

KENT & MEDWAY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 21 March 2010 Phoenix House

PRESENT: Katherine BARRETT (Minutes), Communications Officer (KB)
David CURRIE, Kent Police (DC)
Anne-Marie PENNY, Project Manager (AMP)
Ian PROCTER (Chairman), Kent County Council (IP)
Guy ROLLINSON, Kent Police (GR)
Bryan SHAWYER, Medway Council (BS)

APOLOGIES:

Felicity DREWETT, Highways Agency
James RICHARDSON, HMCS
Ch. Insp. Andy REEVES, Kent Police

Discussion about whether meetings were still needed on a monthly basis. IP said the original rationale for monthly was to ensure support for operational side was there, so does it still need that operational support. DC – nature of police work means the meeting can never be guaranteed for AR to attend. DC – performance pack is created each quarter so can present that, but monthly reports from police is too frequent as not that much change month to month. AMP / KB agreed they could be less frequent as particularly comms items can be agreed on email. Other meetings, e.g. T&CG / SpAw meetings keep operational aspects going. Geographical spacing of attendees means more spread out so would mean less travelling. GR – could move to every other month or quarterly, with an agreement to use email to reach certain agreements. BS – bi-monthly would be preferable. It was agreed that in order to make decisions all Board members need to be present. This needs to be addressed.

ACTION: AMP to ask views and decide

1) Minutes of and Matters arising from previous Board meeting (11 Mar 10) if not otherwise on agenda:

DfT response – IP confirmed this has been submitted

Thresholds – DC said Kent Police has a speed enforcement policy which is due for review. The Board has previously indicated that safety cameras should enforce at the lower level of ACPO published guidelines in common with other Forces. The Policy has been reviewed to establish commonality between police and safety camera enforcement. There is an ACPO and Kent aspiration to increase the numbers of offenders dealt with by way of a speed awareness course and DC has introduced a process to enable courses to be offered even when physically stopped by police. This has not previously been the case.

There are resourcing issues for CTO which may result if numbers increase which may result in more offenders being offered speed awareness courses and reduce overheads for the course and reduce costs to the customer. However, reducing it is likely to double the offences in a 30 limit. CTO could manage this. DC is planning to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Kent Diversion Partnership Board to give sufficient notice to manage course availability. IP said to leave the impact to Diversions Board to look at the policy.

Any reduction in threshold to be applied gradually due to resourcing issue. The purpose of reducing it is casualty reduction, not to increase the number of people being detected. Need to monitor the impact on casualty reduction by reducing thresholds - reducing offences in the long term is a by-product, as is the education. Agreed two members of staff can still be recruited immediately and further vacant posts when this years budget becomes clear.

ACTION: DC and AMP to write and submit business case

Partner information days – IP asked if dates for these have been set and said KCC road safety team members were enthusiastic about it as it will help them when interacting with public at events. AMP said Rachel had been working on this and will follow up.

ACTION: AMP

Rachel – AMP said RW has been on annual leave for the last couple of weeks and is now on maternity leave for a year.

CCTV traffic enforcement signs in Medway – BS is trying to monitor these roads to see if there is any casualty reduction impact.

Van sites in Medway – BS has met with AMP and wants to have further discussions with Sue Weston (SW).

Prioritisation of sites – SW has now been able to introduce a system to identify sites which need more enforcement in terms of regularity. 100% mobile sites received coverage last month. 80% for fixed – excellent increase. Three levels of priority in terms of casualty reduction. DC said the camera team are achieving good results and thanked the operators and SW for their hard work in achieving this.

Deployment software - BS would like to have a look at the deployment software. DC said that even without the software, we still need to be clear about what is to be achieved in order to measure success. IP said the measures of success should be a product from AMP's meetings and something needs to be collectively worked up as soon as possible to ensure effectiveness.

ACTION: AMP to lead

IP said we need to ensure there is coverage at least every three months at mobile sites to enable signs to be there – AMP to look into.

ACTION: AMP

DC said SW has been instrumental in ensuring the coverage of the sites, and she and all operators need to be congratulated on this, which is despite operator sickness and absences. Board passed on thanks and asked DC to pass this onto the team.

ACTION: DC

2) Camera Team – Operational report

Staffing – Pete F on secondment. Not recruiting as expects to return in a year. Will use funding for overtime if necessary. Potential reduction in thresholds will not impact operators other than possibly more court time.

Sue W – has completed the health and safety review for each site and has done an excellent job. There is now a file on every site which contains photos, health and safety issues, where to park, calibration certificates, and maintenance for the site – all the details required for any operator to attend. IP asked if a report on this could be compiled, i.e. the main findings, as it adds weight to the work that is being done for health and safety generally.

ACTION: DC

Medway damaged camera – the New Road camera was damaged however the person was identified, arrested and is due in court shortly. KB asked DC for court date.

ACTION: DC

Deployment software – this will be up and running by the next meeting.

Pentip – enforcement software which links all forces, thereby providing a more efficient way of dealing with offences. May be a cost saving against using current software.

3) Site specific information release

AMP has put document together which outlines the background and includes responses and recommendations about what information should be available – all of which is currently on the website. Will email to all without appendices.

ACTION: AMP

4) Highways Agency cameras

M20 controlled motorway

Statutory instrument has been signed off, awaiting type approval. In house equipment being installed on 6 May. CTO staffing arrangements have been made so that it will not impact the work of K&MSCP. Police are setting the thresholds.

6) Communications update

AMP has confirmed 2010/11 Comms budget as £100k. If more available later in the year KB will allocate accordingly.

Myth busting – KB has circulated Comms Summary 2009/10 which includes all coverage for this campaign. Over 80 items of coverage. Have included in the Marketing Plan to work with Edwards Harvey this year in terms of PR support in the absence of the Comms Manager.

My brief – sent a press release about Chatham Solicitor who is advertising in the KM about getting drivers off speeding tickets using 'legal loopholes'. Has featured in Medway press and Kent on Sunday. Also live interview on Radio Kent yesterday which was featured throughout the breakfast show and formed a phone in, the majority of which was in our favour. 'My Brief' Solicitors claim to have won a case in Devon and are aware that no cases have been lost in Kent. Radio Kent likely to do a follow up in six months.

DBS – campaign launches tomorrow at Kent2020 Business Expo at Detling. KB will send email summary of campaign to all. Includes press and radio ads, mail shot to existing and new businesses, internal email to partner staff, revamped website (cutthecrashes.com) which is a one stop shop of information and downloads, and a press release after purdah. HA have requested no HA logo or info on the campaign until after 7 May.

MOSAIC / Greenhithe summary – CTO, Jacobs and KCC research team have provided an extensive report which analyses offender postcodes. KB met with the team and they have proposed a pilot campaign based on the Mosaic profiling in Greenhithe (target of about 2000 people). Currently in planning stage (which includes pre and post surveys) and aim to complete by the end of the year.

Mkg Plan – KB will circulate plan for 2010/11 to Board Members for sign off by 30 April.

ACTION: ALL

7) Police Service Level Agreement

DC said an agreement outlining strategic direction would be useful in order to identify whether success had been achieved possibly in the form of locally agreed performance indicators. Helpful if Partnership was to say what it is that they want the police to achieve which will provide a strategic direction to work towards.

IP said the original MoU avoided an SLA because we are all supposed to be equal partners, not one serving another, so what is needed is more of a performance management model.

DC said ideally he would like AMP to tell the team what it is she wants the function to achieve, a / b / c with the current resources. There is a service specification in the context of the partnership, but need to outline tangible expectations, i.e. more tactical than 'reducing KSIs'. DC happy to contribute.

ACTION: AMP to bring proposals to next meeting

8) Project Manager's Report

AMP will assess how often the report needs to be produced and provide the rationale behind the decision.

Will put a lot of information in the first report and the Board can feedback about what is and is not needed. IP asked for this to be circulated before the next meeting.

ACTION: AMP

9) Health and Safety

DC said Phoenix House recently had an audit for a more secure and safer environment. Biggest risk is to camera operators, each has had a risk assessment. Certain rooms need tidying up which is being attended too.

AMP said the KCC H&S Manager recently visited. Main issue was cabling in project office. Need to sort out work station assessments and driving at work assessments.

10) Feedback from other meetings and sub-groups

- Tasking & Coordinating Group

Meeting has not taken place, will rearrange. DC stated that these meetings provide the correct forum to discuss priorities for enforcement in any period. For example, events that increase risk, eg motor cycle rally which may require greater collective camera activity.

- Technical User Group

Looking at red light camera criteria – currently have one red light camera in Medway – and seeing if there is a need for more in areas requiring casualty reduction need.

BS needs a list of any non-operational sites – who decides whether they are non-operational? DC – there is a process. BS needs to be made aware of any defective sites and those that are not being enforced for any reason.

ACTION: AMP

DC said it is increasingly difficult to get cameras serviced – is there prospect for replacement? Currently looking at life span of cameras and the need / options for replacement. Not currently an option for non-digital fixed cameras. Some partnerships have already gone digital. Going to hold off on a decision until after the election. Also looking at putting together a record of current signs.

Enquiry from T Wells about 20mph zones with average speed cameras. Jo Horton – being looked at as a pilot in the London area – not part of our policy and will await London feedback.

New mobile site in Medway (Rainham).

- Communications Group

HA are putting together the coordinated calendar ready for next meeting on 10 May.
KB putting together Intranet for CaRe, working with GR on populating.

11) Any other business:

IP – relationship between KMSCP and CaRe Group.

Need to discuss so we can provide clarity to CaRe. Could not have discussions required in this Board Meeting if it was subsumed into CaRe. A) do we still think this? B) If yes, how do we make it work? One day of two meetings? BS – would like to keep them separate because of politics and budgets. GR – define scope for each group, needs to work closely with CaRe, but think there are a lot of strengths with how it's working at the moment.

ACTION: To be discussed at next meeting with first item

AMP – RSS membership

Need clarification about what service they are providing. Have sent a single sheet through, but want something more formal about the services. Not received anything else to date. DC stated that they provide a very effective service when expert evidence is required at Court. He is expecting RSS experts down in the next few days to give advice on best practice in terms of evidence and process and it is difficult to identify where else the kind of very specialist evidence would be available from. AMP to speak to procurement – whether uniqueness is equal to combining various services. Also will circulate sheet from RSS to see if there is anything missing.

ACTION: AMP

AR – 1st May Gum Ball Rally 3000

Kent Police will be having high profile presence. KMSCP invited to take part with the vans. Do not have van sites along there so can not put the vans there. Could have one van on the bridge on A2 at Womenswold as this is an existing site.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Had one nomination for Chair, none for Vice. AMP to agree on email.

ACTION: AMP

12) Date of next Board Meeting:

Wednesday 19 May 2010, Phoenix House 10.00am start