



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH





COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INTRODUCTION

ADRIAN LEISK
HEAD OF ROAD SAFETY, DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE



2023 has been another milestone year for Community Speed Watch in Devon & Cornwall. We welcomed our 200th registered CSW group at Dolton Winkleigh and introduced a new computer based letter producing system which automates the process formerly manually completed by our Administration teams. This new process ensures that we monitor vehicles on a rolling 12 month basis, as opposed to the previous process which reset on January 1st each year. As a result of this new process, we have asked you to return to monitoring all 20, 30 and 40mph limits at NPCC thresholds. The new system generated letters are also being produced typically within 48 hours, so they will be with a registered keeper within 72 hours, ensuring they are far more relevant in terms of assisting the driver's recall, and demonstrating the strong links between CSW and Devon & Cornwall Police. Your

support with the prompt uploading of CSW sessions would be most appreciated. We are so incredibly grateful for all your support in striving for our shared ambition to reduce harm on our road network. We simply could not do it without the support of local communities. You really are making a difference. As an example, between 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023, you completed over 500 more sessions than the year before with around 1800 extra hours of monitoring activity. This should have led to more offences of speeding vehicles being identified but the numbers of letters produced actually reduced by 2364 over this period. This suggests to me that drivers are heeding the advice letters and becoming aware of communities where CSW schemes are in operation. We still have much to do, and the number of people killed or seriously injured are not reducing as quickly as we would all like. You are helping us in our drive to change behaviours and attitudes on our roads, and help restore a degree of accountability when motorists fall below the standard of a careful and competent driver. Operation Snap has also seen over 9500 drivers held to account for their behaviour since July 2019 thanks to the fantastic support of the public who are observing unacceptable driving and reporting it to the police, via our simple to use online portal. The annual

conferences in October were fantastically attended and I was delighted to meet many of you there. We will holding these again in October 2024, so keep an eye out for the 'save the dates'. 2024 will also see us provide active groups with police specification Body Worn Video cameras. These are encrypted and footage can be securely uploaded by a police officer or member of staff. Further details, including training on how to use the equipment, will be coming out in the spring of 2024. We have tightened the links between our Speed Detection teams and CSW, with many groups now experiencing a session being supported by a Speed Detection Officer enforcing offences observed by them. In January we will have a full team available to support for the first time in over 12 months. Jane Harrington is joining the team in Devon as our CSW Administrator and this will complete our fantastic line up of passionate individuals who are dedicated to support your and your teams being at their best. The team are receiving new enquiries every week and CSW across Devon & Cornwall is getting stronger and more cohesive as a result. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming 12 months!



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CSW PERFORMANCE DATA 2023

371,795

Total vehicles monitored
(↓ from 415,096 in 2022)



1,346

Volunteers
(↑ up from 955 in 2022)



19,928

Speeding drivers detected
(↓ from 23,217 in 2022)



Number of letters sent

16,690

1st letters sent
(↓ from 18,780 in 2022)

632

2nd letters sent
(↓ from 719 in 2022)

68

3rd letters sent
(↑ from 58 in 2022)

3,046

Number of CSW sessions
(↓ from 3,208 in 2022)



383

Sites used



96

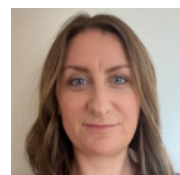
Active groups



YOUR COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH TEAM

Devon:

- Amy Turton, Manager (pictured)
- Jane Harrington, Administration Support
- David Burrows, Speed Detection Officer



Cornwall:

- Elaine Fell, Manager (pictured)
- Theresa Garrod, Administration Support
- Allan Reed & Mick Hinton, Speed Detection Officers



Contact us at:

speedwatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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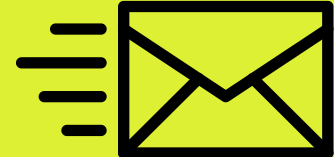


WHAT A YEAR!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023



SPECIAL DELIVERY



During the month of May we were able to move our letter production over into a faster processing system which has now resulted in advisory letters being posted out in a much shorter timescale.

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE



We celebrated Dolton Winkleigh, becoming our 200th registered CSW group. They were thrust into the limelight when our Vision Zero South West Communications Team met up with them in August to make a promotional video around the scheme. Thanks to all involved - [click here to watch the video](#).



