

Community Roadwatch's Contribution for Haddenham Village Voice – April 19 Edition

Since my 'news' in the December edition of the Village Voice (also found on the Haddenham web portal on our website www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham), Community Roadwatch (CRW) has continued its visits to Haddenham to carry out discrete speed checks with Bushnell radar guns and the villages 2 Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs). We have also carried out SID data downloads and moved them between posts approved by Balfour Beatty and the local County Highways Officer. Additionally, we have trained a dedicated 2-volunteer village SID Support Team (SST comprising Richard and Linda Powell) to change batteries every 2 weeks. However, we could do with a couple more fit volunteers please to share the load.

We are a not-for-profit community-interest company with no one paid for any of their services and any 'profit' we make from donations from Parishes and Businesses, after reimbursing volunteer fuel costs, is ploughed back into the Community for projects we see are vital to actual road safety. Google 'Community Roadwatch CIC Blog' to see how we have made a difference with our TIME and CASH. Link is [HERE](#)

In Feb 19, we resurrected our May 2017 request to the Force Speedwatch Lead, to allow plain, post-mounted SID to be used for Speedwatch purposes . We await that decision that will enhance the effect of SIDs and make Speedwatch easier (and cheaper) to operate.

At the same time in 2017, we sent a report to the Assistant Chief Constable (ACC), who is the Force Operational Head, and explained it face to face to the PCC, justifying the adoption of best practice – the TruCam - for **community** speeding enforcement by PCSOs (for the first time). Just Google 'TruCam PCSO' to see what I mean. That request has just been repeated and CRW has even offered to PFI-fund a Mk 2 TruCam (£10k) if the PCC can't support it financially. That original 2017 paper and justification is on the CRW Cambs website portal along with speed/volume reports from hotspot villages.

Across the board, our irrefutable data clearly show that serious levels of persistent speeding within our communities (i.e. 50 mph or more in our 30 zones) – despite any Speedwatch activity - is just NOT being effectively addressed. That may be because of the lack of police officer resources (only police officers can use the current laser gun because PCSOs cannot stop traffic) but some lateral thinking to adopt the TruCam would put the C back into PCSO and treble the enforcement capability of the Force overnight with only one day's training needed. The Constabulary won't even take valid and evidence-supported ad hoc reports of dangerous speeding from members of the public (the biggest force of all) for a 'consequence of some sort' . Hopefully, all that reluctance will change in 2019 as we embrace 'Zero Vision' because we do not doubt that according to the ITV '[Speeding Wars](#)' 2106 documentary: ***the number of deaths and serious injuries arising from traffic in our 30 mph zones exceeds the total number of such incidents in ALL OTHER SPEED ZONES COMBINED.*** I will leave you with that though for this month so you can ask '**who is really trying to address our serious problem, when and with what**' ... and please don't accept that Speedwatch alone – valuable as it may be - is the panacea or an alternative to Police responsibility to protect us all from this serious, deadly situation.

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The photo shows Andy Smith, a CRW Director, downloading data from a Haddenham SID in Station Rd prior to a move to West End. Photo: David McCandless, MD CRW(UK) CIC

