

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH – VILLAGE VOICE MAR 18 EDITION BY DAVID MCCANDLESS MD CRW(UK) CIC

I regret that the weather has not been kind to us in Community Roadwatch (CRW) who - from legally parked cars - merely discretely observe and accurately record and quantify the speeding . It's been even less kind to the valiant Speedwatch volunteers who have to stand out in the cold to make their valuable contribution to Haddenham's road safety. However, every little helps a lot and any little is a lot better than no little at all.

If anyone wishes to join the Police-managed Speedwatch please ring 101 and tell them. CRW does not need volunteers 'en-mass' because we come out to help individual residents establish facts with a series of SCS sessions as explained on our website www.roadwatch.org.uk/scs Nevertheless, some local help from time to time is always welcome; so please let us know if you would like to do that via our ardent CRW Haddenham coord Cllr James Morris james@roadwatch.org.uk or your most efficient Parish Clerk.

Despite the adverse conditions in Jan/Feb 18 that precluded kerbside sessions, CRW has not been idle and has used its sponsored roadside 'devices' extensively to good effect across Haddenham. It has used its 2 Data Loggers to determine the level of speeding and when it occurs over 24 hrs. It also used one of its 3 Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) - with battery changes every 10 days - to try and moderate excesses by showing drivers (and residents) their actual speeds. Loggers have so far been used in West End, Sutton Rd, Hop Row, New Road and Station Road followed as soon as possible afterwards by a SID for 2-4 weeks with a SID planned for Hop Row in March 18. Speeding levels in the community currently stand at a concerning 30% (Reference A). That's why, since May 17, CRW (with the support of several concerned/affected Councils) have been urging the Constabulary to adopt best practice from kindred counties by equipping its Neighbourhood Officers AND PCSOs with a TruCam (or equivalent) to enable them to make a significant impact in reducing such dangerous antisocial behaviour in their own communities without having to stop traffic that in its own right can be dangerous.

CRW currently services over 30 Parishes. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, our kerbside snapshot Bushnell sessions or Loggers installations in these villages have revealed no less than 70 separate speeding hotspot locations that would benefit from a SID to effectively address the speeding (see Ref B) in the absence of any Police enforcement activity. That's a significant undertaking that costs CRW quite a bit in fuel to carry out. Fortunately, many Parishes , like Haddenham, value the efforts that CRW makes - on behalf of residents to keep them safe - by making regular donations to offset CRW's operating costs that otherwise are met from the pockets/pensions of its 5 unpaid volunteer directors. To recognise this support CRW has provided Haddenham with its own portal on its website at www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham . Watch that space. Thank you.



The photo shows Andy Smith – CRW's Financial Director, setting up our Mick George-sponsored SID in Station Rd in Jan 18.



References:

- A. www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/stats.htm
- B. [Dorset County Council's Study on the Effectiveness of SIDs.](http://www.roadsafetyevaluation.com/docs/speed-indicator-device-evlauation.pdf)
(<http://www.roadsafetyevaluation.com/docs/speed-indicator-device-evlauation.pdf>)