a report from Mr McGreavy from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service on community fire safety initiatives that the Fire and Rescue Service were involved with.

During 1999, the Fire and Rescue Service had been piloting a series of trials with younger children in school time. This had involved fire fighters being released from carrying out fire safety routine inspections of factories, shops and other commercial premises and being redirected towards educating young children about the dangers of fire. The overall strategy was to reduce the number of fire deaths in domestic dwellings, currently running at approximately 800 per year, by educating the young and others at risk in domestic fire safety. Eighteen schools in Leamington Spa had joined the programme which was being extended to Warwick and Kenilworth in 2000/01.

The Fire and Rescue Service had secured £40,000 to fund a smoke detector campaign whereby fire fighters would supply and fit smoke detectors to those who were considered to be in the greatest need. A company had also been identified who would supply smoke detectors with vibrating pads to alert the hard of hearing.

The Fire and Rescue Service had also been involved in the Safety in Warwickshire, Opportunities for Older People initiative recently held at Sydenham School, providing advice on typical causes of fire related incidents.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

WARWICK DISTRICT SAFETY FORUM (Continued)

5. DEVELOPMENT OF WARWICK DISTRICT CAR PARKING PLAN

The Forum considered a report from Members' Services seeking comments on the "Development of Warwick District Car Parking Strategy" consultation document. Development Committee had recently agreed a discussion paper which was to be used to consult with interested parties on the production of a Warwick District car parking plan.

The concerns of the Safety Forum were connected with safety problems of inconsiderate parking, caused largely by a lack of available spaces. It was agreed that in order to reduce the number of vehicles in town centres, sufficient alternative services of a high enough quality needed to be provided (e.g. park and ride schemes) and preferential parking to encourage car sharing.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Safety Forum concerning the development of Warwick District Car Parking Strategy Consultation Document be passed on to Engineering.

6. VIDEO

The Forum watched the Institute of Advanced Motorists' video "Driveability" concerning the correct technique for road manoeuvres. The Forum thanked Mr Snook for supplying the video.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on Thursday, 16 March 2000 at 7.30 pm.

(The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m)