



Notes of the LASIG Meeting

Held on: 2nd March 2016

At: the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB

This meeting was sponsored by Videalert Limited



Item	Notes
	<p>Chair: Helen Crozier</p> <p>Minute taker: Caroline Nash</p> <p>After a brief introduction from Helen the following items were discussed:</p>
1.	<p>BPA Survey Update – Kelvin</p> <p>Gave a brief slide presentation on the Membership Study – whereby a number of local authorities had responded on the services provided by the BPA. Importantly, 99.5% happy with the frequency of BPA meetings and their contents and overall satisfaction was high. But the BPA continues to improve and welcomed any specific feedback from authorities. Encouragingly the survey identified that the vast majority of new members had been encouraged to join by existing members.</p>
2.	<p>BPA Update – Phil Hammer, President of the BPA</p> <p>Gave a brief overview of some of the more important work the BPA are being involved in, including the launch of the new Legal Services provision provided by the BPA, the service having extensive knowledge of Local Authorities, and it is important that members do give feedback on this service.</p> <p>The Group were reminded that the DCLG were launching their consultation in May, on off street enforcement and regulation. The BPA was please at the level of access and influence that they were having with the DCLG on these matters.</p>
3.	<p>A look at the outcomes of the sign review – Simon Morgan, Buchanan Computing</p> <p>A presentation was given by Simon on the sign review which highlighted a number of changes being brought in by the new Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 – being published in late March to come into effect April/May. The presentation is available.</p> <p>Coming out of this update is the development of a DfT “clutter task force” – which is going to be a</p>

	<p>separate piece of work to look at the Traffic Signs Manuals/Guidance but these it is expected will not be available for another year. It is expected that these will be available for a peer review around September.</p> <p>Finally, the manual will not show a complete time plate the intention is that it is the Ikea approach – assemble yourself to allow greater flexibility.</p>
4	<p>Parkex Update – Helen Crozier</p> <p>This year to be held at the Rico Stadium, Coventry – it is considered a good venue, though there are issues in its accessibility. The train station has just opened but there is only 1 train an hour. But there is free parking.</p> <p>The Sundowners group will get together in the evening.</p>
5.	<p>Using intelligent CCTV to improve children’s safety outside schools – Tim Daniels, Vidalert</p> <p>A presentation was given regarding the safety outside schools and the Vidalert product – an overview on how it works and a demonstration of some of the captures outside schools. Picking up the contravention, signs and lines.</p> <p>Importantly, there is a hosted platform offered to Local Authorities – it is DfT certified and is currently being used by some local authorities including Portsmouth Council. Tim is happy to discuss the product with any local authority and can be contacted direct.</p>
6.	<p>TEC Matters – discussion session of current issues – John Denny, TEC</p> <p>John outlined the increase in workloads year on year and for 2015 there were some 1.2 million registrations, and 1 million warrants issued. Through working with the Customer Insight Working Group, which has been operating for a year, it has been possible to reduce the number of complaints being received.</p> <p>Though there has been a 27% increase in the workload TEC are still within the response targets of 1-2 days, on correspondence. Though TEC still want to improve the service that they offer and are looking at a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Extensions – on this matter they would like to work with LA’s; B) Help Desk – there has been a number of IT issues which has affected this service, this is now being resolved; C) Issuing of warrants – there is still some confusion who issues the Warrant, there are a considerable number of complaints coming to TEC on this and again TEC would like to work with the LA’s to resolve this. <p>Followed a brief question and answer session – stressed that on many issues TEC staff are simply there to ensure that the forms are correctly completed, this was specifically raised in relation to in time “Stat Dec” which are approved even if done 3 or 4 times. The instruction to TEC staff is that the proper box should be ✓. TEC are not there to judge it.</p> <p>John shared his contact details at the meeting.</p>
7.	<p>Update on the introduction of the new £1 coin – Rhodri Ryland, Royal Mint</p> <p>A presentation was provided on the new £1 coin which has come about because of the number of counterfeit coins in circulation. Samples of the new coin are still available from the Royal Mint</p>

	<p>to those that have a business based requirement to test the new coin.</p> <p>There are currently 5 working groups at the moment of which the BPA is represented and any feedback is welcome from all either direct to the Royal Mint or via the BPA.</p> <p>There are no plans for any other currency changes other than the polymer notes and more information on this will be shared at a later date.</p>
	LUNCH
8.	<p>HMRC vs Isle of Wight Council and others re off street parking an VAT – Rowel Genn, Rowel Genn Solicitors</p> <p>A presentation was given to the group regarding this case where it was determined that under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, off street parking was considered vatable, whilst on street parking where the Local Authority had a monopoly was not.</p> <p>The case has now been published and Rowel was willing to circulate his presentation.</p>
9.	<p>Coping with austerity measures – Louise Hutchinson PATROL</p> <p>A presentation was given on the challenges to LA at this time. The messages are coming through from the Annual reports that TPT receive from enforcing authorities, about what LA's are trying to do and where traffic management and parking play a role in supporting this.</p> <p>The on line appeal management system provided by TPT is already showing savings in terms of time and money. Oxfordshire are showing savings in terms of time and research is currently being carried out with Birmingham University into how this service is being used. It is quicker for the Adjudicators and it is possible to upload moving footage of the contravention for bus lane enforcement. It provides a significant improvement in communication with all the users involved.</p> <p>Work is being carried out with Brighton to look at witness statements and the development of the next module to deal with this through the portal.</p> <p>There will be a number of workshops the first being those councils that deal with high volume numbers, with a view to engaging with other councils with a roll out by the end of the year.</p> <p>Next Bus Lane User Group – has a provisional date of the 9th June.</p>
10.	<p>End of Session – Helen Crozier</p> <p>Helen requested feedback on the best bits of the day and any items that members may wish to discuss next time in advance of the upcoming sessions. Please email helen.crozier@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Leeds LASIG – July 2016</p> <p>Bristol LASIG – October 2016</p>
11.	<p>A closed discussion for Local Authorities – an opportunity for those present to raise issues of current interest and share information with other local authority colleagues</p> <p>Meeting Closed</p>