

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023



A WARM WELCOME FROM ADRIAN LEISK, POLICE HEAD OF ROAD SAFETY

I am delighted to introduce our June Community Speedwatch newsletter. Since our last publication we have hit the milestone of our 200th registered group at Dolton Winkleigh. We welcome Colin and his new team to the CSW community. Our registered groups stand at 204 with 1271 registered volunteers. We have also completed the work to automate the production of CSW letters via our traffic offence processing system Eros. This application can handle hundreds of thousands of letters, meaning that someone you identify speeding in your sessions will receive a letter within 7 days, which is a marked improvement on the previous process, helping to ensure that the letter will retain relevance to the recipient. By importing historic sessions back to January 1st 2023, we have hopefully ensured that those who have already received a stage 1 letter, receive a stage 2 and so on. The Road Safety Team are now processing sessions from last week, and are getting on top of the position. We are also pleased to inform you that from

July 3rd, all CSW sessions will record speeds in 20/30/40mph sessions at the NPCC threshold of 10% plus 2mph over the limit. I know that this temporary position has caused a degree of frustration, but hopefully you can understand the fragility of the previous arrangements and the need to preserve the staff who were manually inputting over 28000 letters in 2022. In relation to insurance, Devon and Cornwall Police have provided public liability insurance, and personal injury cover up to £100000 until 31st March 2024. There is no upper age limit for those engaged in CSW sessions, but a reminder that there is no insurance cover in place for the installation, maintenance or removal of VAS equipment. CSW Groups with these systems are advised to speak with local Parish or Town Councils to explore adoption of the assets to deploy using trained and insured personnel. The annual conferences are booked in for October and I am hoping to see of many of you there as possible. Invitations to



these events will be emailed out to all of our CSW volunteers in the very near future. The dates/venues are as follows:

- **19th October – Royal Cornwall Showground**
- **30th October – Westpoint Conference Centre**

Timings will be 1000-1300 followed by a buffet lunch. Thanks for all you do to support our shared endeavours to make Devon & Cornwall's roads safer by changing behaviours and attitudes.



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NEW OFFICER JOINS LOCAL CSW TEAM SESSION

On a sunny morning of the 26th May, PC Abbott joined in with the St Day Community Speed Watch team to gain a better understanding of how Community Speed Watch volunteers operate and the impact they are having on supporting road safety in their local community. Newly appointed PC Abbott explained to us, that part of his probationary training includes completing some Community Policing modules. Having already completed a school visit for his first module he enquired whether he could liaise with and work alongside a local Community Speed Watch group. PC Abbott said: "I'm particularly interested in Roads Policing after being involved in this area as Special Constable in Gwent prior to joining Devon & Cornwall Police. I have three Community Policing modules to complete as part of my Police Officer Probation. Excessive speed and anti-social driving are incredibly frequent complaints mentioned by residents to officers day to day. Devon & Cornwall Police have also had a string of serious (35 in Devon, 32 in Cornwall) and ten fatal collisions in the past four weeks. Excessive speed is one of



the 'fatal five' most-common contributory factors to serious and fatal collisions and the ability to educate drivers on these risks seems really positive. Many people think 'it will never happen to them' and hopefully a warning from CSW to a speeding motorist can educate and prevent them from harming themselves or another road user. As a response Police Officer, I am also a first responder to such collisions

when they occur; the devastation that follows is unimaginable. Behind each of those collisions are family members and bystanders whose lives change forever and mass disruption to local, community and emergency services. The voluntary work of CSW to reduce these risks is inspiring and something I am enthusiastic to try and support as part of my Community Policing module and hopefully beyond".



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NEWS FROM DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE'S COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH TEAM

Over the past two months we have said farewell to Rebecca Chamberlain, the CSW Scheme Manager for Devon and Torbay as she starts her new career as a Police Officer and we have also said goodbye to Sonia Littlewood, the Devon and Torbay scheme administrator. Elaine Fell has returned from her secondment back to her post of Scheme Manager for Plymouth and Cornwall and is working alongside Theresa Garrod the Plymouth and Cornwall CSW Administrator. Both Elaine and Theresa are temporarily covering the Devon and Torbay areas until those posts have been recruited into. They will continue to provide support to all our CSW volunteers, but please bear with them if responses to your enquiries take a little longer than usual.



MEET ELAINE FELL

I first joined Warwickshire Police in 1989 and spent 12 years working in a busy Enquiry Office dealing with many different types of incidents and callers that the role attracted. I transferred to Devon and Cornwall Police as a call handler, in 2001, after moving from the Midlands to live life in a beautiful North Cornwall village. It wasn't until after I moved to Cornwall that I realised how much a strong community spirit can influence personal wellbeing. I was very much welcomed into a new village way of life and benefitted greatly from joining various community groups and supporting many of the monthly fundraising events that were being organised. The feeling of being valued and part of my community has helped me to understand and respect the importance of volunteering. Those who so

willingly give up their free time to worthwhile causes are rewarded with invaluable friendships and contact with others, whilst gaining in the knowledge they are providing a happier, social and safer environment for others to enjoy. After years of witnessing the impact on both families and communities, of losing loved ones so suddenly in road related incidents I am now fortunate to be in a role where I can meet community members, capture some of that contagious community volunteering spirit and help to harness it to support road safety across Devon and Cornwall.



MONITORING 20MPH SITES

From the 3rd July 2023, we will ask you to reduce the current recording threshold from 30mph to 24mph in your 20 mph sites. During May/June we have made some changes to the way we process your roadside data in producing the warning letters. The system has now become automated, which will allow us to be able to process a higher number of warning letters.



