



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Volunteers guide

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team

Excessive or inappropriate speeding is dangerous and is responsible for many unnecessary injuries and collisions. It is a serious traffic offence which affects the quality of life of many communities throughout West Mercia.

Reducing excessive and inappropriate speed is a priority for West Mercia Police. The force uses a wide range of education, enforcement and publicity programmes to address the issue. Our Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative is one of these. Similar schemes are operated throughout the UK.

These local schemes are established where communities raise speeding as a concern through their local safer neighbourhood team, parish council or at a local PACT (Partners and Communities Together) event. They enable local people to play an active role in improving their community and provide a valuable deterrent to people driving irresponsibly.

What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes are coordinated by the police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enables local people to take an active role in road safety and make their community safer.

The aim of CSW is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible. It aims to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, reduce speed in areas of concern, re-educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their neighbourhood.

How does CSW work?

At specified safe locations, volunteers monitor the speed of passing vehicles with a hand-held speed detection device. Offending vehicles' details are recorded on a log sheet, the make/model and registration number of the vehicle and the speed recorded by the hand-held device.

Log sheets should be submitted to safer neighbourhood teams within seven days, who will arrange for warning letters to be sent to the registered keepers with advice on safer driving. Schemes will be evaluated to ensure they are having a positive impact on vehicle speed, driver behaviour and community reassurance.

Which communities can have a scheme?

There are a number of criteria which must be met before a scheme will be established:

- Speeding must have been identified as a community priority.
- Active speed enforcement operations must not already be underway in the area by West Mercia Police.
- There must be at least six volunteers in each CSW scheme.
- Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers.
- The area must have a 30 or 40 mph speed restriction.



Can anyone become a volunteer?

Schemes are open to anyone aged 17 or over. Volunteers will only be accepted onto a scheme once appropriate checks have been carried out. Volunteers must be able to make a regular commitment to carry out activity and must adhere to the scheme's safety rules at all times. Although reasonable adjustments can be made, volunteers should be mindful of the physical nature of the role.

Training will be provided covering areas such as health and safety, legislation and how to use the speed detection equipment. West Mercia Police reserve the right to withdraw permission for an individual to participate in a local scheme.

Safety Matters

The safety of all road users is paramount in any initiative. The following rules must be adhered to at all times:

- Volunteers must not stand in the road at any time or obstruct the footpath.
- Volunteers must always work in groups of three, with one operating as a 'safety lookout'.
- Checks should only take place during daylight hours at locations which have been agreed and approved.
- High visibility jackets must always be worn.
- At least one volunteer must be in possession of a mobile phone.

Volunteers will be covered by the relevant force's public liability and personal accident insurance policies.



Want to get involved?

For more information on Community Speed Watch and how to become a volunteer:

- Contact your local safer neighbourhood team at www.westmercia.police.uk
- By emailing roadsafety1@westmercia.pnn.police.uk