CADETS VISIT CSW TEAMS

Throughout August, Cornwall's Youth Engagement Officers, PC Toby Best & PC Phil Rees accompanied Cadet Units from around the county in targeting areas where concerns had been raised by the public relating to speeding motorists. Cadets worked in teams and used speed monitoring devices to record offending motorists. As a result of the Cadets efforts, approximately 6,000 vehicles were monitored. In many instances, speeding motorists were safely stopped and spoken to by Police Officers who gave words of advice regarding the manner of driving. Cadets from Falmouth and Camborne had the pleasure of working alongside the Community Speedwatch Team at Perranwell. During the day, their coordinator gave an insightful talk to the Cadets explaining the role of his team. Cadets were left impressed with the results of the work carried out by the team over a number of years, which has ultimately resulted in average speed cameras being installed on the A39 through Perranarworthal and further speed activation signs in the village. These measures have no doubt led to a reduction in collisions. During each session, communities were very positive about the work being carried out and were extremely grateful for the Cadets efforts. This fantastic work really shows how volunteering can have a positive impact on the places where we live.



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WHAT A YEAR!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023



WEEK OF ACTION

October saw Devon and Cornwall Road Safety Team holding a week of action enabling Speed Detection Officers to link in with Community Speed Watch teams across the force area. This gave an opportunity for volunteers to see how our enforcement colleagues operate and to see how their equipment gathers enough evidence to prosecute drivers. In one community that was visited, the week provided an opportunity for local residents to approach an enforcement officer to raise their concerns about a new road layout, this resulted in the speed detection officer relaying those concerns to the local policing team who are now paying additional attention to the area.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SEMINARS

We were proud to host our community speed watch seminars in October, enabling us to meet both new and familiar faces from our teams of volunteers across Devon and Cornwall. 160 volunteers attended the events that were held in Wadebridge and Exeter. Representatives from partnership agencies and other policing departments were present and the events provided a great networking opportunity for all who attended. We will look forward to hosting next year's event and meeting more volunteers!



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WHAT A YEAR!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023



NATIONAL CSW PUBLICITY

November produced a positive publicity media push around the Community Speed Watch Scheme. It kick-started with the release of a short publicity film starring the Chacewater Team - which [you can watch here](#). This was swiftly followed by interest from several national media outlets enabling discussions around CSW schemes to take place across the nation.



ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Thanks to all the 58 CSW groups who answered our call for action and gave their valuable time volunteering to carry out sessions to support National Road Safety Week. Between them they held 131 sessions across 95 sites, monitored a staggering 17,716 passing vehicles and reported 901 drivers for exceeding the speed limit.



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PROFILE: IAN ADAMS

CSW CO-ORDINATOR, CLYST ST MARY



Starting a new Community Speed Watch (CSW) group always felt like a challenge, but was actually a simple process and despite holding down a full time professional job, it wasn't long before Clyst St. Mary, Exeter CSW was up and running in December 2023. I've always had a passion for safer roads in our region and have seen the devastation that speeding vehicles can cause in our communities, no more so than on the main arterial route into East Devon, the A3052. As a designated 'high harm route' I felt it was my civic duty to do my bit to help reduce serious and fatal road traffic collisions in the area I worked. I'm from Teignmouth and have seen my fair share of road traffic collisions on the daily commute to East Devon, but I

also felt a sense of responsibility towards the local community and I wanted to do my bit to support Devon & Cornwall Police by educating the residents and commuters of Clyst St Mary. After checking for the presence of local CSW groups online, I registered my interest on www.communityspeedwatch.org and it was only a matter of weeks before Ottery St Mary PCSO, Jonathan Simms had picked me up in his patrol car, to look at suitable monitoring sites and to train me on the use of the speed detection equipment. My next challenge was recruitment, so drawing on my HR experience, I organised a meeting with the parish council to present CSW to the parish councillors, as I knew that their engagement would be key to helping me recruit volunteers from the local community, but I also invited a representative of Devon &

Cornwall Police CSW to give greater insight into the scheme and to present CSW to the parish council with me. Luckily, Amy Turton, the Community Speed Watch Manager for Devon and Torbay, was more than happy to oblige. We had a really successful session and I handed out CSW leaflets and put up a recruitment poster at the local post office. With the help of a keen local resident and Chair of a local residents association, I organised an informal meeting at the local pub/restaurant for members of the community to attend and ask questions about Community Speed Watch. At this meeting I was able to onboard them onto the online training portal and show my new team the required steps needed to become an active and trained CSW volunteer. The rest is history, as after recruiting 8 volunteers (within a week or so) we had an equipment training/Q&A session with my new team and I'm now happy to announce that the Clyst St Mary CSW group is up and running and is likely to have undertaken 4 sessions before the end of 2023. It was that easy, so don't fear the challenge, let the challenge fear you. It's great to be the Group Coordinator for Devon and Cornwall's Clyst St Mary Community Speed Watch group.



