

## **Biker Forum Minutes**

**Aylesbury Fire Station  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

### **Attendees**

Nigel Spencer	Buckinghamshire County Council
Keith Wheeler	Bucks Fire & Rescue
Neil McGlyn	On yerbike
Gary Armstrong	Alternative Training
Dave Howe	BMF
Ivon Jennery	BMF
Bruce Wingrave	Bucks Better Biker

### **Apologies**

Vince Morley	Milton Keynes Council
Carole Graham	Aylesbury Advanced Motorcyclists
Graham Owen	Drivetech
Alan Songhurst	TVAM – Observer
Darren Carnell	Thames Valley Police

### **Welcome and introductions**

Everyone knew each other present at this meeting so introductions were not required.

Discussion took place regarding missing attendees to the forum, e.g. Wycombe MAG, IAM, Ambulance service, everyone took it on board to raise awareness of the forum if they meet past attendees during motorcycle related matters. Also to attempt to enlist new members for future meetings.

### **Last Meetings Minutes**

The minutes were read through from the previous meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, there were no actions outstanding.

The bid gained from the Highways Agency was cancelled as from the 1<sup>st</sup> June due to Government cuts, although Nigel has successfully negotiated payment of £1,667 from the originally agreed £4,000 as courses were ran in April & May when funding was still available.

The minutes were agreed as fine

The last 2 meetings minutes are available for viewing on the Bucks CC web site;

### **2010 Motorcycle Awareness Day and future plans**

The day was the 3<sup>rd</sup> that has been run with attendance from Bradley Smith who was very happy to support our initiative and also more in the future.

The large gazebo gave a more professional look to the occasion although this does incur charges.

Better promotion of the event would have been appreciated/beneficial although this was not possible due to last minute potential date change due to other events happening in Aylesbury (March), that may have resulted in cancelling the event.

More attendance by exhibitors would have benefited the day, although various organisations were invited but unable to attend/support.

Financial constraints will be an issue if we wish to proceed with a similar event in 2011, which may result in no funding for a gazebo and arcade style motorcycle rides.

The main idea of the day is to raise awareness to non bikers of the benefits of motorcycling to all ages, as well as engage with current motorcyclists regarding post-test training, safety campaigns and motorcycle organisations/clubs.

Discussion took place on possible alternative ventures, lower key event maybe at Eden centre, if we wish to meet a lot of people we need to go to a location with high footfall.

Need to speak to Wycombe MAG of their knowledge of events/locations that may be suitable.

Generally look for Transportation events within Bucks CC and others occasions across the County to promote motorcycling even if it just to supply leaflets, display etc to maximise message to all road users.

Decision taken to discuss further at next forum meeting in January when a better picture of resources available, venues and desire to run an awareness day may be known.

## **BABB 2010 Assessment Days**

These have now been completed for the year.

8 courses were run at Winslow, Princes Risborough & Marlow, 2 more than planned, with 110 bikers attending.

This year seems to have been the most successful yet with only 2 non attendees at the 8 courses.

Any further people applying on-line will be placed on a waiting list for next year.

New procedure for booking on a course & paying on-line by pay pal is up & running ready for 2011

The Be a Better Biker initiative has been shortlisted for a Highways excellence Road Safety award, the winner will be announced on 20<sup>th</sup> October, fingers crossed

## **BABB 2011**

Exciting times ahead!!!

The business case submitted for the roll out of the Be a Better Biker initiative across all of the Thames Valley has been accepted.

The course will now be endorsed by the Thames Valley Police and the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership.

The plan is to run 20 courses across the Thames Valley at strategically placed venues to cover most areas of the Thames Valley, hopefully at fire stations with the assistance of Keith from the fire service.

The challenge now is to raise awareness of the scheme in the coming months before April next year, directing them to the [www.beabetterbiker.co.uk](http://www.beabetterbiker.co.uk) website where they will view training dates, book a place & pay on-line.

The Police & camera partnership have agreed to support the initiative and assist in promoting the awareness days, also offering police motorcyclists for promotional events.

We plan to run 4 "promo days" early in the 2011 biking season to raise awareness of the assessment days, suggested locations were: Fox's diner, On yer bike. Looking for a location in Berks & Slough areas. Will also look to send info out via bike meets, biker events & club nights.

Look to make use of motorcycle business connections within the Thames Valley e.g.

Ducati – Milton Keynes

George White – Slough

Honda – Slough

Kawasaki – Bourne End/H.Wycombe

Also good contact would be through the air bases across the Thames Valley e.g. Brize Norton, Benson, Halton, Bicester

Celebrity involvement would be excellent also, pursue Bradley Smith, Scott Reading, Mark Webber & Darren Gough all who have bases within the Thames Valley.

Please e-mail Nigel if you can add any locations, business contacts, celebrities, outlets etc to assist next year's campaign.

### **Motorcycle Casualty Stats**

Latest figures available for 2010 are up to the end of July which are:  
3 killed, 29 seriously injured. Total 32 KSI

2009 figures for similar period up to end of July were:  
3 killed, 32 seriously injured. Total 35 KSI

Final motorcycle stats for 2009 were:  
3 fatal & 52 serious = 55 KSI

There have been four motorcycle fatal collisions so far this year, 3 in April at Denham, M25/M40 slip road & Cadmore end, fourth in August on A413 between Aylesbury & Whitchurch.

### **Motorcycle collisions on Buckinghamshire's roads**

Gary Armstrong requested looking at motorcycle collisions in Bucks to discuss factors of the incident, and maybe to compare to other collisions not involving a motorcycle.

Discussion was had about the 4 fatalities so far.

**Nigel to progress** these collisions to close at inquest, then report back to forum. Also find information about other collisions.

Q. Any information on motorcycle crash in June on B474 at Beaconsfield? **Nigel to find out.**

### **Round the table input**

**Dave** – In the current financial climate, are there any indications that District Councils may be charging for motorcycle parking?

**Nigel to enquire** with District Councils, without putting the idea into their minds!

**Ivon** – Did anyone know who is responsible for the active traffic management signs on the M40/M25? – Centre at South Mimms was suggested on the evening.

Thank you Keith for providing venue for this meeting & hopefully future ones too.

### **Date of next forum meeting**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30pm, Aylesbury Fire Station, Stocklake, HP20 1BD