

Community Speedwatch

In response to local demand, a brand new Community Speedwatch scheme was launched recently. Wiltshire Council 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 Wiltshire's communities. As a result, a new approach has been developed that will give local communities more influence and involvement than ever before.

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.

More Information

For more information about the scheme please contact your local Area Board Manager – you can find details at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areboards.