

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)
21 MARCH 2007

KEY ISSUE:

To receive an information report about Community Speed Watch (CSW) within the Mole Valley local area.

SUMMARY:

In February 2005 five trial CSW schemes were established within the Mole Valley local area at Boxhill, Brockham, Headley, Leigh and Westcott. The success of the Mole Valley schemes contributed to the county wide launch of CSW by Surrey Police in February 2006.

There are now a total of twelve CSW schemes in existence across Mole Valley; the additional seven locations covered are: Asjcombe Road, Betchworth, Bookham, Ockley, Newdigate and Charlwood, which is in the process of being set up.

Trained volunteers using equipment supplied and maintained by Surrey Police, via partnership funding, monitor traffic speed passing through their local areas. Drivers travelling at excess speed on designated speed limited roads are recorded and the information is processed by Police administrators.

Speeding drivers can expect to receive 'Yellow Card' warning letters for their transgression of the speed limit and a reminder of the consequences should they fail to comply with the speed limit. Persistent offenders are recognised by the Police database, they receive 'Red Card' warning letters and are targeted by the Police for prosecution; their details are also added to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system and they will be detected by the Police when conducting ANPR sweeps across the County.

The strength of CSW comes from the volunteers who operate CSW in their local areas. Without them the scheme could not exist, with them the data shows inappropriate speeds are reducing with time.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to note the report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Part of the outcome from the Dorking Rural Transport Forum initiative was the development of Community Speed Watch (CSW) in partnership with the Police. The project encourages members of local communities to actively engage and monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through their local areas.
- 1.2 In 2005, five trial CSW schemes were introduced in the Mole Valley local area at Boxhill, Brockham, Headley, Leigh and Westcott. The success of these schemes inspired the development of further CSW across Mole Valley and there are now a further seven additional locations Ashcombe Road, Abinger, Betchworth, Bookham, Ockley, Newdigate and Charlwood is in the process of being established.

2.0 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 Volunteers are trained by the Police in the use of the equipment, which is provided by partnership funding and maintained by the Police. Teams of volunteers then monitor traffic speed passing through their local areas and record drivers who are exceeding speed limits. The information from all such recordings is given to the Police administrators for processing.
- 2.2 The Police administrators' send out letters to the offending drivers, this system is being automated with the aim of sending letters within 30 days of a recorded incident.
- 2.3 Drivers receive either a:
 - 'Yellow Card' letter warning them of their transgression of the speed limit at a particular location with a reminder of the consequences should they continue this practice and fail to comply with the regulations, or
 - 'Red Card' letter for persistent offenders who are recognised by the Police database and are then targeted by the Police for prosecution; their details are also added to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system and they will be detected by the Police when conducting ANPR sweeps across the County.
- 2.4 Over 6,259* reported incidents of vehicles being driven above 35mph in 30 mph limits were recorded between February 2005 and September 2006. *Over 50% of speeding vehicles are in excess of 40mph. In the eleven month period February to December 2005 there were 3,020 reported incidents and in the nine months January to September 2006 there were 3,232.
 - Over 2,977 'Yellow Card' warning letters and over 87 'Red Card' warning letters have been issued.
- 2.5 Volunteers have contributed well over 640 man hours over the two years. In 2005 at least 186 hours were spent on active CSW, which equates to 372 hours as teams comprise two volunteers. They recorded about 8 incidents per man hour or 16 incidents an hour for 2005. In 2006 this fell to 134 hours (268 man hours), however, incidents recorded have increased by 7%, which equates to 12 incidents per person per hour in 2006. The reason for the change may indicate either a rise in offences, familiarity of CSW and limited enforcement, ineffective administration or improved recording by volunteers.
- 2.6 The administration of CSW by the Police has altered since the schemes were originally introduced and the manual administration of warning letters is

now automatic with fully trained administrators conversant with the system and procedures for informing offending drivers.

- 2.7 The system of Police enforcement has also altered with the development of CSW. Police administrators lift details of repeat offenders from the recorded data and enter this onto the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) database, which gives the Police an ability to target drivers via this camera system as it is deployed across the County.
- 2.8 The use of ANPR systems are becoming more local and Mole Valley's local Police support team will shortly be piloting the use of ANPR within the local area (Leigh and Brockham). Drivers are warned in the 'Red Card' letter that they will be targeted and ANPR provides the means of achieving this. If the pilots go well this system will be rolled out to the other CSW schemes in Mole Valley in future.
- 2.9 In terms of statistics, there are now 11 CSW schemes operating in the Mole Valley local area. The schemes are proving successful in terms of reducing overall speeds and reducing complaints about speeding, with some schemes showing more activity than others.
- 2.10 The statistics since November 2005 are set out below:

SCHEME	YELLOW LETTERS	RED LETTERS
Boxhill	566	17
Brockham	1102	71
Headley	278	9
Leigh	1163	27
Westcott	250	4
Newdigate	33	0
Abinger	9	0
Bookham	9	0
Ockley	27	0
Betchworth	13	0
TOTAL	3450	128

2.11 Brockham Profile:

In Brockham CSW reduced the 85th percentile speeds by 8mph from 49mph in 2004 to 41mph in 2005.

Highest recorded speed in Brockham was 96mph in 2004 and 86mph in 2005.

47% of vehicles travelling through Brockham exceed 35mph.

Average daily traffic movements through Brockham, 5,348 or 4 vehicles a minute.

Average daily goods vehicle movements through Brockham, 1,108 or 1 goods vehicle every 45 seconds.

Goods vehicles account for over 21% of speeding vehicles through Brockham.

Vehicles between 6.5m and 9.5m in length are the most likely to speed through Brockham.

Way Forward

- 2.12 The Police working with the volunteers and SCC will seek to enhance the CSW activities throughout Mole Valley during 2007, with the first such enhancement commencing in Leigh. The intensification comprises a rolling programme of measures that include the use of Vehicle Activated Signs coupled with direct Police enforcement on-street. The whole programme will be phased through the area under consideration, CSW being the core activity with the other elements being used to integrate and promote greater driver awareness of the speed limits.

3.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 There has been no specific consultation on this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funding for CSW has been obtained through Police, SCC Highways and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership budgets generally.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Reduced speeds through the rural areas of Mole Valley enhance the environment, make for safer communities and encourage greater walking and cycling.

6.0 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 CSW contributes significantly to the reduction in breaches of the recognised speed limits across Mole Valley and the greater use of ANPR cameras should influence this further.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific equalities implications.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Speed Watch forms part of a wider initiative to influence driver behaviour and reduce inappropriate speeds across the County and particularly in the rural areas of Mole Valley.

The volunteers who operate CSW under Police guidance and training have had a remarkable effect on driver behaviour, reducing speeds considerably in the areas where CSW operates.

CSW continues to evolve and with data being feed into the Police ANPR system this enables the Police to target persistent offenders and pursue prosecutions as appropriate.

Report by: Geoff Wallace – Local Transportation Manager Mole Valley

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Geoff Wallace

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 08456 009 009

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
