

SCRUTINY

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ROAD SAFETY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Draft July 2008

1. INTRODUCTION and TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1** As part of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2007/08 it was agreed to look at Road Safety. A Task and Finish group was established and had its first meeting on 6 February 2008.
- 1.2** The Terms of Reference for the review were as follows –
 - To establish what was happening throughout the Borough in relation to Road Safety, in particular around built up areas ie schools, health centres
 - To establish the long term plans for Rossendale

2. METHOD OF THE REVIEW

- 2.1** In scoping the review we agreed to seek evidence by interviewing a variety of 'witnesses'.
- 2.2** Lancashire Police Representative, Colin Peacock presented statistical information on casualties following road accidents in Rossendale. Further information was received on the 2010 Reduction Targets which were helpful for reference purposes
- 2.3** Daniel Herbert, Area East Manager, Highways,. Lancashire County Council also attended the meeting to provide information on the future plans for Rossendale in relation to roadworks in Rossendale, particularly Grane Road.
- 2.4** Further evidence was taken from Rob Hancock, School Travel Plans Officer, Lancashire County Council on the number of schools which had developed school travel plans in the Borough.
- 2.5** Linda Sanderson, Communications Manager, Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety, gave details on initiatives taking place throughout the County.
- 2.6** To enable the Task and Finish Group to engage with the community, a press release was produced which gave the public the opportunity to send their views to the Council on any road safety issues.
- 2.7** A questionnaire was also produced which was distributed at neighbourhood forums and was also available on the Council's website.

3. FINDINGS

The review established a number of findings as set out below:

- 3.1** The Task and Finish Group were mindful of the work that had already been undertaken by both Lancashire County Council's Highways and Transport Steering Group and Rossendale Lancashire Local.
- 3.2** That, in relation to zigzag markings outside schools which had been reported to Lancashire Locals, a schedule had been submitted to County Hall and regulation orders had been advertised which should be in place by Spring.
- 3.3** That in 2000, the government set new casualty reduction targets to be achieved by the year 2010. These targets were based on a 5 year average number of casualties from 1994-1998. The targets have been reflected at Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police and Local Councils
- 3.4** Members were made aware that accidents were still happening on Grane Road, which occurred throughout various parts of the day. In some places the road surface has been identified as a problem. Confirmation was received that work was now being carried out.
- 3.5** Initiatives were taking place to keep children off the streets during school holidays. These included Surestart, education in schools and home visits to educate families. An Acting production called 'Safetown' was being shown to children in some areas of East Lancashire.
- 3,6** There was a decrease in the number of 'failing to stop'. This had reduced by 75% due to the Electronic Registration Number Identification. There had been an increase in prosecutions for not wearing seat belts.
- 3,7** Details of consultation responses include concerns about horses on roads, improvements to safety on particular roads in the Borough, safety around schools and the speed of vehicles driving in the Borough. The specific responses will be taken into account in the development of the Strategy.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1** That members accepted that in relation to road safety around school areas, work was being undertaken to ensure the safety of pupils by introducing zigzags around schools, which were intended to be completed by the end of August.

- 4.2** That in relation to Grane Road, the Task and Finish Group were aware that work was taking place which included a £300,000 package of work which had been put together to address the concerns of County Highway Engineers and the Police, as well as concerns expressed by both district and county Councillors and members of the public.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** That the Community Safety Manager as lead officer, be requested to develop a Road Safety Strategy for Rossendale in consultation with Elected Members and that key partners be invited, as required to help develop the Strategy
- 5.2** That the Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.