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COMMUNITYSPEEDWATCH.ORG





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PROFILE: MIKE JOYCE

CSW CO-ORDINATOR, NEWTON ABBOT

Newton Abbot Speedwatch has been in operation a lot longer than I care to recognise if I am honest, because it reminds me how time has flown by. The scheme continues to grow, especially here, as our town grows. The requests from residents to target their road/area continues to grow as the perception of speed grows and that, for me, is one of the problems. People's perception of speed does not always equate to reality, but to prove it you have to be seen to monitor it. Newton Abbot is fortunate that it has a group of operatives that are willing to fit Speedwatch into their busy lives because they all understand tackling speed saves lives. We have four vehicle activation signs (VAS) along with a Speed Indicating Detector (SID) mobile daytime-only use, which are deployed to assist in ascertaining whether there is a speed issue or not. This enables the group to target those areas, once a site has been approved, to the best effect. There is one thing that gives the Newton Abbot team a boost which is when, embedded within our sessions, are the Police Officers. Their presence shows the public that we are part of the Vision Zero South West family and that to me and my colleagues is important. In addition to that, is the support we as a group receive from Devon &

Cornwall Police, the Roads Policing team, the local Neighbourhood Police Teams, the local Press, the local Council and Councillors, some of whom are CSW operatives. Are there challenges? Yes, of course there are. I am always on the lookout for new operatives, encouraging anyone who shows an interest to join the group. Discussing with residents their concerns, seeing how best as a group, we can address those issues raised without increasing expectations beyond that which we can match. One of the biggest challenges I expect every group faces is the inputting of data afterwards. The more successful the sessions, the greater the number of possible inputs to be made and despite my several requests to make transferring the data easier, some updates have yet to bear fruit. Having extra people to input data eases that burden considerably - as does having someone to arrange sessions and provide backup should the need arise. Does every session go without a hitch? Nope, I would be lying if I said yes. Operatives becoming unwell, transport problems, the weather, finding road works or road closures; because so far there is no system to enable us to be advised. Then if you throw into that mix the equipment which has been known to throw a wobbly. People - and in that I include



drivers and passengers - have been known to ask why we do it, along with other less favourable enquiries such as "Get a life". My answer if given the chance to explain, is simple - if no one sped then me and my colleagues would be able to do other things that interest us. I also like to point out that we do it to save lives and reduce injuries on our roads. I explained once to a driver who actually turned around and came back to ask us why we were out, that we do it to avoid a Police Officer having to call at someone's home to tell them that, someone at that address was injured or killed - and then to find out it was because of speed. I know I speak for all my operatives when I say that if our work can save just one person being injured or killed, it is worth every second of us standing there.



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MOVING INTO THE FUTURE



Body Worn Video (BWV)

We are hoping to provide our active teams with Body Worn Videos next year.

Signage

We are currently in the process of liaising with our Highways partners to produce a Community Speed Watch sign that will be attached to street furniture where there are teams actively supporting the scheme.

Data Sharing

We are close to resolving how we feedback roadside data processing to allow groups to see the results of their generous time and efforts given.

Co-ordinator meetings

In the new year both force scheme managers will be working towards

accommodating regular meetings with their local team co-ordinators. More to follow!

More scheme publicity

The force team hope to work more with local groups and will be looking to attend community events with them to showcase the work of Community Speed Watch.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all of the Community Speed Watch groups who have carried out sessions this year. We appreciate the effort and time that all groups have displayed this past year – juggling CSW activity with your other life/work commitments we know at times can be tricky. We have managed to come out and visit some of the groups this year and it has been fantastic meeting you

and understanding the challenges in some of your local areas. We will continue with our visits in 2024 so that we get the chance to come meet you all.



Vision Zero South West Video Highlights 2023



For the latest road safety news, follow us on social media:

