



1991 Dennis SS/John Dennis ISU, H912 TUY. Photo: Clive Stephens

Fleet: The February 2008 meeting of the H&WF&RS Authority was asked to approve a fleet strategy covering the financial years 2007/08 to 2021/22 which included a planned operational life for pumps and platforms of 15 years whilst appliance purchases were set out for each year covered by the strategy. 2007/08 will be three pumps, two with CAFS, two narrow access Mercedes Sprinter light pumps for Peterchurch and Whitchurch and an Environmental Protection Unit. 2008/09 will see three pumps, CARP for Bromsgrove and replacements for the ISU and one water carrier and five off road vehicles provided. Kidderminster has reverted to a full compliment of HVPU equipment, with two Prime movers, 225 and 006 on station.

Incidents: Hereford's new ALP saw its first operational use on 4 February 2008 in the city at a large stack of tyres well alight, Wyvern tyres, Hereford, TOC 19.45 TOS 23.00, adjacent railway closed, danger of wall collapsing onto track, heavy smoke plume over the city. Attendance: 10 pumps, ALP, EPU, Wrcx2 and CU from Malvern.

13 February 2007 TOC 21.30 approx, Castlemorton. Fire in barn containing hay and farming equipment, spreading to adjacent house, 40 cows removed to safety by F&RS personnel, jets, hoses and BA in use with seven appliances attending including two water carriers to this remote location.

10 March, the rescue boat, Landrover and crew from Evesham made a 193 mile journey to standby at Bodmin fire station in Cornwall when severe weather was predicted to hit the south west.

2 April Severe factory fire at approx 10.00 in Worcester which at one stage was in danger of spreading to an adjacent chemical site. The large single storey structure of B.Smith Packaging, Stanier Road, Warndon, Worcester was totally involved in fire despite the efforts of attending crews to 'make pumps 10, aerials 3, HVPU reqd' with smoke clearly visible from the M5 south of Gloucester. A local builder's merchant's yard was used as the marshalling area for oncoming appliances. The HVPU supplied water from a nearby canal. This is the first time that the two ALP's in the county have attended the same 'job' and probably the first time the three aerials in the county have been used at the same incident at the same time, the two ALP's from Worcester and Hereford plus the HP from Bromsgrove. (There were four aerials in the county at one time, Redditch and Kidderminster having one each in lieu of Bromsgrove, even recollections of three 'county aerials' being used simultaneously from this period is unknown). Other incidents where 'massed' aerials have been used by H&W have seen 'OB' involvement from Gloucestershire, Warwickshire or West Midlands in lieu of a third from the county. The pump attendance included three Worcester pumps, two from Droitwich and Malvern, and one from each of Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Stourport with other 'special' including the two HVPU sets from Kidderminster, EPU from Stourport and CU from Malvern. (See rear cover also)



The "eclectic" attendance to the fire at B.Smith Packaging, Stanier Road, Warndon, Worcester. Photo: Stuart Brandrick

22 March 2008 Country manor house fire, Bleathwood Manor, Tenbury Wells TOC 17.24, TOS 23.15, PDA RP Tenbury Wells, RP Leominster, Ludlow RP (Salop), incident escalated until the following completed the attendance as jets, aerial monitor and BA bought into use: RP Kidderminster; RP Kington; RP Leintwardine; RP Kingsland; Wrl Leominster RP Bromyard, RP Peterchurch, Wrc Ross; RP Stourport, Pinzgaur and EPU Stourport, RP and CU Malvern, ALP Hereford. At 01.08 23.03.08 both pumps Tenbury with Pinzgaur and boat Hereford rescued a person from the river in Tenbury.

Miscellaneous: A former plastics factory in Betony Road on the Enigma Business Park, Malvern is to become H&WF&RS workshops with the facility likely to be operational in late June/early July 2008 relocating from the existing workshops in Hylton Road, Worcester. It will have five vehicle maintenance bays, a ladder maintenance bay with Stores and Equipment Support. The Service's Property Strategy has identified a number of matters: replacing Pebworth retained station is delayed, it is understood that there is a problem with the cost of the preferred site in the village; several parties have expressed an interest in purchasing the current site at Redditch and a suitable site for a new structure exists; longer term projects indicate that the use of two sites in Worcester could be reviewed to significant refurbishment of the current city centre site with relocation of South Division HQ to Worcester and disposal of an admin block that became available when HQ relocated; Malvern to be refurbished; work to be undertaken at Droitwich and Training School; complex plans of partner organisations may result in the relocation of fire stations in Hereford, Bromsgrove and Bewdley.

2007 Flooding update : The Fire and Rescue Authority undertook a review of the service's operations during the serious flooding in June and July 2007. In June, H&WF&RS rescued 80 people in the Sheffield area and Kidderminster's HVPU was involved in the Ulley Dam incident, whilst over the weekend of Friday 20 to Monday 23 July 1185 people were recorded as having been rescued in the service area using all of the Service's appliances with assistance from 7 helicopters, nine other fire and rescue services, the Severn Area Rescue Association, RNLI and the Army. In July the HVPU moved 70,000 tonnes of water to give access to the Hampton Bishop area in Herefordshire. The review noted the benefits of the investment in water safety/rescue equipment and training in recent years and commented that during the flooding period the commitment of service personnel had been 'remarkable'.

Northamptonshire:

Visit: "A Day Northamptonshire". Report and photographs by Andy Day

Having an NN postcode (a transferee from 'Warley' many years ago) meant I was able to view this visit from a different perspective. What was 'my' adopted county offering me with regard to fire cover? On a sunny, dry April 27th morning 20 members from as far afield as Kent and Scotland gathered at Wellingborough.

My friend Alan Smith (my wife's first husband but we're