

Wiltshire Police

Devizes



Devizes Community Area – November 2009

Inspectors' Update

Introduction

Many communities express concerns over vehicle speeds and the Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership Speed Management Strategy is used as a tool to manage speeding by identifying sites for enforcement or engineering improvements.

Community Speed Watch will be introduced to become part of the overall strategy in casualty reduction by engaging the community in addressing speed related offending.

Community Speed Watch – What is it?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) gives local people the ability to actively get involved in road safety. Local residents, who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time each week, are able to monitor speeds with speed detection equipment in their community.

CSW is not Speed Enforcement which can only be conducted by trained and qualified staff within Wiltshire Police.

Starting a Scheme

A potential speeding issue should be raised with the Area Board by completing a *community issue sheet*. This issue along with others will be prioritised and the Camera Safety Unit asked to assess them to see if they are suitable for CSW.

If CSW is a suitable approach an application can be submitted for a scheme to be set up. A CSW coordinator working in the Camera Safety Unit will liaise with the Local Beat Manager, Roads Policing Officers and the local community to organise training for the volunteers.

How does it Work?

Once the training has been completed, the CSW Volunteers carry out speed monitoring on specified roads in their community. All sites are risk assessed and checks can only be conducted at these sites. All volunteers agree to work within a 'Code of Practice' which ensures a consistent approach for all the schemes and the motoring public.

The CSW Volunteers record the registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit this information is passed to the CSW Coordinator and a letter is sent warning the Registered Keeper. If there are vehicles found to be persistently offending they will be

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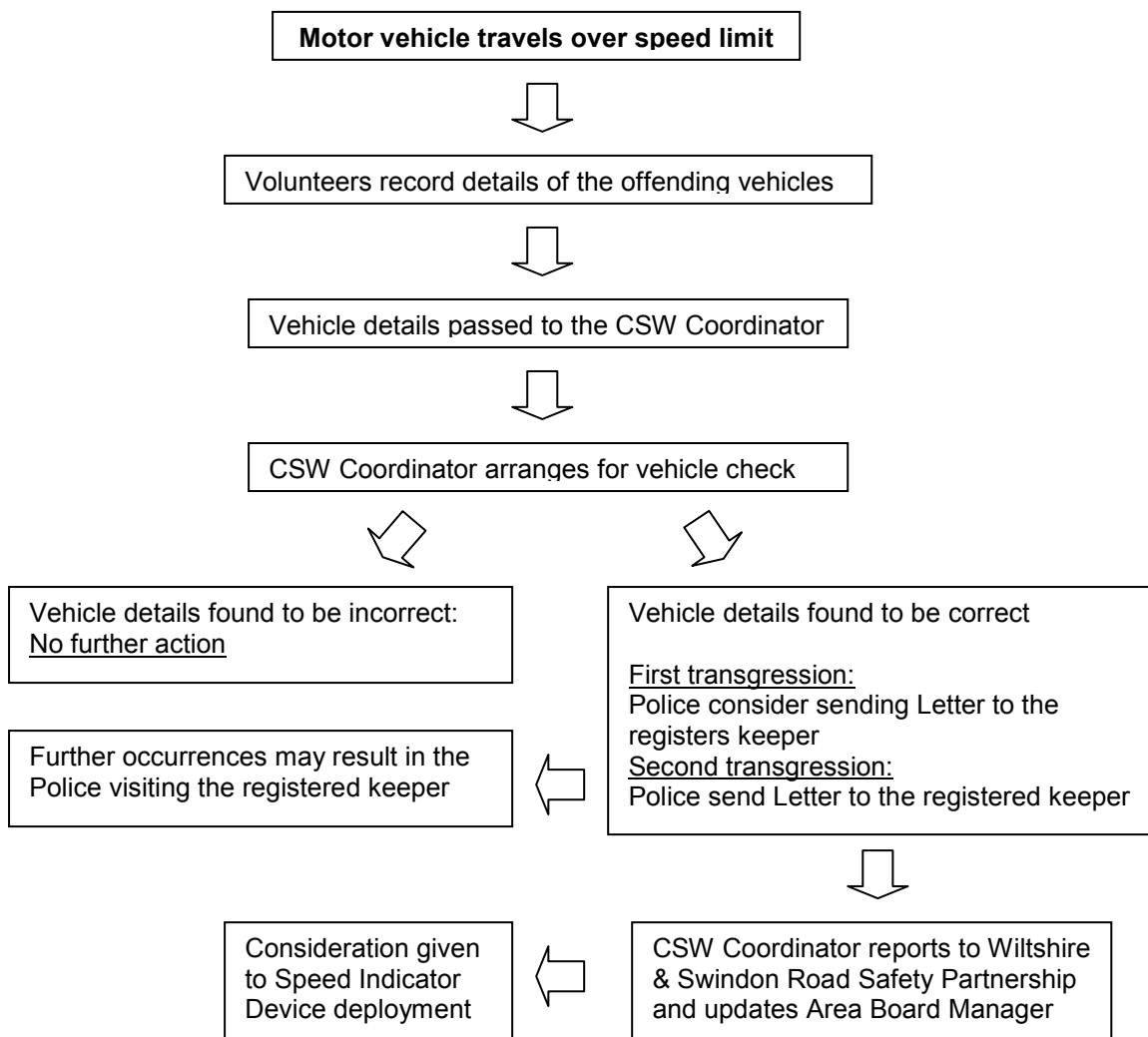
targeted by the Police with a view to issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or to instigate court proceedings.

