

BACKGROUND TO THE SCHEME

Community Speed Watch (CSW) originated in Avon and Somerset due to an increased demand from the public for greater involvement in reducing the speed of vehicles through local villages.

CSW enables positive action to be taken by the community and does not extract valuable Police/Safety Camera Partnership resources from proven targeted areas.

Community Speed Watch Volunteers (CSWV) will be instructed to record vehicles travelling above the ACPO guidelines (10% + 2mph) with levels of administration being monitored and controlled by the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator. The Police will retain the right to maintain control over the number of letters that can be administered.

CSW will form part of a wider road safety strategy including local authority controlled initiatives for example 'Vehicle Activated speed warning devices', traffic calming, Police enforcement and Road Safety Partnership.

CSW has significant potential in terms of the reduction of speed and improving the quality of life of all residents and road users. CSW provides an innovative alternative to include local communities in coordinated partnership action.

CSW schemes will be supported by Leicestershire County Council with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership (LLRRSP) and the local communities via the Parish Councils (PC) and Formal Action Groups.

CSWV will be trained in the use of speed detection devices by the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Leicestershire. Additional training will be provided in health and safety at the roadside. Volunteers must adhere to operating practices, breaches will make them liable to removal from the scheme and loss of insurance cover.

Trained volunteers will monitor the speed of vehicles at identified locations within their Communities. No attempt will be made to stop any moving vehicle and volunteers must not step into the road. Drivers will not be engaged in conversations, any approach to a volunteer will be dealt with by issuing a prepared letter or leaflet from the Police and, if required, withdrawing from the scene. Training in basic conflict resolution techniques will be provided.

CSWV must work in a minimum of pairs; they will create a log of vehicles exceeding an agreed speed threshold. Registration numbers, times, date and location will be recorded and verified by both volunteers. Completed logs will be forwarded to the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator and then forwarded to the Police for Police National Computer checks. Consideration will then be given for warning letters to be sent to registered keepers. The Police will target persistent offenders for future enforcement. No attempt will be made to trace the driver via section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Locations covered by static speed cameras and/or mobile enforcement facilities for the 'Leicestershire Safety Camera Partnership' will only be included in Community Speed Watch at the discretion of the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Leicestershire.