



**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **New traffic officers to patrol the A55**

Sep 29 2009 by Tom Bodden, Daily Post

A NEW high-visibility patrol on the A55 cleared its first traffic hold-up yesterday.

**Four police-trained traffic officers from the North Wales Trunk Road Agency** will help to keep vehicles moving on the route and free up the police to concentrate on serious matters. Within hours of setting out on their inaugural shift, police summoned the patrol to the recovery of an HGV which had broken down on the main road artery for North Wales. A **six-month trial** of the service officially began yesterday, with the first incident logged at 8.57am.

The Traffic Officers are driving **conspicuous yellow and black Battenberg marked vehicles** fitted with amber and red lights. But the vehicles are not intended as emergency response vehicles, the Welsh Assembly Government said.

*"Their role is to provide reassurance and promote public safety, and the police will continue to attend and lead emergency situations or incidents that might involve criminal investigation. The aim is to assist motorists travelling on the A55 Euro route to ensure the network keeps moving."*

The trial follows the recently published the policy document **Road Policing in Wales, Y Manifesto, 2009**. The document, developed by the WAG and the police, sets out a model for managing congested sections of the expressway, to improve road safety, and ensure better journey times for the travelling public.

A WAG spokesperson said: *"There will be **four traffic officers** introduced to patrol the network over the course of the next week, working shifts to cover the hours **between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday**. They will carry out their regular duties as route stewards, inspecting the road structure, by patrolling the A55 and be available to attend any incidents at the request of North Wales Police. A Traffic Officer attended their first incident at 8.57am this morning. Following a call from North Wales Police they cleared the site and re-directed traffic following the recovery of a broken-down HGV."*

**The PPP comments ...** This is an important aspect of policing that they have passed to yet another organisation along with community policing by PCSOs and wardens. It was also another of Brunstrom's policies and his final project as self appointed head of ACPO Cymru's road policing strategy. His legacy of misconceptions including abusive use of speed cameras and the penalty notices for everything will be with us for years. The following links cover the policy in more detail.

[http://www.assemblywales.org/road\\_policing\\_manifesto- committee\\_report-final.e-2.pdf](http://www.assemblywales.org/road_policing_manifesto- committee_report-final.e-2.pdf)

<http://www.nationaltraffic.co.uk/about10.html>

We applaud the principle of road patrols & the aim to reduce lane closures and congestion **BUT** we believe that the old style Police patrols could achieve this as well as deal with dangerous driving & other criminal activities. **NOTE** the 'service' is only part time & not during the busiest periods at weekends or at night. We believe fragmentation of services leads to more managers and overheads and fewer experienced & competent frontline personnel.