Where the recorded results show a persistent speed issue the CSW Coordinator may recommend to the Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership that additional investigation is undertaken and temporary speed indicator devices or similar variable message signs should be deployed periodically at the site.

More Information

Please contact your Area Board Manager who will prioritise requests in the first instance. Thereafter they will work with your local Beat Manager and the Safety Camera Partnership.

Operation of a CSW Scheme



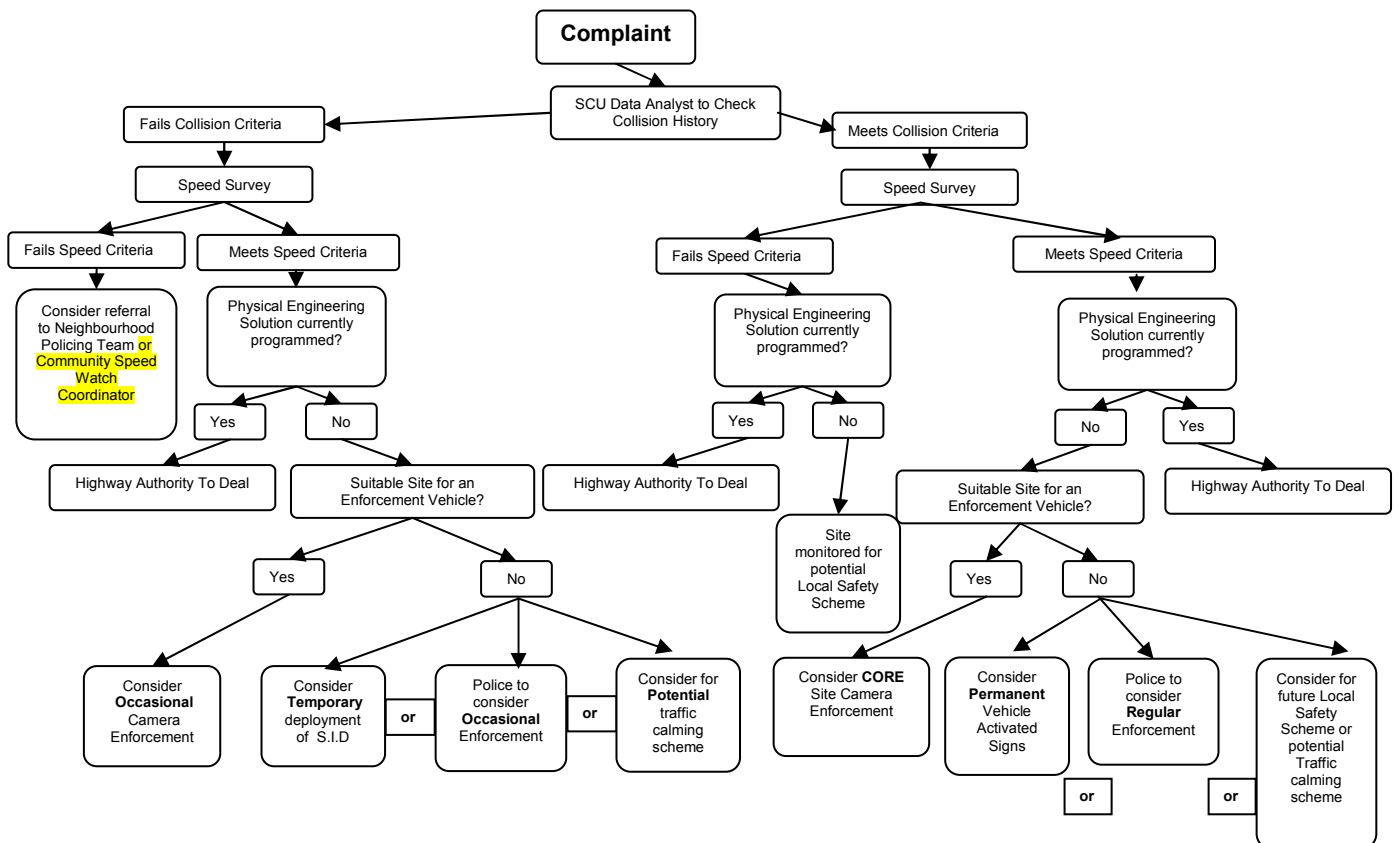
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Flow Chart – Processing Complaints of Speeding Traffic