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HOW TO DEAL WITH ABUSE FROM DRIVERS



Most motorists either support or are neutral to CSW activity. However, some drivers will gesture in a less than supportive manner, stop and approach the group to say/ask something, but actual confrontation is comparatively rare. Abuse of volunteers is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated. If you are approached by members of the public or a motorist stops:

- Stay calm and advise them that the group are Community Speed Watch volunteers operating under the direction of Devon & Cornwall Police.
- Explain the purpose of CSW and offer them any literature providing information regarding the scheme and contact details that they can direct any queries/concerns.
- Have the group ID available to produce if authority is challenged
- Be open to their views, listen to them without getting into an argument and maintain a professional manner in both your speech and body language
- Most approaches will be of an inquisitive nature, and they will listen to your answers and continue on their way without any problem, they may even be enquiring about CSW in general with a view to joining or forming a CSW Group.
- If the complainant is persistent, interferes with the session in any way, is getting agitated, makes the group feel threatened/intimidated or in fear and the group have no alternative but to cease activity, all stay together to make sure no one person can be singled out and leave the site advising them that you are ringing 999.
- Take note of any details which could assist the police eg description of person, vehicle details and any threats, abusive comments.
- Move to a safe area, ideally a public location, if possible, avoid retreating into any of the group's home or vehicle to avoid any identification by the complainant.
- If necessary, leave the equipment – your safety is paramount.
- All incidents of abuse, regardless of how minor, should be logged onto CSW Online with the vehicle registration
- Information submitted regarding abuse will be monitored and if appropriate followed up by the Police.

It is important that all operatives always conduct themselves in a professional manner whilst undertaking Community Speed Watch activity and should not do anything to attract undesirable attention or escalate any situations. Please remember a copy of this roadside advice sheet is available to you online for use

A screenshot of a letter from Devon & Cornwall Police. The letter is titled 'Community Speed Watch' and is addressed to 'To whom it may concern.' It explains that CSW volunteers work in partnership with the police to reduce the number of drivers who exceed the legal speed limit. It also states that details of vehicles travelling at excess speed are passed to the police, but no personal data is stored. The letter provides contact information for the police and CSW, including a phone number (101), an emergency number (999), and an email address (speedwatch@dc.police.uk). The letter concludes with a thank you for interest in the scheme.



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USING THE BUSHNELL SPEED RADAR GUN

Most teams now operate using the Bushnell Speed Radar Gun. The device is a 'point and shoot' radar device which measures to within +/- one mile per hour accuracy. When conducting speed monitoring sessions, it is important to remember to conduct a functionality test of the device prior to beginning ALL sessions. This is conducted using the supplied tuning fork. Once the tuning fork is hit against a surface it will emit a noise – the device should be aimed at the tuning fork and the speed printed – as printed on the tuning fork - should be displayed (within 1 mph) on the Bushnell display. If the device fails to show this, then check the battery level and replace batteries if required. If the device still fails to measure an accurate speed,

then the session should be cancelled and the group co-ordinator notify speedwatch@dc.police.uk of a faulty device. When using the Bushnell it is most important for operators to remember to have the device turned on and steadily aimed directly towards passing vehicles in order to monitor their correct passing speed. The device should never be positioned downwards and swung up towards passing vehicles as this does not record the true speed. The Speed Radar gun will measure the relative speed of a target as it approaches the radar gun. If the target is in a direct line (collision course) with the radar gun the measured speed will be exact. As the angle of incidence increases, if you move either right or left of



this direct line, the accuracy will decrease. The measured speed will decrease as you move off this centre line. This phenomenon is called the Cosine Effect. It is called this because the measured speed is directly related to the cosine of the angle between the Radar gun and the target's direction of travel.

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS: PLEASE RETURN DACCWA INSURANCE FORMS

We require the Co-ordinator of each group to complete and return the DaCCWA /Neighbourhood Watch insurance form that has been emailed out to you. All sections of this form should be completed including Section 3 (to be completed by someone that know you) and the second page. Once completed in

full, please return the form to speedwatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk and your group will be reactivated on CSW Online.

Please note, this form does not register you under Neighbourhood Watch but as a CSW group under the Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association (DaCCWA) umbrella.

Alternatively, if you are yet to return your form and need another copy emailed to you, please let us know via speedwatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk and we shall get another copy sent to you. A huge thank you to those who have already returned their form.



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SORRY TO SEE YOU LEAVE...



We fully appreciate life changes for everyone and if you find yourself in a position where you are no longer able to support the role of a CSW volunteer, please log in to

www.communityspeedwatch.org

and resign yourself from the scheme. If you are unable to do this, please let us know by emailing us at

speedwatch@dc.police.uk

If you are a group co-ordinator, and your group is no longer active, please do get in touch with us via

speedwatch@dc.police.uk where

an arrangement will be made with you, to return unused equipment. Alternatively, please arrange locally to return any unused equipment to your local Police Station. Please include your contact details in the package along with the name of the CSW group. Please address the package to:

**FAO 55561 Elaine Fell
CSW Scheme Manager
Devon & Cornwall Police Hub
Tollgate Road
Bodmin
PL31 2FJ**

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

204

Registered CSW groups



1,271

Registered volunteers



3,123

CSW sessions in the last 12 months



9,008

Hours given by volunteers in the last 12 months



411,833

Vehicles monitored in the last 12 months

