

Community Speed Watch (CSW) Schemes

Based on information from The Community Speed Watch Scheme Booklet

Introduction

CSW schemes involve trained volunteers from the local community monitoring the speed of vehicles with follow-up work on education and enforcement by Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership, Norfolk Police and the Local Authority.

Trained CSW teams are issued with 'Speedar' Radar, two Community Speedwatch signs, four reflective jackets and a paperwork pack

Initially, letters are sent to registered keepers of offending vehicles asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down in the community, with persistent offenders targeted for police enforcement.

Main details

1. There should be a minimum of six volunteers willing to contribute a minimum of one hour per week. Monitoring is undertaken by a minimum of three volunteers at anyone time.
2. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and will be subject to a vetting procedure. Volunteers who do not wish to be involved in speed monitoring may assist with administrative support.
3. The scheme is to have a designated co-ordinator and deputy, responsible for the equipment and administration.
4. Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership will nominate an administration officer, for processing the activity log recording sheets and for ongoing support.
5. The Parish Council must support the scheme.
6. The locations for monitoring are chosen by the community.
7. Risk assessments will be carried out by a trained officer, who will approve the nearest safe site to that chosen. All sites must be within 30 mph or 40 mph limits. Monitoring can only take place during daylight hours.
8. Training for volunteers will include use of the equipment, and health and safety issues both general and site-specific.
9. Registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit must be recorded in full by volunteers. The number must be verified as accurate by at least two volunteers (minimum three on site), or not recorded at all. There should also be two other pieces of information noted on the return about the vehicle, i.e make, model, or colour to ensure that the letter is being sent to the correct registered keepers address.
10. Recording of vehicle details should be restricted to those travelling at 35 mph or more in a 30 limit, or 46 mph or more in a 40 limit.
11. Offending drivers vehicle details are recorded on a timed and dated Activity Log Sheet. Completed sheets are forwarded to the Community Speedwatch Administrator, who will arrange for letters to be sent to registered keepers. Letters will be sent in accordance with the availability of administrative support, but Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership will endeavour to contact as many offending drivers as possible.
12. A maximum of two letters will be sent to the same registered keeper. After this, the vehicle details will be circulated for targeted police intervention.

More information

The Community Speed Watch Booklet is available to download from the Norfolk Police website.

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