

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH(UK) CIC (CRW) PRESENTATION TO BOXWORTH PARISH MEETING ON 10 OCT

Mr David McCandless, MD, CRW(UK) CIC, along with Mr Colin Silvester (Operations Director) explained the background and objectives of CRW (as published on their website www.roadwatch.org.uk). They stated that, at the invitation of Mr John Witherow (Chair), since Aug 17, they had been actively quantifying traffic volumes and speeds in Boxworth using 30 min snapshot Bushnell kerbside sessions, followed by deployment of a Data Logger and a Bluetooth Speed Indicating Device (SID) with data capture capabilities. Using this 3 step approach, CRW had proved that there was a persistent high speed problem not only at the exits to the village in Elsworth Rd and the A14 end of the High St, but also along the straight stretches in between such as across Seagraves. (Ref 1).

Mr McCandless expressed disappointment that Speedwatch – that is 100% supported by CRW - had stopped because it had become impractical to always get 3 ‘retired’/unoccupied operators during the day or indeed to share a limited-use kit (issued or bought) with other villages that had the same speeding problem at the same time of day.

Consequently, in seeking a pragmatic mutually-beneficial solution CRW had determined from the SID manufacturer that standard mini-SIDs have identical electronics and displays to the limited-use, Speedwatch-only ones recommended by the Constabulary. He also noted that Boxworth Council had previously refused to purchase a Speedwatch-only SID, in part or whole, much to the chagrin of the then Speedwatch team. However, he agreed with that wise decision because like every other county in UK, Speedwatch should be supplied by supporting Constabularies ‘free at point of delivery’. He had also made that assertion face-to-face to the PCC in May 17 and received little sympathy for it. Since then he had discovered that, aptly, North Yorkshire Constabulary actually pays for Speedwatch kit out of rebates it obtains from Speed Awareness Courses. Mr McCandless explained that CRW’s solution - to compensate for the lack of Speedwatch SIDs and reduce their management overhead (headache) - a solution that he put to the then ACC and Force Speedwatch Lead way back in May 17 - would be for villages to buy their own post-mounted, 14 day-battery-powered plain mini-SIDs and use them for Speedwatch. This would then serve to address speeding 24/7 as discovered by Dorset County Council that had proven SIDs will moderate speeding when properly placed (Ref 2).

Mr McCandless believed that Boxworth would profit immediately from the use of 1 (or possibly 2) mini-SIDs to be placed on BBLP posts, in CCC Local Highways Officer-approved locations. In response to a question he stated that the ex-VAT cost would be £2625 per plain mini-SID and one bracket with an optional Bluetooth data module at £350 and extra brackets (3 recommended) at £50 each.

In closing, Mr McCandless thanked the meeting for their attention and interest. Additionally he urged the residents to take ownership of their speeding problem, not to speed in their own village and not to decry any future Speedwatch group for trying to make their roads a safer place for all. If residents did not fancy Speedwatch they could always help CRW carry out more sessions in the village. Just ask John for details.

Finally he urged the Council to write to the Force Speedwatch Lead supporting the CRW call for allowing plain post-mounted, village purchased, village managed mini-SIDs – with identical electronics and displays - to be used by teams for Speedwatch purposes.

David McCandless

Ref 1 – Presentation Handout: <http://www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/boxworth>

Ref 2 - Dorset SID Trials: <http://www.roadsafetyevaluation.com/docs/speed-indicator-device-evaluation.pdf>