

North Somerset Council

22 September 2020

Report on Avon Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Ruth Jacobs

This report is a little different from the usual.

I feel that members would like to know that WSM Avon and Fire Rescue Service Station 18 have taken on under Red Watch - Biker Down road safety campaign.

This campaign is an important part of the service and shows how safety on our roads is vital.

This comes as a poignant reminder, as in my ward a motorcyclist died in July. It is important to note that the Ambulance service is also involved in this initiative. It is hoped that future plans will be called out across the whole organisation. We should all be proud that the service in one of our areas is taking the lead in our community,

The following has been prepared by Red Watch commander Station 18.

RED WATCH WSM BIKER DOWN ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Introduction

Biker Down is a national initiative from the Fire and Rescue Services, initially devised by Kent Fire and Rescue Service to try and reduce the number of bike fatalities on the road. Courses are supported by both the Ambulance Service and the Avon Fire and Rescue Service to educate bike riders to keep themselves safe on the road and how to help if they are involved in or are present at an accident.

Biker down outline

During 3 initial biker down courses at Station 18 Weston-super-Mare a total of 36 participants from across the service area and wider were delivered modules in scene safety and assessment, the science of being seen as a road user and first aid & casualty care (delivered by SWAST) under our JESIP relationship. These modules were developed by Red Watch at Station 18 alongside input from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service who have their own designated Biker Down team. The participants ranged from the age of 21 to 67, both male and female and were mostly motorcyclists. The courses were advertised via our presence at Weston-super-Mare's 'bike night', a free event held to raise money for the royal British Legion on the seafront every Thursday night during the summer months and via Facebook by Liam Corcoran and Corporate Comms.

The course was delivered by FF Thomas, FF Ballard, FF Pearson, FF Fry and FF Kirsopp. The course lasted 2.30 hrs and was free to attend, tickets were booked via Eventbrite and organised by Corporate Comms. On completion of the course, the

participants were issued with a small first aid pack aimed at motorcyclists to keep in their gear or stowed in their motorcycles storage. These kits were purchased by Avon Fire and Service. The courses were a great success and are still in huge demand, they currently still receive enquiries about future courses and bookings. We haven't pursued any further dates for courses due COVID 19 and new rules and regulations around social distancing and non-essential personal on station.

Summary

This is a road safety campaign primarily aimed at motor cyclists from stn 18 Red watch Weston Super Mare all dedicated motor cyclists themselves with the one aim improving road safety on our roads with the assistance of the Avon Fire and Rescue Service.

Conclusion

Demands for course attendees are increasing each visit. Red Watch WSM should remain the central hub of management / organisation and delivery for maximum effect.

Future Plans

To be rolled across the organisation inviting our partners.
Improved booking and improving course content .

Councillor Ruth Jacobs
Wick St Lawrence and St Georges
Member of Avon Fire and Rescue Authority.