



The Road Safety Wales Low Down

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Ken Skates Leads Push for Greater Road Safety in Wales



Although we have some of the safest roads in the world, every death or serious injury is one too many, Economy Secretary Ken Skates has said.

The Cabinet Secretary opened a high level Road Safety in Wales event in Cardiff on 18 October, bringing together key decision makers in the emergency services and local authorities. The event looked ahead to how new and emerging technologies will impact on safety on Welsh roads and how behaviour change models can be applied to reduce casualties, in particular among the most high risk groups of motorcyclists and young people. The Road Safety in Wales event brings decision makers together to review and update the Welsh Government's road safety framework. This framework informs how partners in Wales work together to ensure Welsh roads are as safe as possible, setting out targets and the actions being taken to achieve them.

Project EDWARD 2017



#ProjectEDWARD

The results of TISPOL's Project EDWARD 2017 are now available, and the UK was one of 15 countries that reported zero fatalities. Unfortunately, however, there were 43 deaths on the day across 31 countries in Europe, with Poland recording 10 and Romania and Greece 6 fatalities each.

Social Media activity was key to the day, and #Project EDWARD trended number 1 in Ireland, number 4 in the UK and number 5 in Germany, Spain and other countries during the day. Total unique reach, between Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 September was 25 million, and there were 8,813 posts over the 48 hour period.

As well as raising awareness of road safety issues, a key aim of Project EDWARD was to draw attention to the value of national and Europe-wide road safety targets. For more information visit the [TISPOL website](#).

Driving Test Changes Explained



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

The driving test is changing from Monday 4 December 2017 to include following directions from a sat nav and testing different manoeuvres.

The changes are designed to make sure new drivers have the skills they'll need to help them through a lifetime of safe driving.

The four driving test changes are:

- Independent driving part of the test will increase to 20 minutes
- Following directions from a sat nav
- Reversing manoeuvres will be changed
- Answering a vehicle safety question while you're driving

[View a video](#) that explains the changes in more detail

SWF&R – World and UK Extrication Champions



South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has been hailed as World and UK extrication champions. The world beating team of six took on the UK Fire and Rescue Services to retain the national title for the second year in a row.

Just one week after being named as World Champions in Romania, the team of six from Bridgend have also retained their national champion title after competing at the United Kingdom National Rescue Challenge in Hull. This double success in consecutive years has never been achieved by any team before.

In addition to the success of all the UK Fire and Rescue Services' teams competing, attending SWFRS' Assistant Chief Fire Office Andrew Thomas, informed the 700 strong audience that the 2018 United Kingdom Rescue Challenge had been awarded to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and will be held at a venue in Cardiff in September 2018. This will be the second time the service has been awarded the honour of hosting this prestigious event.

Virtual Reality App to Teach Road Safety to Children



A virtual reality app is being developed at the University of South Wales (USW) to help teach road safety to primary school children. USW academic Dr Catherine Purcell (Psychology), an expert in the link between perception and action at the roadside, is leading the project alongside co-investigator Dr Mike Reddy (Computing), a games design expert, after they were awarded funding from the Road Safety Trust (RST).

The funding is being used to develop a virtual reality game-based road safety education app, which will be tested for 'proof-of-concept' in Welsh primary schools.

Many UK schools currently implement road safety education programmes that use books and knowledge-based games to teach road safety rules to children. Although roadside behavioural training is more effective than these methods, many schools do not have the resources to take children to the roadside to learn the very practical skill of road crossing.

The aim of this project is to develop technology that will allow children to learn road-crossing skills in a safe, virtual environment, providing a cost-effective way to gain road crossing practice. If the game is found to be successful in these early trials, additional funding will be sought to develop it further, with a view to sharing it free of charge with schools across the UK. The wider roll-out to UK schools will involve implementing the game as an addition to current road safety education, rather than as a replacement.

You can follow the progress of the project by following the RST Project on Facebook and Twitter (@RSTproject), or by following their development blog at <https://rstproject.wordpress.com/>.

Road Safety Calendar



A road safety calendar designed mainly for use in schools has been produced by Road Safety Wales at the request of several Local Authorities. Pat Bates, Road Safety Strategy Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council, said: "I think the road safety calendar is a great idea. We send the printed academic year calendar to every primary school in the borough, plus our own councillors as many are also school governors, to local politicians and other key partners including some in the health sector. We follow this up each month with a PDF of the month in question, each of which has its own theme, to deliver a monthly road safety prompt to all those who received the printed calendar and also to a wider audience. We find that this simple

scheme engenders a lot of goodwill towards road safety for little financial outlay.

In the covering email we stress that road safety themes for children include walking and cycling, so the calendar also supports the active travel and health and wellbeing initiatives that are so topical these days. Although the calendar is geared towards children, we all know that road safety is the responsibility of every road user, whether pedestrian, cyclist, motorist or any of the other modes of transport."

#WalkSafe



Latest figures show that in the last three years in Wales, 9 pedestrians have been killed and 62 seriously injured when they were affected by alcohol. Through its social media activity, RoSPA Wales is helping to raise awareness of the risks of walking while impaired by alcohol. RoSPA's partners in Road Safety Wales and other organisations including colleges, universities, community groups and the voluntary sector are invited to share the messages and help to draw attention to this important road safety concern.

