



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

TANDRIDGE 'DRIVE SMART' ACTIVITIES to November 2010

14 December 2010

KEY ISSUE

To update the Committee on progress in Tandridge of the partnership initiative between Surrey County Council and Surrey Police to tackle anti-social driving and improve road safety.

SUMMARY

In the Leader's speech to full Council in June 2009, he announced a new budget of £1m to be used in partnership with Surrey Police to tackle road safety concerns arising from anti-social driving behaviour in the County, which included speeding, inconsiderate parking, for example, blocking emergency vehicles, and driving without due care to the endangerment of other road users. The resulting approach looked at engineering solutions, a programme of education through engagement with drivers and an advertising campaign aimed at raising public awareness. This was due to come to an end in 2010. However, the Leader has announced that, due to the success of the campaign, funding of £320,000 has been set aside to support it for a further 12 months.

This report seeks to update members on the progress of initiatives within Tandridge.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked:

- (i) to note and comment on the content of this report.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This year has seen the conclusion of the initial 12 months of the **DRIVE SMART** Campaign which targets the public's main concern, anti-social driving.
- 1.2 The launch of the DRIVE SMART Campaign in September 2009 focused new resources on the problems that communities have with the hazards created by road users.
- 1.3 These hazards include speeding, bad parking, use of mobile phones, not wearing a seat belt and other road traffic offences, as well as other issues such as the state of the roads and road signs and the need for police activity or engineering remedies to reduce the fears and concerns of the general public and increase the safety for all road users.

2 LOCAL RESPONSE

- 2.1 Together, the Tandridge Casualty Reduction Officer, the Roads Policing Units, the locally assigned RPCSO's and local Neighbourhood Officers have been involved in over 155 roadside checks in various locations and times resulting in hundreds of fixed penalty notices being issued for various offences; over 60 vehicles seized for driving licence and insurance offences as well as arrests for various offences such as possession of drugs, stolen goods and disqualified driving. Many other drivers were given advice through the Driver Alert Scheme, verbally warned and relevant leaflets handed out in an effort to educate them and prevent future offending.
- 2.2 In February the Special Constabulary had a weekend of activities under the Drive Smart banner throughout the county and was joined by the local teams on their checks. Another is planned for this December again highlighting the anti social driving offences as well as the travelling criminals and the Annual Drink Drive Campaign.
- 2.3 Most of the local Neighbourhood officers, TPT Champions and Special Constables have now been trained in the use of the speed monitoring devices with a view to them carrying out checks in the problem profile areas and making the roads safer through enforcement and education at specified sites, as well as assisting at the Community Speed Watch sites.
- 2.4 As part of the DRIVE SMART campaign a larger scale **Roadside Education and Enforcement Days (REED)** is taking place in each Borough, with Police and Council Road Safety Officers as well as Fire Brigade, VOSA and other agencies all aiming to change motorist's behaviour for the long term.
- 2.5 Tandridge is holding its first REED day on 30th November 2010, on the B269 in the Warlingham area. A second REED is set for Tandridge area in October 2011 which will be held in another part of the District.

3 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

There have also been targeted campaigns over the year such as;

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- 3.1 **Park SMART** which encouraged drivers by informing them of current regulations and to encourage sensible parking. Leaflets were distributed across the area by the local officers at panel meetings and in places they felt had such problems.
- 3.2 **Bike SMART** aimed at highlighting the risks to motorcyclists using the roads.
- 3.3 **Talk SMART** targeted the use of mobile phones whilst driving and again leaflets were distributed as well as targeted roadside checks to stop and prosecute drivers who did so.
- 3.4 **Junior Citizen**
This popular event took place over a 2 week period in March this year and a further 2 weeks in October.

This year we included an interactive Drive Smart station educating the year 6 children in road safety issues including the importance of wearing seat belts and how long it takes a car to stop. The majority of both private and public schools in the Tandridge area chose to attend the event this year.

A total of just over **2400** children went through the scheme during the 4 weeks in total. The feedback from the schools is extremely positive.

4 DRIVE SMART ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 As many Drive Smart activities as possible, that have taken place, are being monitored on the ASDAM monitoring system. Some of the main results for Tandridge can be seen in the table below. (An intervention is when someone has been stopped and spoken to, warned or prosecuted in relation to any kind of anti-social driving or road safety issue). [The table below shows the activities that have been logged for the Tandridge area to date].

TANDRIDGE – ASDAM totals SEPT 09 to November 10		
AREA	INTERVENTIONS	Comments
Bletchingley/Nutfield	1154	A25 Bletchingley main site for larger checks
Caterham Valley/Whyteleafe	2273	A22 northern section is 1st Casualty Reduction routes for Tandridge
Caterham Hill	1032	New CSW started
Godstone/South Godstone	1402	A22 south section is 2 nd main Cas. Red Route for Tandridge
Smallfield/Burstow	907	
Lingfield, Dormansland, Crowhurst	2384	NI re dangers in Woodcock Hill & A264 Copthorne Road speed limit change
Oxted/Limpsfield/Hurst Green	646	No CSW sites
Warlingham East/Chelsham	1242	B269 Warlingham main larger check site
Warlingham West/Woldingham	1654	B269 check area
TOTAL	12,694	