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Sergeants' Update

Since the last Area Board your Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been working with partner agencies to address areas of concern to our communities. A case in point is the issue of boy racers in the town, especially in Station Road, Devizes. I can report that the issue is being discussed by police with our partners in the Council and Highways. The issue is currently a local policing priority and a wide range of enforcement action, including both covert and high visibility patrols, has been undertaken. This has had a good effect and we have seen a reduction in the number of calls. We are continuing to work with partners to seek longer term solutions to this problem.

In September a meeting of the Devizes Community Area Safety Committee determined the Policing priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Teams over the forthcoming 3 months. These priorities, together with results of our actions are listed on the pages of our website which can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/>. One such priority focuses on Anti-social Behaviour in Potterne. I am pleased to report that the local team is working closely with Sarsen Housing and the Council to deal with the problem. As a result of their action and the high profile police patrols we have seen a reduction in the number of calls. I am aware, however, that we must not let up. Gemma Rutter and Nina Marsh will continue to work hard in the area and they are currently working with both Sarsen and the Council to address the problems caused by a small number of individuals.

Halloween is a time of year where there is always the potential for reports of nuisance behaviour and harassment, particularly towards the elderly and vulnerable. Devizes police conducted high visibility patrols with additional staffing across the town and villages, at potential hotspots. I am pleased to report that as a result of this increased visibility we received only two Halloween related reports over the entire evening together with only a small handful of non-Halloween related Anti-social Behaviour reports. Places such as Hillworth Park remained trouble free all night. In addition a significant quantity of alcohol was seized from youths.

Some of you may have seen the Neighbourhood Policing stand in The Brittox, Devizes on 2nd November. Members of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, together with a representative from Wiltshire Council, were available to listen to your concerns about issues which affect your lives. People were given the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire and the results will be analysed to see where we can focus our activities and efforts over the coming months. The stand was well received and I will be looking to hold similar events in the future as part of our consultation plans. Together with our monthly surgeries and public meetings, which are advertised on our website, we aim to conduct consultations to see what issues affect you and how we can work together to address them. The next set of priorities will be set in December and I would urge you all to support these events and have a say in how you want your neighbourhood to be policed.

Ian Thomas

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Sergeant
Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team

Priorities and Ongoing Activity

Devizes Town Centre

Beat Manager: PC Adam Hall

PCSO: Paula Yarranton & PCSO Lucy Sainsbury

Email: devizestownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Speeding, London Road:

The first priority was set following in September a public consultation which was door to door visits by members of the team.

It was determined that there was a substantial problem with vehicles travelling at excess speed along London Road at various time of the day including early mornings and evening periods.

The Wiltshire camera safety partnership have been contacted and have agreed to install for a two week period in December two 'speed aware flashing signs' that notify motorists if they are exceeding the speed limit.

There have also been four on-the-spot speed checks in London Road to date and there have been no offences detected and one motorist warned.

