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APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



“Your efforts are making a difference in slowing drivers down.”

Adrian Leisk

Adrian Leisk
Head of Road Safety

about visiting groups and I am grateful for their hard work and commitment in supporting your endeavours.

After what has seemed like an eternal winter, we have emerged into Spring slightly earlier and enjoyed some more favourable and dry weather. This has led to an increased number of monitoring sessions from our 175 active groups, with 230 sessions being completed in March alone.

The letter processing is working well, and your sessions are being updated and letters printed and sent to vehicle keepers typically within 72 hours of groups sending in the data. With the 3rd stage letter being hand delivered by one of our Armed Policing Team officers, this has additional weight and encouragement of accountability.

I can see that many of your monitoring sites have also been visited by one of our Speed Detection Officers where those detected at excess speed are sent a Notice of Intended Prosecution. Amy and Elaine are regularly out and

Your efforts are making a difference in slowing drivers down. We have seen a reduction in the number of serious collisions and casualties in 2024, and the Department for Transport will be publishing the collision statistics in May. This is encouraging, but every serious collision is a potentially avoidable tragedy, and we will not rest until we have achieved our ambition of zero road deaths and serious injury.

Having the support of communities is vital to this ambition and we are hugely grateful for your continued support and efforts to make our road network safer and a hostile environment for poor driving.



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THE ROLE OF A SPEED DETECTION OFFICER (SDO)



SDO Sue Naylor explains:

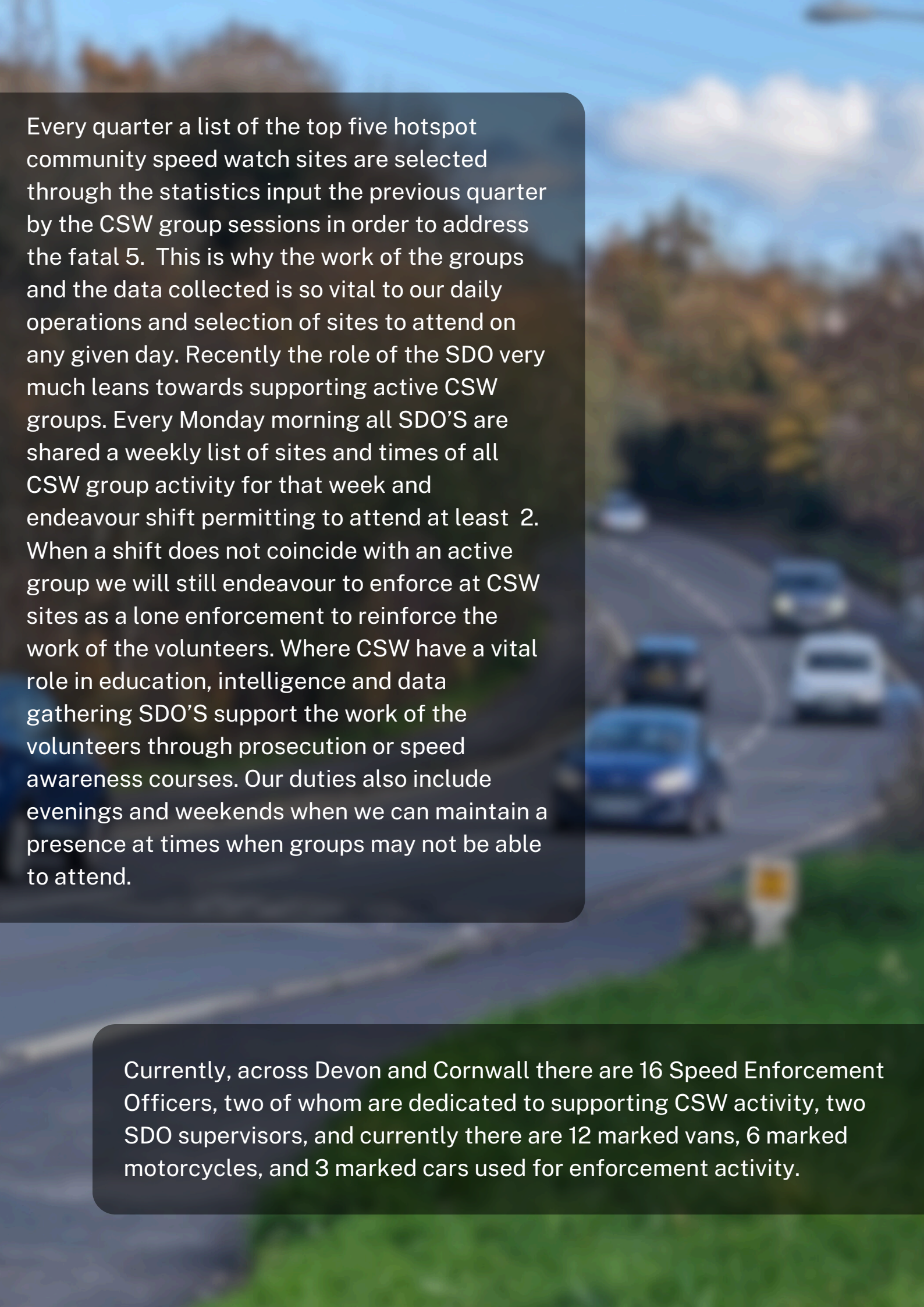
The role of an SDO is varied, dynamic and extremely satisfying. Speed detection officers are passionate about road safety and making Devon and Cornwall's roads safe and it is a privilege to be part of the Vision Zero team. The one thing we all share is a commitment to cut the number of deaths and serious injuries in the county to zero.