Michelle Harrington, RoSPA's Road Safety Manager for Wales said: "In addition to highlighting the extra risk faced when walking when

impaired by alcohol, we will be reminding other road users that not all pedestrians are able to behave predictably, or in accordance with the rules of the Highway Code. Pedestrians under the influence of alcohol are more likely to make errors of judgement and to behave in a manner that leads them to become involved in, or to cause, a road traffic accident."

Intoxication leads to poor decision making, lower vigilance, increased reaction time and reduced visual perception. These reminders raise awareness of the vulnerability of pedestrians and call for friends to assist if someone they know needs help to get home safely.

High quality versions of the resources can be requested by contacting [RoSPA Wales](#).

New Safe Crossing Point Installed at Treforest Industrial Estate



Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has installed a new safe crossing point at Treforest Industrial Estate, following a significant joint investment with the University of South Wales (USW). The £150,000 project has seen a toucan crossing introduced at Main Avenue (A4054), located between the USW Sports Park and Powys Road junctions. It provides a safe crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists on the main road through the industrial estate, with Treforest Estate Railway Station nearby.

Councillor Andrew Morgan, Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways, said: "A new safe crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists has been introduced at Treforest Industrial Estate, following the commissioning of the traffic lights. The Council and USW both invested £75,000 to enable this scheme, which improves safety at a busy area serving local businesses, the university sports park and Treforest Estate Railway Station. The crossing point has been placed at an area suitable for students accessing the sports facility, having travelled to the area by train.

"This scheme once again shows that the Council is investing in its Highways as a priority area through #RCTinvest, for the benefit of residents and visitors to Rhondda Cynon Taf. It also shows the Council is securing funding where possible to help improve the wider Highways Network."

Police and Paramedics Joint Working Initiative



[A short film](#), explaining the joint working between the Police and Paramedics in mid-Wales, was recently presented at the TISPOL Conference in Manchester.

The joint working initiative, led by Sgt Owen Dillon of Dyfed Powys Police and Carl Powell of the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST), pairs a police officer with a paramedic. When called to a road traffic collision the paramedic is able to advise the Ambulance Service about the number of ambulances required, deliver immediate treatment to casualties and frees up the police officer to safely manage the scene.

Filmed over the May Bank Holiday weekend, it gives a flavour of a day during Op Darwen, which looks to engage and educate motorcyclists, enforcing where necessary.

Road Safety Is A Top Priority For Derwendeg Primary School



Pupils from Derwendeg Primary School recently took part in a road safety event, as well as overseeing the installation of a new 20mph zone outside the school.

Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Road Safety Team were joined by Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Sustainability, who awarded a trophy to the class who travel most sustainably to school. Competition was fierce, with the majority of children in the school choosing to walk or cycle, with the winning class having 85% of children travelling to school in this way. The

competition will now be held every term.

Cllr Morgan said: "I was delighted to attend the road safety session at Derwendeg Primary School, where pupils displayed their enthusiasm for sustainable travel and road safety. Well done to everyone who took part. A new 20mph zone has also been introduced in the area surrounding Derwendeg Primary School, which will help to ensure the safety of pupils travelling to and from school".

Mr Stewart Davies, Head Teacher of Derwendeg Primary School said: "The 20MPH scheme has been a fantastic addition to the local community and school. It has allowed the children to be involved in all stages of a real life meaningful project. The sustainable transport element of the scheme has ensured more children traveling to school in a safe and sustainable way. This will have very positive future implications for all involved". The General Medical Council issued new guidance on confidentiality and updated the specific principles on assessing a patient's fitness to drive and reporting concerns to the DVLA

Promoting Gwynedd Road Safety Schemes



Gwynedd Council has been working with Bangor City Football Club to promote two worthwhile schemes available to the county's residents - "Pass Plus Cymru" and "Living Well Driving Well".

The "Pass Plus Cymru" scheme is aimed at young drivers between 17 and 25, who have passed their driving test, to get more driving skills and experience in order to try and reduce the risk of them being involved in road accidents.

The "Living Well Driving Well" scheme is aimed at drivers 65+ and gives individuals the opportunity to have a qualified driving instructor go out with them in their own car for a short drive, on a familiar route, to offer tips and advice on any issues

that cause them concern when driving.

For more information, contact Gwynedd Council's Road Safety Unit on 01286 679439 or 01286 679414.

Thousands Take Part in International Walk to School Month



Twenty schools located across Caerphilly county borough have been taking part in International Walk to School Month throughout October. Supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Road Safety Team, almost 5,000 pupils have taken up the challenge of walking to school.

Embracing active school travel, the pupils in all 20 schools have recorded the amount of walking, cycling and scooting to school with rewards for the classes with the most sustainable journeys. The Road Safety Team have also appointed pupils

to the role of Junior Road Safety Officers and they have played a vital role in encouraging their peers to walk to school by presenting information in school assemblies.

Cllr. Sean Morgan, Cabinet Member responsible for Sustainability commented, "The pupils are always keen to get involved in International Walk to School Month and do their bit to help the environment by swapping car journeys for more sustainable modes of transport such as bikes and scooters or walking. I am so pleased that once again we have 20 schools on board to take up the challenge and hopefully it will become a permanent change for those involved."

In addition to the special effort made to support the global challenge, the Road Safety Team continue to support the development of walking buses, which have proved popular in a number of schools with more than 20 in operation. Schools have reported that since the inception of the walking buses there has been less traffic and congestion reported and the pupils involved are wide awake and ready to learn when they arrive at school.