



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY
LAW ENFORCEMENT

Bailiwick of Guernsey Community Advisory Group Meeting: Road Harmony Wednesday 18th May 2022



A meeting of the Bailiwick of Guernsey Law Enforcement's (BLE) Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting was held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 18th May 2022. The aim of the CAG is to facilitate two-way discussion between the community and law enforcement, the sessions revolve around themes, to allow thoughts and feelings around issues to be drawn out. The theme of this meeting was: Road Harmony.

The meeting was attended by a cross-section of individuals, with most representing particular interests / third sector organisations. Ahead of the meeting, BLE publicised the upcoming meeting through social media and asked for any interested parties to contact BLE to get involved with CAG and attend the meeting. The following is a summary of the meeting along with BLE next step actions:

The meeting was opened by Deputy Chief Officer – Police Ian Scholes who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support through this engagement. Also present from BLE were Head of Law Enforcement, Ruari Hardy, Research and Strategy Manager Marie Mauger, Communications Officer Stephen King and Special Constable (Communications) Damian Wrigley. Paul James, Road Safety Officer from Traffic and Highway Services was also present. Paul can be contacted via: paul.james@gov.gg Tel: 220342.

Ian Scholes introduced the topic in focus at this meeting and gave a brief background on his experience as a road user – being a police officer, a pleasure cyclist, a sport cyclist, a driver and walker. He explained how he had witnessed road harmony and disharmony and has experienced in how we as individuals react to road behaviours and with this in mind, wanted to pull this group together to work together across the community to understand the issues and come up with a plan to improve road behaviours.

Ian Scholes explained how it is important to understand the issues that are being experienced. He noted that much of the frustration plays out on social media which can lead to factions forming between different groups of road users. He pointed out that this evening's meeting was not about pointing fingers at any particular groups – but looking at the broader issues.

Ian Scholes explained that Inspector Tom Marshall is the lead for Roads Policing (*who unfortunately could not attend this meeting due to illness*) – Tom often reminds us that our roads were horse tracks which have now been covered in tarmac and are not really fit for purpose in our modern age. Due to this limited infrastructure, it is really important for the community to come together (looking to the ethos of 'Guernsey Together') to work together to change attitudes and cultures to make the roads safer for all road users.

Ian Scholes opened the floor for questions and discussion. The Group discussed a variety of topic areas including:

- Road use and vision impaired persons – focusing on road crossing and audible cues
- Passing horses and giving audio cues when approaching from behind to avoid surprising horses
- Driving licences and declarations of certain conditions
- Road patience and how overtaking does not always equate to a speedier journey + the consequences of unsafe overtaking
- Data about the time people are waiting behind bicycles or similar and how some communications could be based on this messaging (time, travel and patience)

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- The perception that everywhere in Guernsey is 10 minutes away – however the road network is more congested, and filled with larger vehicles
- Video evidence of bad driving etc., and how this is handled
- The social unacceptability of drink driving – and how there needs to be a culture/attitude change with road use generally
- Consequences for unsafe road practices and how penalties may encourage behavioural change
- Differentiations between traffic accidents and other damaging events such as assaults
- Speed limits for vehicles in excess of 2 tonnes – and the enforcement of this
- Portals for uploading dash-cam footage and similar – link into law enforcement
- Recent changes to the highway code
- The infrastructure of the island
- Single occupancy car journeys and car sharing
- The need to engage with children and young people to promote better road practices
- What could be highlighted in messaging and tone of social media channels
- Physical boundaries and making space for pedestrians
- Road Safety Week in November and how this could be used

As part of the discussions, the representative from the Guernsey Blind Association drew the group's attention to some media work they are being assisted by Specsavers with – it was agreed that group members would share this campaign on their social media channels etc. when available. The representative from the Royal British Legion also highlighted their new psychology support for ex-service personnel.

During the meeting, BLE committed to undertaking the following actions:

Actions:

1. Autism Guernsey representatives to contact Stephen King via community@guernsey.pnn.police.uk to obtain contact details of suitable contacts at Environment & Infrastructure Guernsey if required to discuss and learn more about declaration of certain conditions in order to be assessed fit to drive
2. Group members to submit any relevant information / statistics they have collated, particularly concerning travel times, or messaging ideas to community@guernsey.pnn.police.uk for potential inclusion in upcoming messaging
3. BLE Communications to work on some media campaigns around good road use – utilising visual elements such as brief videos. The campaign should seek to provide a human element to the issues (drivers not vehicles) positive messaging, showing good examples and highlighting the hierarchy of road users.
4. Paul James to circulate the Guernsey highway code revisions to the CAG members (via M Mauger) once ratified by the States of Guernsey
5. Paul James to feed back on the question posted regarding the use of a bike and electrically assisted trailer (following advice given by a retailer that they would not be allowed here)

BLE Community Advisory Group

Contact us at: Community@guernsey.pnn.police.uk

Visit us at: <https://www.guernsey.police.uk/CAG>