

Whitstone Community Speed Watch

Report for Annual Parish Meeting, 9th April 2014

Over the past year Community Speed Watch has held further traffic monitoring sessions which have resulted in the police sending letters to offenders. The School has conducted School Speed Watch sessions with Police assistance. The Police have conducted their own speed trap exercises (especially regular during spring/summer 2013) which have resulted in convictions for offenders.

CSW and Police will continue these activities as required. If further improvement in compliance with speed limit is desired then traffic calming measures may be needed. This will be more difficult to achieve. However there has been a recent petition to have a pedestrian crossing in the area of Paradise Park and work is in hand to see if that may be possible. If not, an alternative suggestion has been put forward for a widening of the road to accommodate a central pedestrian refuge. If either of these ideas is implemented it may well have a traffic calming effect.

Speeding through the Street/Cherry Cross area still continues to be a problem where Speed Watch activity seems to have little lasting effect. There is a noticeable reduction in speed of traffic whilst the high visibility Speed Watch is in operation but when it is not operating there is still a perception that the 40mph speed limit is being largely ignored. We have requested that the police mobile monitoring van be deployed in this area on occasion in an attempt to reduce traffic speed.

The Community Speed Watch scheme, run by the police is about educating motorists about the law in relation to speeding, and monitoring any trends in speeding in neighbourhoods. It allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through the Parish. It is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a problem.

Police Volunteers are trained to use a speed indicator device which displays the vehicle's speed. The registered owner of any speeding vehicle is sent an advisory letter from the local neighbourhood policing team explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. Persistent offenders receive a visit from officers.

Mike Sutton (Whitstone CSW Coordinator)

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