

**Biker Forum
Minutes**

**Aylesbury Fire Station
28th January 2008**

Attendees

Nigel Spencer	Buckinghamshire County Council
Gary Armstrong	Alternative Training
Keith Wheeler	Bucks Fire & Rescue
Mark Mawby	Wycombe Mag
Ivon Jennery	BMF
Vince Morley	Milton Keynes Council
Keith Wheeler	Bucks Fire & Rescue
Dave Howe	BMF
Trevor Magner	British Motorcyclists Federation
Neil McGlynn	Onyer bike Training
Darren Carnell	Thames Valley Police
Derek Flint	Two Shires Ambulance Service

Apologies

Graham Owen	Drivetech
Graham Booth	T-CAD ROSPA
Dan Flett	RAF Halton

Welcome and introductions

Introductions went around the table.

Welcoming Darren as a new member to the forum from the Thames Valley Police replacing Paul Thornton/ Malcolm Messenger.

Welcome Derek who assisted the forum writing the motorcycle strategy in 2007, also Dave Howe – BMF rep for North Bucks & Milton Keynes

Dan Flett from RAF Halton is still on a tour of duty overseas.

Last Meetings Minutes

The previous meetings minutes were read through and it was highlighted that a change was made to reflect the training day Milton Keynes that it was not as a result of increased motorcycle crash's but had been planned for a few months previously.

Question from previous minutes from Gary Armstrong re building work happening outside library in Aylesbury, this is for an information centre for the public.

Nigel still investigating if other authorities have evidence/data supporting the use of motorcycle signs.

The minutes were agreed as fine.

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

Motorcycle Awareness Day

Discussions took place to run a "motorcycle awareness day" this summer in the centre of Aylesbury, as identified in the motorcycle strategy.

All agreed it would be good & to proceed with arranging it.

Dates suggested from the Aylesbury Town Centre Management were 7th, 14th or 21st June, although the first 2 dates clash with other events so they were discarded.

Are there any dates in May available? if not we will have to go for the 21st June.

What audience is the event looking to attract? Not just bikers, but families & potential new motorcycle users young & old.

One of the aims is to make car drivers more aware of P2W as this is a problem in regard to KSI's – especially in M.Keynes.

Opportunities to promote training, advanced training, dealers, training schools, ROSPA, IAM, local bike clubs. Also invite travel planning team from within Bucks CC

Funding is available from town centre management, this could be used to offer free refreshments, prize draws etc, etc.

Seek support from local motorcycle business's – Honda, Suzuki & Kawasaki, Onyer bike also Ford & Ellis of Chesham.

Scooter dealer to attract potential new riders.

Have arcade style ride on game to provide attraction – competition for the day?

Please can forum members send to Nigel any contacts that may be helpful?

Local bike clubs, dealers etc.

Biker Drop-in, Winslow Fire Station

Keith spoke about an initiative that will be launched by Bucks Fire & Rescue Service of a biker drop in scheme to be held at Winslow fire station.

The first one will be on Sunday 22nd June likely to be between 10am – 2pm and then once a month there after.

The initiative will give motorcyclist the chance to have free bike and visor checks, these being given by Peter Holland of Mursley motorcycle services.

Motorcyclists will be encouraged to stop at the Winslow fire station for refreshments and meet with other like-minded enthusiasts.

Road Safety DVD's and leaflets will also be distributed.

For more information of this initiative being run by East Sussex fire & rescue service look on; www.battlebikerdropin.co.uk

Be a Better Biker 2008

The dates and venues for this years courses are as follows;

26th April	Winslow centre
17th May	Princes Risborough fire station
7th June	Winslow centre
28th June	Princes Risborough fire station
12th July	Winslow centre
6th September	Princes Risborough fire station

These will once again be advertised in the Bucks Times and through local press and media.

The BABB web page has been updated for 2008 and 11 on-line applications have already been received. There is also a waiting list of 14 people who were unable to attend last year.

This is the fifth year of the assessment days and hopefully it continues to be well attended.

Milton Keynes will be looking to run 2 or 3 similar assessment days in 2008, after the success of the pilot one ran in October 2007.

Thames Valley Police Safer Rider website (www.SaferRider.org) is going through a major update and the force is looking to take it forward as more of a partnership initiative.

Although the police have no motorcycles at the moment.

There is a new nationwide initiative being launched in February in Crewe. It is the new national RIDE diversion scheme for riders, offering an alternative to fixed penalty or prosecution which is very similar to the current TVP scheme but without the on-road element, this is currently being piloted.

Bus Lanes – Aylesbury Hub

Ivon requested the latest info on bus lanes in Aylesbury.

The last bus lane to be completed as part of the HUB is under construction in the Boulevard/Aylesbury train station.

All the other bus lanes have been completed & are available for use by motorcyclists.

Motorcycle Casualty Stats

The latest casualty figures for motorcyclists in Buckinghamshire are;

From 1st January – 30th November 2007
3 killed & 45 seriously injured

For the same period last year it was 4 killed & 61 seriously injured

There were no more fatals recorded in 2007, so this year looks like being the lowest casualty figures, it will definitely be the lowest figure for fatals.

Let's hope the downward trend continues in 2008 by continuing to raise awareness of motorcycling, running campaigns and assessment days.

DFT Motorcycle Conference

Nigel reported back on this conference he attend on 22nd January in Birmingham. Focusing on motorcyclists as vulnerable road users it shared research findings from Nottingham University, had presentations from the IHIE and the Highways Agency.

There were afternoon workshops with Lancashire County Council, Nottingham County Council, Cumbria safety partnership and Transport for London, who shared campaigns on education and engineering measures they promote to reduce motorcycle crash's.

Highlighting the campaign aimed at scooter riders; www.bare-bones.org and the availability of think bike stickers from; www.shinysideup.co.uk

Round the table input

Dave – BMF – Was concerned about the central reservation wire rope used on the new Stoke Hammond by-pass, although he received a reply from the Council stating it met current design standards, would like to have been included in consultation stage.

Nigel to request that BMF & MAG are added to the consultation list. Nigel commented that P2W are considered in planning stages more now, as his copy of the IHIE guidelines is regularly researched within the office.

Mark – Wycombe MAG – Informed the forum of the dates for this years Chinnor bike weekend, which are; 4th, 5th & 6th July

Keith – Bucks fire & rescue – Informed the forum of the dates of:
Ludgershall bike night – Monday 7th July
Newton Longville Festival of Transport – Sunday 25th May

Ivan – BMF – Due to work patterns, he will not be able to attend the next forum.

Gary – Alternative Training – Requested info on what Bedfordshire CC was offering at an off-road facility

The off-road bike track in Beds can be found at www.midbedsmx.net
It is a club for kids which has just started and are about to announce a new venue.

- Thank you to Keith for this info.

Also request the motorcycle awareness day be promoted on the web page.

Derrick – Offered to support motorcycle events where possible with first aid on helmet removal

Darren – Highlighted police enforcement activity on the new Stoke Hammond by-pass

Nigel – Distributed information about Buckinghamshire's County Council "Driving for work" conference at Green Park on Wednesday 27th February.

Gary requested more copies for use during his work with City Link. Nigel to supply more via porter's office at County Hall.

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

Date of next forum meeting

Monday 28th April 2008 at 7.30pm, Aylesbury Fire Station, Stocklake, HP20 1BD