

Wiltshire Area Boards

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Wiltshire Community Speedwatch, developed in October 2009, is a three year programme designed to provide a county-wide co-ordinated response to the issue of speeding traffic. Speeding has been a subject of growing public concern, regularly raised at the Council's area board meetings right across the county.

The Community Speedwatch uses Wiltshire's Community Issues System - an online system that enables local people and community groups to raise local issues directly with their Area Board. Once a community speeding issue is submitted, the local community area manager carries out checks to find out if the site is already the subject of Police enforcement or has been previously surveyed using 'metrocount.' If not, the community area manager sends 'metrocount' request forms and criteria to the parish council to return to the Road Safety Unit for action. When the survey is carried out a report is made available to the parish council or community identifying whether or not the level of speeding justifies further action. Where an area is identified as suitable and safe for Community Speedwatch, the parish council or residents group is approached to recruit community volunteers. Volunteers are trained by the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator and supported by Neighbourhood Police Teams to carry out roadside checks on the speed of vehicles passing by. The speeds and registration numbers of offending vehicles are recorded. Owners of speeding vehicles are sent letters by the Police drawing attention to the offence and warning drivers of the consequences of excessive speeds.

Impact and outcomes

The Community Speedwatch scheme has exceeded the original targets set for year one and is continuing to grow. It was anticipated that with the launch of the scheme, the number of speeding issues reported through the Area Boards Community Issues System would show an increase and then decrease as the scheme took effect.

Speeding issues reported

October 09	Oct-Apr 10	Apr- Oct 10
36	77	42

Wiltshire Council 2011

Trained CSW volunteers

Oct 09	Target increase yr 1	Dec 10
35	40%	260

Wiltshire Police 2011

Number of Community Speedwatch groups

October 09	Target Yr 1	Dec 10
5	10	30

Wiltshire Police 2011



Speeding on rural roads has been raised with Wiltshire's Area Boards since they were launched in June 2009. Community Speedwatch is a response that is delivering positive results.

By January 2011, 567 CSW sessions had been undertaken by volunteers in Wiltshire which equates to 3,750 hours of volunteer time including classroom and on the roadside training, kerbside monitoring and collating returns to the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator. During the year, 3,970 speeding vehicles were reported by Speedwatch volunteers and warning letters were sent to the registered keepers of those vehicles by the Police. 109 vehicles were reported a second time with Police following up with targeted action against persistent offenders.