Cycling on the footpath, London Road:

The second priority set was as residents stated that the purpose made cycle tracks were not being used and persons were still using the footpaths and causing problems with motorists.

PC Hall who uses his pedal cycle has conducted 21 patrols along London Road and has stopped seven persons and advised them.

One cyclist has been issued with a fixed penalty notice for cycling on the pavement.

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Devizes Rural North

Beat Manager: PC Mark Lewis

Email: Devizesnorthruralnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Criminal Damage, Bishops Cannings:

Villagers in the parish of Bishops Cannings have reported that there are increasing incidents of Criminal Damage and nuisance behavior in and around Oak Close. The NPT will patrol this area at various times of the day and night in order to deter and detect person(s) committing offences in this area. At the end of October a public meeting with representatives of the NPT, Sarsen Housing, Knighstone Housing and Bishops Cannings Parish Council was held in the village, which was well attended by villagers. The NPT are pleased to report that no incidents of damage and nuisance egg throwing in the village have been reported since this meeting and the introduction of CCTV use in the area and this priority is on course to be successfully completed within the current quarter. Over 50 patrols of the area have been made in relation to this priority. Reported crimes per month are currently down in the Bishops Cannings Parish by 17.9% compared to the same time period last year.

Speeding A342, Rowde:

Residents have reported concerns about speeding motorists using the A342 through the village of Rowde. The NPT have been asked to carry out high profile speed checks at this location to enforce the speed limit and attempt to reduce incidents of speeding. In response a number of speed checks have been conducted but the high visibility of the officers conducting the checks has meant that there have been no tickets issued for speeding. A number of motorists have been caught traveling very nominally above the speed limit and these have been stopped and advised about the initiative and about speeding concerns in the village. In addition to the speed checks the NPT have assisted the villages School Crossing Patrol Officer, who had reported bad driving and speeding by Motorists in Marsh Lane. These joint patrols will continue when required for the remainder of this quarter.

Anti Social Behaviour, Rowde:

Residents in Rowde have reported concerns over the behavior of a minority of the youths using the play parks in Rowde. There have been reports of empty bottles of alcohol, aerosol cans and drug related articles being left strewn across the parks. An incident of arson on the edge of one Play Park has also been reported to police and some youths have been reported shouting, swearing and intimidating other people using the parks or walking through them. Patrols have been stepped up in the area and the play parks were peaceful over the Fireworks weekend, with no recorded calls reporting ASB in the vicinity of the play areas. The NPT have also been working closely with Rowde Primary School and

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the Parish Council to discuss issues related to this priority. Recorded crime in the village of Rowde is currently down from an average of 13 reported crimes per month to less than 11 reported crimes per month.

Devizes Rural South

Beat Manager: PC Gemma Rutter

PCSO: PCSO Nina Marsh

Email: devizessouthernrural@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Anti Social Behaviour, Potterne:

Following consultations held with residents in St Marys Close, Mead Close, Firs Hill Way and with members of the Parish Council, we have set this quarter's priority as Anti Social Behaviour. Our main focus being among young potential offenders and the following incidents: offensive language, disorderly behaviour and criminal damage. To tackle this we are robustly dealing with any criminal offences reported to us, two youths have already been arrested and charged with Handling Stolen Goods, another with Arson. We are also working with the Council and local Housing Associations to maximise our potential in dealing with a problem which affects many members of the community. Alcohol confiscation and communication with offender's families will act as a preventative move, as will target patrols set during peak trouble times.

Speeding and Vehicle Obstruction, Potterne:

After discussing a further priority with the Parish Council of Potterne, we have set this priority to tackle congestion and speed within the main route through the village. We also aim to make Potterne a safer place for pedestrians who have found that they have to walk into the road because the pavements are blocked. We have already had a survey carried out by the Highways Dept which shows there was not an evidenced speed problem. However, speed is top of a lot of residents concerns so we are carrying out high visibility police speed checks to tackle this concern. We will also be working with our colleagues on the Camera Safety unit to further encourage slower speeds through the village. Vehicles parked inconsiderately or dangerously are also being dealt with by the team. Drivers will firstly have a notice left on their vehicle pointing out the dangers of their parking. Their vehicle registration will be recorded on the NPT systems and if their vehicle is found to be parked inconsiderately or dangerously again, we will be looking to issue the driver with a ticket in partnership with Wiltshire Council.