**Paper 4**

**Police operation to assess breach of local traffic orders in area of Balls Farm Road**

**Operation dates:** Wednesday 4th July 2018, Tuesday 7th August 2018 and 10th October 2018

**Operation times:** Approximately 0720 hours until approximately 0900 hours on all days

**Operation location:** Doctors Walk, Little John’s Cross Hill and Balls Farm Road with a stop site at the Twisted Oak Public House.

**Resourcing:** This increased with each operation due to the volume of traffic to be managed. There were 13 Police officers and staff on the ground on the last deployment.

**Overview:**

The operation was lead with public safety at the forefront as there have been several near misses over the last few months including a teacher being knocked of their bike. As well, number of surveys have been undertaken that show a large increase in amount traffic using the roads over the past few years.

Police intention was to focus on drivers contravening the road restrictions that are in place in the area with view to providing that data to Devon Highways and other agencies involved in determining a safe and realistic way to manage and reduce the risk of harm to pedestrians/cyclists using the areas in the key time period.

In an attempt to evidence what has been anecdotally offered in terms of level of breaches the operation was carried out on 3 separate occasions, twice in term time and once during school holidays.

**Outcome:**

**Wednesday 4th July 2018 -** During the course of the operation 76 cars were stopped with 28 being issued OSCOs (OSCO’s are traffic offence reports) and one person being reported for driving whilst disqualified.

It was extremely busy between 0810 and 0830 hours, and we had to call halt to operation due to back log of drivers that needed to be spoken to at the stop site. During this time drivers were stopped at the junction and words of advice issued. There were also a number of cars that turned around during the course of the operation once they saw officers so the amount of drivers using the roads is likely higher than recorded.

The following operations had a similar pattern though all those stopped were reported for breaching the traffic order.

**Tuesday 7th August 2018** – 29 OSCO’s issued including the reporting of an individual for no MOT.

**Wednesday 10th October 2018** – 34 OSCO’s issued.

What is clear to see, having been involved with the operations is that the number of OSCO’s issued only reflects approximately 30% of the traffic contravening the regulations in place. Geographically the location is extremely difficult to manage large traffic volume. In essence, had we the capability of stopping all offending vehicles, using the 4th July as a bench mark at least 75 vehicles per day contravene these regulations. In addition there appears to be little difference between term and non-term time.

For those OSCO’s issued for “contravening a local traffic order” relating specifically to Balls Farm Road there have been no prosecutions, instead persons have been invited to training presentations which I understand to be similar to speed awareness days organised for speeding motorists. This is a decision out of the control of Police officers.

I hope this report provides the information envisaged and I will gladly attend meetings held to determine a positive outcome for community.

Yours respectfully,

PS 5830 Gary PHILLIPS

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