

Appendix 1 Notes from VZSW Meeting

Date: 11th May 2022

Attending: Cllr Mark Williams DFPC – Lead on VZSW Project, Karla McKechnie- Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer, Verity Nicholls and Graham Colton – Peek Hill Farm, Justine Colton – Tor Royal, Andrea Roberts – DNP, Cllr Greg Manning DFPC

Apologies : James Anstee, Richard Glanville and Graham Watson

High-vis animal neck collars were issued to Graham, Verity and Justine for distribution as required

Greg suggested the public should be informed that VAS cameras do not collect data on number plates, to avoid the risk of vandalism. He also mentioned that Prison Officers have commented that they feel targeted by the community speed watch cameras.

Mark stated that the full VZSW grant has now been received. The VAS £2850 has been ordered, due in 7 / 8 weeks. Other signage has not yet been ordered. He requested the committee's agreement that the large brown sign at Princetown be repaired, 4 others also revamped, and two new ones placed at Leeden Tor. This was agreed.

Greg suggested the signage at Peek Hill cattle grid be moved 50 yards up. Graham agreed there is too much signage too close to the cattle grid there.

Verity suggested signage with pictures of running animals.

The 40mph road markings were discussed, and it was agreed they are misplaced and ineffective. They should be on the long straight stretches of road, in bright yellow.

Karla suggested rumble strips to slow traffic. Andrea commented that this would need accompanying street lighting.

Mark said he will look into getting the road markings improved.

Andrea suggested signage with changeable messages underneath. Andrea will also look into this.

Andrea suggested more Do Not Feed The Pony signs. Graham stated that 'Double Car Parks', 'The Pond' and 'Leeden Tor' are the best places for these. Andrea will look into this.

Karla presented the Road Traffic Accident stats for animal deaths. They will be used to prove that more funding is required elsewhere across Dartmoor.

It was suggested that we work together with Dartmoor Speedwatch Forum.

Graham will fit 30 collars to his animals before the end of June. The rest will be fitted in September when he brings them all in for TB testing.

Graham and Verity agreed to drive the cattle with collars on at an agreed launch date, for the press to film. Jackie to organise the press.

Andrea mentioned the DSFRS motorbike initiative, aimed at reducing vehicle speeds on the moors. Could we involve them in the launch and ongoing? Mark agreed to speak with them. DNPA will also need to be involved in the launch.

Andrea will organise advertising of the launch at the Princetown Visitors' Centre, where it will be based.

Justine suggested it also be advertised in the car parks.

Justine suggested stopping salt being used on the road, to stop animals licking the roads and causing a hazard.

Karla presented a leaflet used elsewhere to explain to members of the public why feeding the ponies is not good, and giving statistics on animal deaths. It was suggested we get our own version printed up, and place them in locations such as pubs, schools, the Visitor's Centre, and issue them on the Community Speed Watch.

Greg agreed to look into printing leaflets, and also into placing newspaper ads. Perhaps signage giving no.s of animal deaths could be sponsored? Perhaps the cost of the leaflets could be sponsored?

The date of the launch was agreed as 24th June.

It was discussed to trial another VAS on the B3212 in the opposing direction in October. Karla has a VAS available for use.

Andrea stated that the data gathered must be used to prevent further animal injuries and deaths. She agreed to download the data.

Karla also has access to this data. Jackie to source past data for comparison purposes.

Mark to ask Marion for historical data.

Justine to speak with Chris Chapman re: photographs.

The next get-together will be 10am, 24th June at Dartmoor Visitor's Centre, Princetown for the launch.