An average day in the life of the speed detection officer is spent out on the road covering a mixture of high harm routes, major arterial routes and supporting community speed watch groups. We are data and intelligence led so sites on the arterial routes are identified from casualty and KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) data

whilst for rural areas, villages and community concern sites most of the intelligence is received from CSW groups.

SDO'S operate using a Trucam laser speed measuring device at these sites from a range of marked police cars, vans and motorcycles. Different vehicles lend themselves to enforcement at different types of sites. The newer speed detection vans are equipped with the latest technologies including 360 degree CCTV, ANPR, air conditioning and heaters. There has been a lot of investment in vehicles and equipment in recent years to create the vision zero team in its current format.

The newer vans are often ideal for use on the arterial high harm routes into the county while the other smaller more compact vans and motor cycles are best suited for the towns, villages and CSW sites.



Every quarter a list of the top five hotspot community speed watch sites are selected through the statistics input the previous quarter by the CSW group sessions in order to address the fatal 5. This is why the work of the groups and the data collected is so vital to our daily operations and selection of sites to attend on any given day. Recently the role of the SDO very much leans towards supporting active CSW groups. Every Monday morning all SDO'S are shared a weekly list of sites and times of all CSW group activity for that week and endeavour shift permitting to attend at least 2. When a shift does not coincide with an active group we will still endeavour to enforce at CSW sites as a lone enforcement to reinforce the work of the volunteers. Where CSW have a vital role in education, intelligence and data gathering SDO'S support the work of the volunteers through prosecution or speed awareness courses. Our duties also include evenings and weekends when we can maintain a presence at times when groups may not be able to attend.

Currently, across Devon and Cornwall there are 16 Speed Enforcement Officers, two of whom are dedicated to supporting CSW activity, two SDO supervisors, and currently there are 12 marked vans, 6 marked motorcycles, and 3 marked cars used for enforcement activity.





DATA LEAD SPEED ENFORCEMENT

This year we really would like to see every Community Speed Watch group submit the **TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSING VEHICLES** into their roadside session data.

This helps us to analyse each area's data, and get a clear picture of speed compliancy in the different areas around Devon and Cornwall. Where data suggests there is a need for additional support with enforcement activity we request our SDO colleagues to also call out and support in the area.

With both CSW monitoring and ad-hoc speed enforcement activity we hope to see a positive impact on reducing the reported numbers of excess speed.

OUT AND ABOUT

Elaine and Amy are planning to get out and about into as many villages, towns and cities as they can throughout this year to showcase the work of CSW. We hope this activity may help to increase volunteer numbers into both existing schemes and the starting up of new schemes. We will be publicising our planned activities via local social media and other policing platforms. So please keep an eye out for us at local garden centres and supermarkets and come and say hello.

Hot off the press: Amy and Jane will be attending their first Garden Centre visit at Fermoy's Garden Centre in Ipplepen on Wednesday 16th April. The event is weather pending as they will be standing outdoors to welcome any Community Speed Watch interest.



CSW VOLUNTEERS TAKING PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In January Cornwall Community Link Officer Chris Sims approached the Devon and Cornwall Police Community Speed Watch team asking if he could contact some CSW groups local to the A388 in Cornwall. He explained they were launching an A388 Community Road Safety Campaign of which they wanted to include short interviews with active people/ groups in the community, recognising that CSW is a key part of this area.

Stepping forward were Bray Shop & St Anns Chapel CSW team co-ordinators who were asked to provide a short piece to camera in support road safety in the area. This is what they have to say:

Geoff, Co-Ordinator for Bray Shop CSW Team

The increasing speed and volume of traffic using our roads in Cornwall, especially through our village has been a major concern for the majority of our residents. We share the concerns of Cornwall Council relating to the large number of accidents in recent years on the A388. We have witnessed many near misses in our village and unfortunately the tragic impact of a fatality on the A388 has been experienced by a member of our community. It's not a pleasant experience watching the devastation of a local family following the death of their teenage daughter.

As a community we felt that inaction was not an option. So, the Bray Shop Village Community Action Group was set up by the residents. In addition to supporting our more vulnerable residents the speed of traffic passing

... through our village was raised as a matter of great concern. Consultation with the Devon and Cornwall Police helped us take the natural step of setting up the Bray Shop Speed Watch initiative. Details on the CSW scheme was circulated by newsletter to all residents and the response and support for a Bray Shop CSW was unanimously acknowledged as the best way forward.

We have been operating our CSW for just over 4 years. We have a good team of volunteers who are ready and willing to support our campaigns. The BIG question is "are we making a difference". The answer is definitely yes. Our objective is to be present on the road side as a gentle reminder to passing motorists. We view a session where we catch a small number of speeding vehicles as a success. The volume of traffic that is speeding definitely drops when we operate on a regular basis. So yes, we are making a difference.



Do we receive negative comments from passing motorists? Yes we do, however mostly we get positive comments. We know we are making a difference and we strongly support the implementation of measures to introduce effective traffic speed reduction on the A388.

You can watch Geoff's video here:

Bray Shop - <https://youtu.be/N4J7WQcdAxE>
<https://vimeo.com/1055513135?share=copy>



JOHN, CO-ORDINATOR FOR ST ANN'S CHAPEL CSW TEAM



Earlier this year I was asked by Chris Sims if I had any objection to filming a video for Cornwall Council as part of a new Road Safety initiative. As a member of the Tamar to Moor CAP and also a member of the A388 Road Safety Group, I was only too happy to help.

This initiative is a new media driven trial of proactive road safety measures being taken by Cornwall Council in conjunction with other partners, including D & C Police. If successful, I believe they hope to roll out similar initiatives in other parts of the Duchy.

Although I don't live by the A388, I regard all the major roads in the area as being interlinked and should be viewed as one major network, not in isolation. A problem on one road frequently causes problems elsewhere, e.g. An accident on the A38 or closure of the Tamar Bridge inevitably results in increased traffic and other issues on the A390 through St. Ann's Chapel and Drakewalls.

Although not officially a member of the Tamar to Moor CAP early last year I was co-opted back on last autumn as I am increasingly regarded locally as having a decent grasp of some of the highways and road safety issues in South East Cornwall. (I hope to be able to resume my role as Calstock Parish's official representative in the new council year).

ST ANN'S CHAPEL

Because of that, and the work I have done chairing our Parish's Highways cttee when we secured speed cameras in our village, together with other road safety measures I am still driving forward, I was asked to sit on the A388 Road Safety cttee even though it doesn't directly affect our Parish in general or my ward in particular.

As a member of the D & C Police and Crime Commissioner's advocate panel I sometimes also get to look at the issues from the policing side of things. Now, apart from a slight kink in the road near the Rifle Volunteer pub our village is virtually a straight line for a couple of miles. Before I started our Speed watch group, traffic would frequently fly through the village at ridiculous speeds (the fastest officially recorded just days after the cameras went live in June 23 was 73 mph).

Speed watch data from both increased traffic and the number of speeding vehicles all helped in our quest to prove that the A390 can no longer be regarded as a minor A road, as it was once described to me.

Traffic has increased radically from Cornwall Council's survey in 2016 that only 1296 cars went through our village in one day between 8 am and 7pm, to Speedwatch data indicating that we're now averaging in excess of 600 vehicles an hour outside holiday season!

Now that the cameras are accepted in the village most people believe they have significantly helped to reduce pedestrian safety anxiety. Quite a few locals have had brain fades when driving past one or other of the cameras, but tend to just shrug their shoulders and take their medicine when they get a speeding ticket.

This compares very favourably to the first time a camera was installed in the village back in the day when these things were new. It had a tyre round its head and was burnt within a couple of days....as some of the old timers still delight in reminding me.

The majority of locals are now firmly in favour of Speed watch, although we still get the occasional idiot who verbally or digitally abuses our volunteers when they're out and about.

Speed watch, together with the dramatic reduction in speed we now see in the centre of St. Ann's Chapel as a result of our newish speed cameras, is proof that safety initiatives all help in the quest to achieve Net Zero casualties in the South West.

You can watch Johns video here:

St Ann's Chapel -

<https://youtube.com/shorts/TsDbQs6jSXw>

<https://vimeo.com/1055609520?share=copy>



THANK YOU EMAILS

A thankyou has been received from Bishops Clyst Parish Council to their local community speed watch team which reads:

“ The Parish Council is fully supportive of the Community Speedwatch initiative and would be very grateful if you would extend our thanks to the volunteers who regularly attend sessions in an effort to bring speeds down in our area, thereby increasing road safety.

Once again many thanks to you all.”

Ian Findler Cornwall Council’s Principal Transport Officer for Road Safety mentioned his thanks during the filming of a recent road safety publicity video:

“...and thanks to the CSW volunteers for supporting these videos and for the time they devote in making their communities safer. ”

We too at Devon and Cornwall Police would like to pass our thanks on to all Community Speed Watch volunteers who have been out and about recently, especially wrapping up warm and braving the past few chilly months - your dedication to speed monitoring and road safety has not gone unnoticed. Thank you!



LIAISON WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Elaine and Amy sit in on a monthly meeting to share some speed watch data with Local Authorities and show where we intend to request support with enforcement activity.

We also share information on the locations of where new CSW sites have been requested for. We feel it is beneficial to share such information so our local authority partners better understand where active CSW groups are based and the roads where these teams have requested to operate from.

MONTHLY STATS



January 2025

62 of 177



Active Groups



1248
Number of volunteers

1481
Number of incidents

30

29864



Total of vehicles monitored

Sites Used

133



Number of CSW sessions

146



Number of letters sent

1st - 1259
2nd - 72
3rd - 10





MONTHLY STATS

February 2025

64 of 179



Active Groups



1251
Number of volunteers

1692
Number of incidents



Number of CSW sessions



33751



Total of vehicles monitored

Sites Used

147



Number of letters sent

1st - 1420
2nd - 88
3rd - 10



March 2025

84 of 175



Active Groups



1288
Number of volunteers

2230
Number of incidents



Number of CSW sessions



52730



Total of vehicles monitored

Sites Used

195



Number of letters sent

1st - 1851
2nd - 134
3rd - 18



A WARM WELCOME



Hello and a warm welcome to these new groups: Bugle and Stenalees, Blackwater, Kennford, Whimple.

Roadside etiquette: Please do remember to wear your high viz jackets with sleeves rolled down and securely fastened at the front, and check that nothing has considerably changed at the site you are operating from. Please also be mindful of your body language as you monitor passing traffic. Do not gesture to drivers to slow down as they pass, nor express any excited movement such as fist bumping, as you record passing speeding drivers. We do receive the odd complaint from drivers when such behaviour has been witnessed and it contradicts the standards of behaviour we expect from CSW volunteers supporting us in our road safety initiative. Thank you.

Quarterly Group Co-Ordinators meetings held online: We were really pleased to see many co-ordinators (or another representative from their team) join us in our online March meeting. We spoke about varying topics including improving accuracy in recording vehicle details, Online housekeeping for group co-ordinators, Recruitment, CSW letter re-wording to name but a few, and we welcome feedback into the discussions from all participants.

We will look forward to our next meeting on Mon 16th June at 1230pm. Please do email us with any topics you'd like to be discussed at: **speedwatch@dc.police.uk**

HOLD THE DATE!

11TH JULY 2025 - National All Out Community Speed Watch Day: We have been informed that there are plans to hold the first National All Out Community Speed Watch Day on 11th July 2025 – More details to follow...