

## LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in the School Hall at Loxwood Primary School, Loxwood.

### Minutes

**There are two appendix to these minutes:**

Appendix 1 – Public meeting with Guest Speaker Superintendent Steve Barry from the Roads Policing Unit.

Appendix 2 – Loxwood Parish Council meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

#### Appendix 1

180/09 Parish Council Chairman Alison Sanderson welcomed all those in attendance and opened the meeting.  
District Councillor John Andrews introduced Superintendent Steve Barry (SB).

Steve Barry (SB) introduced himself and explained he is the head of the Roads Policing Unit – HQ based in Lewes. It was pleasing to see such a positive turn out from the public to this meeting, Steve stated he was trying to recognise where a community was trying and making an effort to help itself.

Steve Barry explained the strategies involved in trying to make the roads safer;

- 1) Young Drivers – Age 17-25 in-experienced drivers.
- 2) Motorcyclists – All types. Operation Ride is to tackle motorcyclists at weekends. Just this weekend the covert Police bike picked up 12 motorcyclists driving dangerously. The Crown Prosecution Services are really coming on board and starting to give longer sentences to offenders.
- 3) Drink Drive/ Drug Drive.
- 4) Work Drivers – for example ‘White van drivers’. Quality of life/Commercial vehicle use etc. In some of these instances access can be gained to these offenders via their Transport Managers etc.
- 5) Criminal Fraternity– Number Plate recognition. Targeting Criminals.
- 6) Emerging Community – Lack of insurance/knowledge of roads resulting in collisions.

Sussex partnership based in Shoreham is responsible for the running of the speed cameras and Sussex Police run in partnership with them. There is a speed management policy in place:

Red Sign – Need lots of speed enforcement due to the number of complaints/accidents/fatalities. Suitability of site along with the health and safety of the site has to be considered. A full risk assessment is carried out before a decision is made.

Cllr. Thomas stated that having a Police vehicle/person visible in a village works extremely well. The issue is the timings as the offenders are often speeding earlier and later than people realise. As early as 6am through to 8am and as late as 8pm in the evenings.

Steve Berry agreed that the Partnership needs its timings tailored to suit this pattern.

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Amber Sign – Where not as much coverage is required. Sites which require periodic checks. “The reason I am here tonight is because I feel there should be a qualitative element to this. I think this would put Loxwood further up the pecking order. I will look into this further.”

Steve Barry gave his personal guarantee that, should Loxwood set up a Community Speed Watch there will be backing and interest in setting this up, from the authorities.

How it works is that if a vehicle registration is logged a warning letter will be sent. This person can then be formally targeted and formally charged with any further speeding offences committed.

Members of the public asked if there could be a ban on the weight/tonnage of lorries travelling through the village.

Steve Barry suggested he can have the Traffic Management Officers at the Local Authority look into this issue.

Mr. Tony Colling raised the issue of the recent failure to obtain a car park for the village (via the Hall Hurst Farm Development) so vehicles park on both sides of the road in the village, this has been a great debate – some say better on both sides to slow the traffic, some say not.

Steve Barry stated that parking on both sides of the road does slow vehicles down – parking both sides of the road in a village/ shop situation like ours is better as he feels it is safer for pedestrians.

When asked, Steve Barry told the audience that the SID (Speed Indicator Devices) had actually proven effective in many areas.

Cllr. Sanderson stated that in the past it had been difficult to get anywhere with this as we had always been told no, but we are feeling somewhat more positive since this meeting tonight.

The prosecutions are up in Northchapel, motorists must remember to slow down at every border.

Cllr Hooton stated that modern motor vehicles are not manufactured to travel comfortably at 30mph, manufacturers have a lot to answer for.

Members of the public raised the issue regarding the Muddles Lorries/trucks which are becoming increasingly dangerous within the village.

One member of the public asked if there could be a pedestrian crossing put in place for the safety of pedestrians crossing.

Steve Barry informed the public that should they feel the need for this type of addition to the village they would have to write to the Parish Council and the Local Authorities Traffic Infrastructure Department.

Mr Tony Colling reminded everyone that the village had an opportunity for a pelican crossing, but it was objected to by local shop owners.

Members of the public informed Steve Barry that there had been experiences recently of travelling home at 3am due to night work and being overtaken by an articulated lorry.

Steve Barry informed that there are only half the staff on duty at night than in the day, but there may be an opportunity for ‘out of hours’ patrol so he would take that away.

Steve Barry informed everyone that there is ‘Operation Crackdown’ which is a website for reporting people behaving in an anti social manner – for example no tax/ drinking and then driving/anti social driving etc. Enter the index number onto the website and they receive a letter from Steve Barry. If they become a constant offender there is another stage process it can go to. Website: [www.crackdown.org](http://www.crackdown.org) (Surrey Police version is called Drive Safe).

Cllr Sanderson and Cllr Andrews extended their thanks to Steve Barry for joining us this evening.

Appendix 1 meeting ended at 8:30pm

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