

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6 MARCH 2002

SAPC ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE 6 FEBRUARY 2002

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum of matters discussed at the most recent meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Road Safety Sub-Committee which was held on 6 February 2002.

2. SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL (SAPC)

- 2.1** The SAPC is a national organisation which promotes home, road, water and leisure safety. Membership is made up of Elected Members and officers from local authorities as well as other organisations with an involvement in accident prevention. Sub-Committee meetings are held 3/4 times a year.

3. ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE - 6 FEBRUARY 2002

- 3.1** Twenty eight members attended the meeting. Business was conducted under the following headings.

3.2 Matters Arising

The Secretary tabled a report from the working party on a Scottish equivalent to the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety (PACTS). It was envisaged that this would be cross-party and that a sponsoring MSP would be need initially. As a significant administrative commitment would be required from such a sponsor, existing demands on their time could be a problem. It might be more efficient to have the wider remit of accident prevention. Members were asked to approach MSP's with whom they had contact.

The question of restricting the remit to road safety or widening it to accident prevention was discussed fully. It was agreed to put it on the agenda of the other committees with a view to the Executive making a recommendation to the Council at the AGM in September. Thereafter, an approach would be made to MSP's.

In a follow-up to a question on accidents involving slow-moving vehicles it was noted that there were 60 accidents involving agricultural vehicles in 1999 and 93 in 2000.

The delivery of yellow school buses for pilot schemes in England had been reported on TV. It was noted that many local authorities had been considering reducing the distance to school for children to be eligible for free school transport.

3.3 NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

A Department of Transport Local Authorities and the Regions update will be available shortly.

The Secretary tabled information on the next Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Road Safety Congress, which will be held in Stratford-upon-Avon on 4-6 March 2002. Entitled "Safer Driving the Road to Success" there will be several presentations from Scottish speakers.

3.4 DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS (DTLR)

The Driving Standards Agency had issued a discussion paper on the introduction of Hazard Perception Testing. The SAPC would respond.

3.5 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

The following had been received from the Scottish Executive:

- New Road and Street Works Act, effective from 1 February 2002;
- Development Department research findings on drinking and driving;
- Homezones and lighting and traffic calming;
- Homezones regulations 2002, inviting comments.

With regard to Homezones there was a general discussion on traffic calming in residential areas.

3.6 Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS)

The ACPOS representative reported on the festive safety campaign. It had been noted by the police that there was a high level of drinking and driving among 17-25 year olds, which agrees with the findings of recent research. There is also a perception among the general public that drinking and driving is only an issue with the police over the festive season, when it is a year round concern.

National No Speed Day will be held on 10 April. In April/May there will be a drugs driving campaign and an awareness day in June on drinking and driving, focusing on the "morning after". The DTLR will run a motorcycle campaign in May and June and the police will have a Bikesafe campaign to coincide with this. The Summer Safety campaign will focus on in-car safety and the return to school.

The question of carjackings was raised but it was not a major problem in Scotland.

3.7 CORRESPONDENCE

Lothian & Borders Police	over 55s leaflets for pedestrians and drivers
Institute of Road Safety Officers	annual conference
Tyre Industry Council	newsletter and letter advising they had received the Prince Michael Road Safety Award
Scottish Road Safety Campaign	Newsletter
Stirling Council	Local Transport Strategy
Transport Research Laboratory	Newsletter
Cyclists Touring Club	Digest
Sustrans	Safer Routes to School newsletter

3.8 2002 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The following topics were suggested for the road safety sessions:

- driving in adverse weather conditions
- a "question-time" involving a panel of MSPs
- child pedestrians
- accidents in areas of social deprivation
- speed cameras and the recovery of costs from fines
- the new highways agencies
- the fire brigade
- crash investigation
- advanced driving
- accident investigation and local authority liability
- recent Automobile Association surveys on drivers and the condition of roads
- subsidised cycle helmet scheme run by Glasgow City Council

A report would be circulated to members on these and any other topics from which they would be asked to state their preferences.

3.9 Any Other Competent Business

The question of trunk road maintenance was raised and discussed. Among points noted were the need for better liaison between local authorities, the Scottish Executive and the contractors; the reduction in winter maintenance, the sharing of gritting depots; and the difficulty local authorities had in getting to their own depots because the trunk roads had not been treated.

The Secretary agreed to write to local authorities to gauge the scale of the problem.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

GC/YK
22 February 2002

For further information please contact Gerald Cummins on 01563 555565

AGENDA