5 INTERACTIVE FLASHING SPEED WARNING SIGNS

- 5.1 The Tandridge Community Safety Team currently has four semi-mobile, interactive speed signs. One of these was funded by Drive Smart.
- 5.2 They are currently sited in Crowhurst Road, Crowhurst, Red Lane at Hurst Green and Woodcock Hill, Felbridge. One other will go out in the Caterham area and two more signs will be purchased shortly as further funds have been allocated through the Drive Smart funding. These will go out in some of the main problem profile areas and be moved every 6 months to give reassurance and speed calming at other sites around Tandridge.
- 5.3 All have been placed in sites of concern to the local residents or through collision records and even over the long term the speed reducing effect seems to be very positive and reassuring to the local residents and a number of the Parishes have their own permanent signs.

6 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

- 6.1 Community Speedwatch has continued to go from strength to strength in the Tandridge area this year. At the start of the year 13 villages had schemes carrying out checks. There are now 18 areas covered by schemes with one more interested.
- 6.2 A number of the areas involved had not carried out checks for a while and those have, in the main, been re-started with new members and new enthusiasm.
- 6.3 All of the CSW teams get support in the form of police checks carried out at the sites at times identified by them whereby offenders are prosecuted.
- 6.4 The Drive Smart funding has meant that the £1000 required for the cost of the kit to start a new scheme was readily available and this has encouraged 6 new schemes to start in Smallfield, Tatsfield, Tandridge Village, Caterham on the Hill, Tandridge Lane and Warlingham.
- 6.5 Bearing in mind the poor weather we had over the winter months, between September 2009 and August 2010, **340 hours** of Community Speed Watch checks have been carried out by the volunteers. Since then up until 5th November another **41** hours of checks have been carried out by the schemes and approximately 30 hours of supportive Police checks on the sites with the higher speeds and repeat offenders.
- 6.6 Over the winter months it is normal to see a reduction in the number of checks carried out and new members being trained but there are four new groups of volunteers in the pipeline to be trained in the next few weeks prior to joining the current groups running in Smallfield, Nutfield, Bletchingley and Felbridge.
- 6.7 The general consensus from all parties is that the CSW schemes and support police checks have a very positive effect on educating drivers and reducing the risks to road users.

7 SCHOOL SPEEDWATCH

- 7.1 The first School Speedwatch days in Tandridge were held with the help of three local schools in July this year. Schools were encouraged to get involved with the Community Speedwatch initiative aimed at educating both the drivers and the pupils of the dangers on the roads around the school.

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- 7.2 Pupils from St Stephen's Primary School went out along the A22 at South Godstone to monitor the speed of passing motorists and encourage them to slow down. They carried out two checks over two mornings and recorded a total of 22 vehicles stopped and the drivers spoken to by the children.
- 7.3 Hamsey Green Junior School spent four hours checking the speed of motorists in Tithepitshaw Lane, Warlingham. They stopped and spoke to drivers of 47 vehicles with four drivers being issued with fixed penalty notices for speeding by officers also present.
- 7.4 Children from Dormansland Primary School stopped and spoke to a total of 35 drivers, over a two day period. Two drivers were issued with fixed penalty notices for speeding.
- 7.5 School Speedwatch proved popular with the children. Motorists were pulled over by police and then spoken to by the pupils and asked why they are speeding near their schools. It really helped to get the message through to drivers to slow down and allowed the children to experience how fast vehicles can travel.

8 FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 In December the annual Drink Drive Campaign will commence with a series of OP SMART Road safety and crime orientated checks being held in each of the areas around Tandridge.
- 8.2 It is hoped that the Drive Smart initiative will continue once the year of funding has ended and certainly the activities by Police and the Community will carry on around the Tandridge area.
- 8.3 Further funding of £320,000 has recently been agreed to enable the Campaign to continue for another year.
- 8.4 The Tandridge area has been lucky enough to have been allocated funding from the 2009/2010 Drive Smart budget for a fully marked car with Provida speed checking equipment fitted to allow checks to be carried out on roads currently unsuitable for static checks. It is unknown when this vehicle will be available and it is anticipated that it will be shared at times with the Reigate and Banstead CRO who has the larger van with speed kit, ANPR and CCTV fitted.

9 OPTIONS

This report is for information only but Members are invited to comment on the content and to discuss any issues or suggestions they may have.

10 CONSULTATIONS

Surrey Police officers have worked closely with County Council officers throughout this campaign and meet regularly with the public in local surgeries.

11 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

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A sum of £1m was set aside last year to launch the campaign and a further £320,000 has been allocated by Surrey County Council in order for work to continue.

12 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The benefits of the campaign are equally available to all residents and road users in Tandridge and enforcement and education is applied consistently..

13 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Although this is largely a social awareness campaign, the Police will use their enforcement powers as necessary to ensure that the road safety policy is carried out. As a side benefit of the campaign, stopping drivers who are behaving in an anti-social manner has also aided detection of other crimes.

14 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The report seeks to offer a comprehensive view of work being carried out in the District to address anti-social driving and Members are asked to note and comment on the content.

15 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is for information.

16 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The work will continue as described for a further 12 months when findings will be reported back to all stakeholders.

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