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## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

*Helping communities tackle anti-social driving*

Community Speed Watch enables residents to get involved in monitoring traffic through their local community. It is intended to educate and inform drivers about anti-social driving and the impact and consequences of their actions.

The scheme has been operating across Surrey for a number of years and has achieved significantly positive results in changing the behaviour of motorists, reducing the threat to life, reducing the impact of anti-social driving and improving the quality of life of those most affected.

A partnership between residents Surrey Police and local councils. Community Speed Watch shows that when communities get involved a positive difference to their environment can be achieved.

**If anti-social driving is an issue in your community contact Surrey Police for more information on 101 or visit our website [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk) and report in online**

## How does Community Speed Watch work?

Speeding vehicles through a community is normally raised as a neighbourhood issue at a meeting or through contact with Surrey Police.

Officers will discuss the problem with a Surrey Police Casualty Reduction Officer, who monitors traffic through identified locations and reports back to the community about the seriousness of the issue. Collecting this evidence is essential in setting up a scheme.

If evidence shows a significant problem, police will target the area whenever possible. But they will also ask the community if they would like to set up a Community Speed Watch scheme which allows greater flexibility in monitoring the situation and enables the community to target vehicles when they want to, and not necessarily when police have available resources.

A scheme requires a minimum of six volunteers who are trained by police in the use of speed monitoring equipment, health and safety and how to manage enquiries by motorists and/or other members of the public.

Volunteers arrange times when they want to target anti-social driving, which normally involves monitoring vehicles for up to an hour during peak traffic periods.

Vehicles identified as speeding will be recorded by volunteers on a log sheet. This is forwarded to an Administrator who will send out an advisory letter to registered keepers.

If there is a persistent problem with a particular motorist, police will target the driver of that vehicle and, if appropriate, take further action.

## Does Community Speed Watch work?

Community Speed Watch has been very successful not only in Surrey, but in many other areas of England and Wales as well.

The Community Speed Watch scheme has had a significant impact in re-educating motorists regarding speed and raised their awareness of the impact that anti-social driving has on communities.

**Interested** - Please make contact with the person who is trying to start up a Community Speed Watch in your area. Their name and contact details are:



## Community Speed Watch - Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch (COMUNITY SPEED WATCH) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community, with the support of the police monitor speeds of vehicles at specific locations using approved speed detection devices. Registered keepers of vehicles that exceed the speed limit threshold are sent letters advising them of the speed that the vehicle was driven at with the aim of educating them, changing their behaviour and reducing their speed. COMUNITY SPEED WATCH volunteers receive appropriate training, delivered by the local Casualty Reduction Officer (CRO).

Citizen-focused surveys, along with correspondence, have identified speeding as a major concern for many communities in both the rural and urban environment. Therefore, COMUNITY SPEED WATCH is not restricted to villages and rural towns.

COMUNITY SPEED WATCH has a credible part to play in **making communities feel safer**. The evidence shows that perceptions of speed vary from being unsubstantiated through to levels that demand an effective enforcement regime. The volunteers are committed to the concept of self-help and are providing both their communities and Surrey Police with an extremely valuable contribution to the wider objectives of road and community safety as well as casualty reduction.

### Isn't this a police job?

Surrey Police fully support the drive to achieve casualty reduction targets and include "reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on the road" as part of their Policing Plan.

With ever-greater demand it is simply not possible to carry out speed enforcement checks in every requesting community on a regular basis. Indeed, having to prioritise resources means that some communities that have a speeding problem without a corresponding collision record may be unlikely to see meaningful levels of enforcement. This is where working together can help.

Community Speed Watch has proved to be very successful not only in Surrey, but in other areas of the country. Community Speed Watch has had a significant impact re-educating motorists regarding speed, and raised their awareness of the impact that anti-social driving has on communities. Schemes have also reduced the risks accredited to speeding, particularly very young people and the elderly. Communities have reported an improved environment and a greater feeling of safety.

### So how do I start a scheme in my community?

If you and other members of the community think that speeding traffic has a dangerous or social impact on your area you may want to set up a scheme. If it appears that there

are others who would like to volunteer to take an active role in speed monitoring, then forming a group is a good next step.

Contact the above named who will be able to guide you through the process providing support and assistance. Including relevant training, risk assessments, and liaison with your local Police team including the Casualty reduction officer.. Surrey County Council fully supports COMUNITY SPEED WATCH.

### **How much will it cost to set up? And who pays?**

Initially Surrey Police will fund the scheme through sponsorship and partnership agencies. Sourcing funds for subsequent schemes is dealt with on a scheme to scheme basis.

### **Is it dangerous, are we covered by insurance?**

Experience so far has shown that the vast majority of drivers either support, or are neutral to, volunteer speed monitors. It is true that some driver's wave or gesture in a less than supportive manner, but actual confrontation has been extremely rare, and our training will cover how to deal with such situations.

Volunteers taking part in COMUNITY SPEED WATCH activity under the direction and control of Surrey Police will be covered by insurance.

