

Our last visit to a Parish Meeting was exactly 2 years ago in Oct 2017. That presentation is reported on our website at www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/boxworth where details from this presentation will also be published.

At that meeting we explained that we were merely a group of 5 residents – just ordinary caring members of the public - who formed our own Community Roadwatch Community Interest Company in 2015. We did that in order to exploit the full potential of residents beyond that of narrowly-scoped Speedwatch to deal with Community traffic issues. Being a corporate body also allowed us to qualify for grants and accept donations (such as the £200 you kindly donated in 2017). The company is run by 5 active, unpaid, volunteer directors. We also explained that we created this 'entity' in order to fully identify and then try to deal with the dangers and hazards created by traffic where low-level speeding was not the only issue because Speedwatch alone and sometimes not even the Police had the capability, authority, resources or kit to address every aspect such as reporting back to their proactive Transport Managers, any commercial driver behaviour of drinking, eating, smoking, reading schedules, tailgating, HGVs using inappropriate routes or even infringing 7.5t weight limits. With our calibrated Bushnell speed guns we are also able to discretely record dangerous speeds in communities that are in excess of 60 mph (a cap for Speedwatch kits) and we try to report them for anti-social use of a vehicle for at least a visit by the Casualty Reduction Officer or possibly a Section 59 or even a NIP, using the Cambs Police 'Contact Us' web portal. To date we and those we seek to help, have had little success even though such reports are encouraged and we have been prepared to provide statements and go to court in support of our observations even with dashcam evidence. We have taken this unacceptable situation to our understanding ACC, Dan Vajovic, and await his response even though all Roads Policing and camera van enforcement appears to be controlled by a remote Herts Constabulary.

What we have managed to achieve - by loaning out the 3 SIDs we have had sponsored by the Big Lottery, Mick George and the Red Tile Windfarm - is to convince many more villages other than Boxworth to obtain SIDs. Also, despite it taking since 2017 (as explained on our website), we have managed to convince the Constabulary to accept that SIDs on posts are just as accurate and acceptable for Speedwatch teams to use as are the shared police-issued 'special to Speedwatch' tripod versions that take ages to setup, block footpaths, do not gather data and that have to be removed once the session has ended. Despite the obvious advantage of post mounted SIDs such as yours, these also serve as a permanent deterrent in case Speedwatch is lurking nearby. However, if you don't have Speedwatch you cannot exploit the full advantage of your SID that in itself, like Speedwatch, is not the panacea to speeding. So, in this new era of owning your own SID, I urge you to start up Speedwatch again and take ownership of your own speeding problem as it would appear that you are the only ones capable of doing so.

However, all is still not lost. We have a further representation, first made to the PCC and ACC in May 17 at the same time as Post SIDs for Speedwatch, to have our PCSO's Laser Gun enabled with TruCams for speed enforcement operations within their allocated communities and put the 'C' back into PCSO. Just Google 'PCSO Trucam' and/or see our website again for the full history of this noble endeavour.

Finally, whilst the village does not want a Neighbourhood Plan, I would urge it to have a 3 or 5 year Road Safety Plan to focus its LHI efforts in a known direction and to spend its precept effectively. For that I would suggest, like other villages, it appoints a Road Safety sub-committee comprising the Chair, Clerk, Speedwatch Coord (if Speedwatch exists) and a resident from each end and centre of the village and any co-opted experts the sub-committee needs to consult + County Cllr. The sub-committee would pursue activities in support of the Road Safety Plan to ensure it has the best chance of success and take any financial decisions needed to a Parish Meeting for approval. I can get Terms of Reference from another parish to your Clerk if you think that is an idea you can adopt. Also, I would be happy to be co-opted with my 54 years' continuous clean-license driving together with my 10 years and 3000 hrs of kerbside observations and experience of what measure works and what does not. **YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN SO PLEASE ACT!**

