

Speedwatch

Are you concerned about speeding vehicles in your area?

Motorists who speed through rural neighbourhoods are often unaware of the impact their actions have on local residents – or the danger they pose to other road users.

Speeding is a true quality-of-life issue and an emotively discussed topic at the quarterly Gamlingay Neighbourhood Police Panel meetings, with calls for more enforcement action to be taken.

Public perceptions of speeding hot-spots do not necessarily correlate with the analysis of casualty reduction sites identified by the County Council, which is where their efforts are prioritised. Therefore a new local approach was devised in 2007 and is now in action – **Speedwatch**, a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership initiative.

What is Speedwatch?

Speedwatch provides the opportunity for the public to influence and contribute to the education of drivers and to assist the police to identify locations which deserve their enforcement activity. It also helps to inform decisions around other speed reduction measures.

It relies heavily on members of the community volunteering to monitor the speed of vehicles in their or adjoining neighbourhood, using free-standing, portable detection and display equipment.

Volunteers work in groups, usually of three or four people who have been trained to use the equipment. They monitor the speed of vehicles and record the details of those exceeding the posted limit, with the information being passed to the police who normally write to the registered keepers of the vehicle advising them of the circumstances and requesting their co-operation to reduce speed.

Speedwatch is *not* an enforcement activity. The aim is to provide advice to speeding motorists to improve driver behaviour and to prevent collisions by encouraging drivers to slow down and observe the local speed limits.

This scheme is intended to educate rather than to prosecute drivers – but those found to be repeat 'offenders' will be the subject of targeted action by the police. The very fact that the police have a record of individual registrations can trigger a check on insurance, MOT and vehicle tax – and if the same vehicle is recorded speeding on a number of occasions, not necessarily in Hatley, the owner could well receive a visit from the police.

So, if you are interested in finding out more about **Speedwatch** or you wish to become a volunteer, please contact:

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