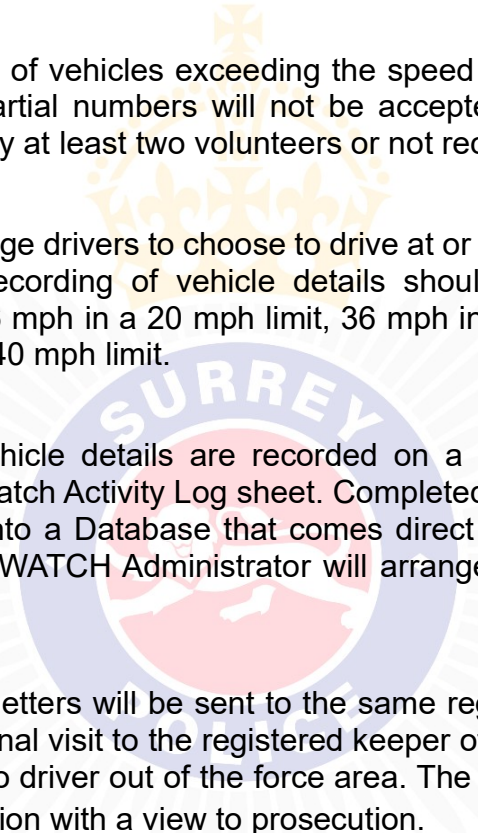
**Public liability insurance** will indemnify them against claims from third parties for injury, loss or damage caused by their negligence.

**Employer's liability insurance** which covers the force against claims made by employees for injury caused to them as a result of the negligence of the force includes COMUNITY SPEED WATCH volunteers as employees.

**Personal accident insurance** is also applicable to COMUNITY SPEED WATCH volunteers for specific severe bodily injuries (e.g. loss of limb, sight, death) and only applies to injuries caused whilst acting on Surrey Police business.

### **Scheme overview**

1. There should be a **minimum of six volunteers** in the scheme, each willing to contribute a minimum of one hour per week. Small communities who are unable to reach this figure are encouraged to link with other interested local groups, with a view to joining together for a wider-area scheme.
2. Volunteers must be over **18 years** of age.
3. The scheme is to have a designated co-ordinator and deputy, responsible for the equipment and contact with the police.
4. Surrey Police will nominate an administrator for processing the recording sheets, and for ongoing support.

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- The logo for Surrey Police Community Speed Watch is a circular emblem. It features a blue outer ring with the word 'SURREY' in white capital letters. Inside the ring is a red shield with a white cross. The shield is set against a background of white rays emanating from behind it.
5. The locations for monitoring are chosen as the result of consultation between the police and the community. Supporting data to assist this decision may be available from the police or local authority.
  6. Surrey Police will carry out risk assessments, with approval being granted to the nearest safe site to that chosen. All sites must be within 20 mph, 30 mph or 40 mph limits. Training for volunteers will include use of the equipment, and health and safety issues both general and site-specific, with the training records being maintained by Surrey Police.
  7. Registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit must be recorded in full by volunteers. Partial numbers will not be accepted. The number must be verified as accurate by at least two volunteers or not recorded at all.
  8. The aim is to encourage drivers to choose to drive at or below the speed limit. For practical purposes recording of vehicle details should be restricted to those travelling at above 26 mph in a 20 mph limit, 36 mph in a 30 mph limit, or above 46 mph or more in a 40 mph limit.
  9. Offending drivers' vehicle details are recorded on a timed, dated and signed Community Speed Watch Activity Log sheet. Completed sheets are then inputted by the co-ordinator into a Database that comes direct to Surrey Police and the COMUNITY SPEED WATCH Administrator will arrange for letters to be sent to registered keepers.
  10. A maximum of three letters will be sent to the same registered keeper. After this there may be a personal visit to the registered keeper of the vehicle. This does not apply to driver out of the force area. The site may also be targeted by police for intervention with a view to prosecution.
    - COMUNITY SPEED WATCH protects the rights and freedoms of the community for a safer environment
    - COMUNITY SPEED WATCH is proportionate to the problem

If all of the above sounds a bit formal, don't worry. It's just that there have to some reassurances that the scheme is properly organised before it can be supported by Surrey Police and your Local Authority. **It will be your scheme, not ours.** Monitoring sessions for volunteers are set by you to accommodate the time people are able to give. There should be no expectation that monitoring will take place in all conditions at all times of the year; volunteers will quickly disappear if expected to stand in the rain on a cold winter afternoon.

The scheme will work if we are all able to give what we can, when we can. Together, we can make a difference.

**Interested – what now? Your team Co-Ordinator to make contact with:**

Please make contact with Brenda Gough: 01483 638281

[Brenda.Gough@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Brenda.Gough@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

Or our Community Speed Watch Email Box:

[CommunitySpeedWatch@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CommunitySpeedWatch@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

**Site Determination**

The following outlines those sites which are excluded from Community speed watch schemes. Where the exclusion is of a temporary nature, the time period for exclusion is stated. Where there are aggravating factors, the final decision on authorising a site will rest with the Road Safety & Traffic Management manager, following liaison with the CRO and local Neighbourhood Inspector.

- Site which is identified as unsuitable following a police risk assessment.
- Monitoring site is within 200 meters of the start or change in speed limit (although this may not apply to small villages with a very small speed restricted stretch of road).
- Monitoring site is not suitable to ensure compliance with the NPCC Code of Practice for Operational Use of Road Policing Enforcement Technology, or the relevant Manufacturers Operating Manual.
- Site identified or located within a newly introduced or revised speed limit. Monitoring will be embargoed for a period of 6 months from the commencement date of the speed limit, to enable drivers to adjust their behaviour as a result.
- Site which is preceded by Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). Monitoring will be embargoed for a period of six months from the date the sign was erected. This is to enable the Highway Authority to properly monitor and assess the effectiveness of the sign(s).
- Site within the confines of an area which has a number of identifiable traffic calming measures as part of an overall traffic calming scheme (this may be subject to negotiation with established schemes where the traffic data shows average speeds above the speed limit criteria).
- Site identified or located within 1.5 kms of a mobile camera or static camera enforcement site. Such a site may be used if prior agreement has been obtained from the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership, and that if there are any conditions placed upon its use by them, they are strictly complied with.