

Community Speed Watch

In response to demand, a new Community Speed Watch scheme has been launched. Wiltshire Council's Highways Department, the Police and the Area Boards Team have been working together over the last few months to respond to the large number of requests for action from local communities. As a result, a new approach has been developed that will give local communities more influence and involvement than ever before.

(NB: Malmesbury were a pilot area for Community Speedwatch so will notice very little change, other than the process for prioritising and approval by the Area Board)

Community Speed Watch – What is it?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) gives local people the chance to be more actively involved in making Wiltshire's roads safer for everyone. Local residents, who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time each week now have the chance to help monitor speeds with 'state of the art' speed detection equipment in their own community. While CSW is not speed enforcement (this can only be conducted by trained and qualified Police staff), it is the next best thing.

How to start a scheme

A potential speeding issue should be first raised with the local Area Board by completing a *community issue sheet* (online: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) Requests will be prioritised and the Camera Safety Unit asked to assess each proposal to make sure they are suitable and safe for CSW.

If CSW is a suitable approach, the CSW coordinator working in the Camera Safety Unit who 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 checked for safety and risks and the scheme can only be conducted at these specified 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 then record the registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit. This information is passed to the CSW Coordinator and a letter is

sent from the Police warning the registered keeper of the vehicle. If certain vehicles are found to be persistently offending they will be 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 may be deployed periodically at the site. Where this shows a significant ongoing problem Wiltshire Council's highways department will assess whether further engineering or traffic management measures may be appropriate.

Speeding Issue Prioritisation

Once an issues sheet has been sent in by a Parish Council on speeding, the community area manager (after obtaining any other relevant information) will forward this to the local Beat Manager and Highways Office. The areas will be prioritised 1/2/3 relating to High, Medium, Low risk sites (1 is High). The priorities will then be reported to the Area Board to agree the order to be recommended for assessment. Following the Area Board meeting the community area manager will be responsible for contacting the Camera Safety Unit with the prioritised list of issues. The Camera Safety Unit will undertake an assessment of the issue in accordance with the Speed Management Strategy and collect traffic speed data from the site over a 7 day period. Each location will be assessed for suitability and the safety of potential CSW volunteers and other road users.

More Information

For more information about the scheme please contact Miranda Gilmour – Malmebsury Community Area Manager, on 01672 515742 or 07990 505 882 or email miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk