

# Leigh on Mendip Parish Council

## Community Speed-watch report – for discussions

December 2022

### Background

Several residents and PC members have noted an increase in the number of vehicles travelling through the village at speeds thought to be greater than the 30mph limit that applies. It is very unlikely that we would be able to secure support of Police to detect potential speeding without first taking some action ourselves to identify further that a problem exists.

Perceptions of speed vary and are distorted by the various sizes of vehicles, eg. large HGV's, small, low sports cars and agricultural vehicles.

Establishing a Community Speed watch scheme and the placing of speed detection devices can identify and deter drivers going above the speed limit. These are explained below. Police are supportive of these schemes (see relevant paragraph below)

### Community Speed Watch

Community SpeedWatch is a partnership between the Community, the Police and Local Authorities. It gives local people the ability to actively get involved in road safety.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians.

A Community SpeedWatch can be set up in any village, small town, or urban area, governed by a 20, 30 or 40 miles per hour speed limit.

A team of local residents who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time each week are trained and issued with speed detection equipment to monitor speeds. Vehicles observed speeding will be sent a warning letter along with advice to help change their driving behaviour.

Further action will be taken by the police against persistent and high-end speed offenders as well as targeting individual locations.

Source: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/community-speedwatch/>

### Speed Indication signs

Vehicle Activated Speed signs are popular traffic management solutions in reducing vehicle speeds to create safer and cleaner roads. These can be:

#### Speed Limit Reminder Signs (SLR)

SLR speed signs are activated by speeding vehicles and will display the road's speed limit, prompting the driver to check and correct their speed.

## **Smiley Activated Messages (SAM)**

Speeding motorists are a danger on the roads and to communities. Prompting drivers when exceeding the speed limit, or highlighting the legal limit of a given area are both proven methods of speed reduction. In addition, Vehicle Activated Speed Signs are an invaluable tool in monitoring speed and traffic movements.

Smiley Activated Message Signs are proving popular all over the UK. This sign is a 'softer' message that provides visual feedback through the use of a 'red sad face' for speeding vehicles, and a 'green smiley face' for those not speeding.

## **Speed Indication Devices (SID)**

A Speed Indicator Device has a LED display that will show the exact speed of oncoming vehicles, along with a 'SLOW DOWN' message when they are travelling over the set speed limit. This will prompt drivers to correct and lower their speed and is an effective speed calming solution.

Source:

<https://www.messagemaker.co.uk/products/speed-indicator-device-sid/>

## **Police response**

Avon and Somerset have a specific Speedwatch website via which community groups can apply to establish a speedwatch scheme. A recent example of their support for villages is here

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/sedgemoor-north-west/priorities/community-speedwatch/>

Police support schemes across the County via their Neighbourhood Policing teams (this may lead to better liaison and support from our team). Speed watch is one of our local team priorities.

It is recommended that we have a minimum of 3 people to set up a scheme with a larger group for long term action. There is a minimal training requirement for volunteers prior to official registration (with the police). This is via a public access website utilising a video and questions. Once registered onsite training is provided which takes about 45 minutes. This is delivered by local (Mendip area) Community Speedwatch lead Ashley Reay with whom I have consulted.

## **Commitment**

It is recommended that at least 4 speed-watch sessions are held each month, weather dependent.

## **Equipment**

The police provide all equipment free of charge, this includes hi-viz jackets, speed detection equipment, signs and admin forms. Grants are available from the police and other sources to purchase speed indication devices. Again Police support the installation of these permanently on the roadside. Costs are between £2-£5k per unit.

Martin  
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