Decelerate.

Community Speedwatch Newsletter # 1

Welcome to the 1st newsletter from your TVP Community Speedwatch co-ordinator for;

***Buckinghamshire, Berkshire & Oxfordshire.* (TVP)**

TVP community speed watch newsletter, to be published quarterly, which will hopefully spark debate and allow sharing of best practice within the world of CSW.

Firstly let me introduce myself. I joined Thames Valley Police in 1990, being stationed at High Wycombe. In 1995 I joined the then Traffic department, dealing with many of the road issues we still see today on our roads. I became one of a selected few, a vehicle examiner. In 2002 I left the now Roads Policing Department, and back onto the beat. In 2004 I became a neighbourhood police officer, dealing with common issues within community life. One of the major issues was excess speed. Setting up speed watch within the community overtook my policing work following an injury at work. Speed watch in that area became the most active area within Thames Valley Police, 150 active locations with over 150 volunteers. In 2020 I re-joined the Roads policing department but within the Joint operations unit, holding the position of community speed watch co-ordinator for Thames Valley Police. I retired from the force, following 30 years of service, in August 2020, being a glutton for punishment I returned as a Police officer in October 2020 to continue this important role. My two main hobbies are restoring classic cars and motor sport.

Nothing can be more emotive than the conversations arising from excess speed. Yes we have all exceeded the speed limit, 32 in a 30 is still an offence. However we all have the ability to address this through our own distinctive ways. Many of the motoring public seem to have the mind-set that it is ok to exceed the limit in another area of which they have no community links. I believe that education is the tool, followed by enforcement as and when needed.

Over many years the implementation of community speed watch has been ad-hoc, many areas have taken the baton and run successfully. However the interpretation and knowledge of how the system works have never been cohesive.

Community speed watch is now to be driven from the PCC's (police crime commissioner) office. With a direct mandate, that the clue is in the title, **Community**. With ever increasing pressure being loaded onto front line officers the time has now come to promote the concept across TVP. Taking the emphasis back into the community, releasing officers/Pcso's back to the front line. The community as a whole know the issues with speeding motorists and in some cases the sad consequences.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) have worked hard, listening to the concerns, trying to accommodate change where necessary. Two major changes are;

1, **Use of hand held devices**; These devices were, at one time not allowed within the TVP policy and therefore not supported. This has however changed. TVP will now support the use of such devices due to the cost implications that static devices were costing, therefore impeding smaller communities from being able to use the scheme. The second was that TVP insurance/policy would not allow these devices on safety grounds. This has now been changed to accommodate their usage, BUT only **NON HOME OFFICE APPROVED** devices can be used. The likes of Laser LTI 20/20 and SPEEDAR devices are **NOT** to be used within the scheme. An example of such an approved device, and there are others, would be a Bushnell 101911 radar gun, which is currently selling online around £150. This is significantly cheaper than non-hand held devices and therefore makes it a much more viable option for all communities who wish to take part in CSW.

2, **Insurance;** The public liability insurance for a scheme of roadside activity was potentially costing some of the smaller parishes a great deal of their small precept. With this in mind TVP insurance was consulted. The outcome was that providing each scheme signed a service level agreement and had undergone the relative training, then the TVP insurance would be in place. This has a liability of £50M, far higher than that of a small parish being able to obtain.

TVP has appointed a Community speedwatch co-ordinator in order to pull all councils, parishes and volunteers together, enabling the use of technology to drive forward an education lead program. This will take place by, all device users being either contacted or visited in person, addressing concerns, installing new working practices, with a common goal of reducing speed through education.

TVP are working with outside agencies as well as other Police forces to align the working practices across the country. This will inevitably take a time to co-ordinate.

The Vision.

All community speed watch activities across Thames Valley Police are aligned in the implementation and administration of the scheme.
All community speed watch activities are carried out in accordance with Policy, procedure and the best intentions of the community volunteers.
Members of the community are happy with the education process and potential targeting of persistent offenders.

CHECK YOUR SPEED

CHILDREN LIVE HERE!!

In these unprecedented times we are all feeling the constraints from the Government, COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH has been on hold since the first lockdown.

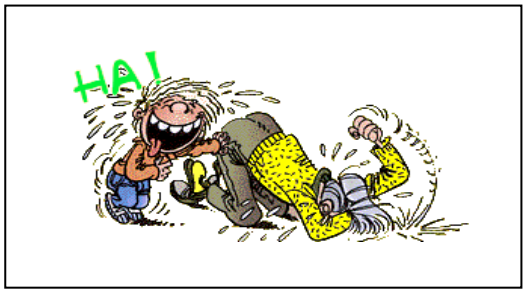
To this I add, we have been working hard, in the background, to establish a pathway forward for its re-instatement. There are numerous issues that dynamically continue to change. Following the start of the second lockdown, we now find ourselves in a position that does not allow the program to move forward. We will still be looking at a safe return when the lockdown is eased.

To this I have to inform you that there is to be **NO** COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH until it is deemed that it is safe to do so.

I will be updating everyone when we are in a position to go forward. Sitting/standing at the roadside is only a small part of the exercise, and the backroom issues are continuingly being assessed to make the Police environment a safe place to accommodate our Volunteers.

Kind Regards

PC 3146 Lee Turnham.
Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator
Joint Operations Unit, (Road Safety)
Roads Policing Unit
Amersham
HP6 5AL
lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



Life is fun, keep smiling, stay Safe.

Non Emergency Police number 101

Please feel free to contact me on the above email address with any feedback or how you would like to see your newsletter in the future.