

PCF Open Meeting 10 July 2014

John Pound Centre, Portsea Minutes of Open Meeting

Guests

- Maria Jolliffe, Community Speedwatch, Hampshire Police
- James Roberts, Active Travel, PCC
- Oliver Wilcocks, Road Safety, PCC
- Cllr Ken Ellcome, Cabinet member for Transport

This was another large turnout with many welcome new faces in the audience.

Meeting opened at 19:05

Chairman introduction

1. Jon Spencer referred to our successful last meeting before the council elections. The article in The News helped to create a public debate about road safety involving existing and newly elected councillors.
2. He asked all those present, if not already members, to join. Annual membership is £5.

Hampshire Police Community Speedwatch

3. Maria Joliffe described the work she does with Community Speedwatch. She is not based in Portsmouth so we are grateful to her for deputising for her colleague. This is a partnership between Hampshire County Council, the police, and volunteers. Volunteers use a speeding flash sign which shows happy face under the limit, sad face for over the limit. Volunteers take details of the vehicle and the first letter sent to offenders is a warning, 'education' letter. A second offence does not automatically mean a fine or points, but there will be a record on computer for the police. In the last month 400 letters were sent to speeding motorists. She gave the example of Twyford where they have cut average speeds on a rat run to the M3.
4. They are trying to raise awareness for the public to volunteer. Importantly, they need co-ordinators to organise the volunteers, take equipment and assist with data entry.
5. There were questions from the floor, asking why photographic evidence was not acceptable. All vehicle details must be written down as there would be a data protection issue if recorded electronically. Others questioned why speeding motorists were dealt with more lightly than cyclists on pavements. This is due to legislation.

Active Travel team, Portsmouth City Council

6. James Roberts described the work the team are doing and what they are planning. He referred to the new administration since the elections – they are looking at new priorities. He talked about the physical challenges in the city to getting people to travel actively. Recent successes include the Cycle Hub, new cycle parking, the Park and Ride and wayfinding boards. They also propose to improve Pilgrims Way.

Road Safety team, Portsmouth City Council

7. Oliver Wilcocks described the efforts the city council is making to reduce accidents. The focus is on KSI – Killed, or Seriously Injured (i.e. requiring at least one night in casualty). There is a high proportion of accidents involving taxis and private hire vehicles, even allowing for their numbers.
8. OW produced a large number of statistics and analysis. His priority is the A2047 London Road/Fratton Road as this has 35 casualties per mile (the city average is 9/mile).
9. Improvements include moving back Give Way lines and surface treatment at junctions to indicate to motorists presence of cyclists.

Ken Ellcome, cabinet member for traffic and transportation

10. Ken Ellcome introduced himself. Previously he was in the police traffic division so he has experience in road safety. He noted he has to deal with cyclists, taxis and buses, often with conflicting views, but he has regular briefings with stakeholders. He noted that the department has had a £1million cut. The My Journey funds will finish in April 2015 although they are applying for an extension.

Conclusion by chairman

11. Jon Spencer hopes to have further meetings with Cllr Ellcome and the new council leader Cllr Jones. Cllr Ellcome committed to updating the Portsmouth City Council cycle strategy.

Meeting closed 2130