

Information sheet: Setting up a Community Speed Watch

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January 2014



Background

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a scheme which gives local people the power to help reduce traffic speeds and improve the quality of their life in their community.

Speeding can be a real problem in our communities and by training as CSW volunteers, local residents have the opportunity to make their roads safer. Volunteers are provided with special equipment and trained by police officers in the use of hand-held speed devices so that they can record the speed of passing vehicles.

Motorists caught speeding by volunteers are sent a warning letter from the police. Further action is taken against persistent offenders, who will receive a visit from Wiltshire Police.

The main objectives are:

- To secure a reduction in vehicle speeds to prevent collisions
- To improve quality of life
- To reduce noise pollution
- To raise public awareness of inappropriate speed.

What to do next

Anyone can raise speeding issues with their local area board (Wiltshire Council) or locality team (Swindon Borough Council) using Wiltshire's community issue system at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards or www.swindon.gov.uk/cm/localityworking/Pages/cm-Locality-Working

You will be asked for details, including where exactly the speeding occurs. The issue will be investigated, in the form of a metro count. If it is found that the site meets the criteria for Community Speed Watch the CSW Co-ordinator based at Wiltshire Police will make contact to assist and will be invited to gather a small group of volunteers together. The CSW Co-ordinator will also arrange everything you need to become a CSW volunteer. Alternatively, while the issue is being investigated, the nominated team leader or initiator of the issue can start to form a group of volunteers.

Should you be successful in getting a CSW scheme, Wiltshire Police will carry out a risk assessment of the site locations where the checks will be carried. Only once this has been done can activity start.

We require a minimum of 3 fully trained volunteers.

The schemes will be supported by the Police. Alternatively your neighbourhood policing team will be able to provide more information about CSW schemes in your area.

For more information on CSW please email: communityspeedwatch@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk