

VILLAGE VOICE – NOV 20 COMMUNITY ROADWATCH (CRW) CONTRIBUTION
BY COMPANY MD DAVID MCCANDLESS

HADDENHAM (www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/Haddenham)

As we go to press (Mid Oct 20), we eagerly await the 2 new identical SWARCO SIDs - for the residential 40 zones (initially) - to add to the 2 already set up for and operating in the villages 30 zones. The new SIDs resulted from a successful Parish Council bid that was justified by data gathered by CRW and published on your villages CRW web portal at www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham . The application was submitted to the County Council in July 19 and approved by a Panel of County Councillors in March 20 just before Lockdown on 23 Mar 20 when your Community Speedwatch Team - with multi-household members and mandated to now have a minimum of 3 operators kerbside - was forced to cease operating.

Fortunately, CRW managed to keep operating in the area with 2 same-household, village SID Support teams as highlighted last month. What we did not mention was that CRW – through determination, innovation and a sense of duty - continued to carry out its radar speed checks that coincided with vital road-safety SID battery change times using both same and different –household operators. We managed to overcome the social-distancing obstacle by using 70% IPA*-sanitized walkie-talkies between the operator in the legally-parked car with the Bushnell speed gun and the scribe either in another legally-parked car, or sat in a garden chair out of (or enjoying) the sun some distance away but still able to see the traffic being monitored. We carried out 2 such sessions in Haddenham: Sutton Rd (40 zone) and Station Rd (30 zone) resulting in some 15 letters being sent to companies whose vehicles we detected at or above 46 mph in the 40 zone or 35 mph in the 30 zone.

*70% Iso Propyl Alcohol spray and wipes)

WILBURTON (www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/Wilburton)

In August, on referral from D Cllr Gareth Wilson (Haddenham PC's Road Safety guru) CRW stepped in to help Wilburton Parish Council 's Vice Chair, Anthea Dobson, install their new SID that had been delivered just before lockdown in March but then suddenly the PC had no one trained/available to undertake this vital job as the coordinating Cllr went off to France. The SID is now in Stretham Rd 40 zone indicating to inbound traffic much to the delight of residents and Anthea who guided us on locations and who - because the only posts available were on the wrong side of the road - had a new post fitted on which to hang the SID . We still have SID brackets to fit in Twentypence Road and Clarkes Lane once suitable posts have been installed/identified. At present, and until their Coordinating Cllr, having returned from France, comes out of Quarantine, CRW is managing the battery changes every 2 weeks and, to make sure the battery lasts that long, it has set the SID to trigger only at 38 mph and stop displaying speeds at 60 mph. We have also programmed it to switch off the display (but keep recording data) at night so as not to disturb residents. It is anticipated that once Speedwatch resurrects that it will be able to use this post-mounted SID as recommended to the ACC by MD CRW in May 17 and adopted by Speedwatch in Jan 2019. At that time we also recommended the use of the £10k TruCam II by PCSO to address the enforcement shortfall of Laser-qualified police officers to deal with the serious speeding problem being experienced in virtually all our communities. Unfortunately, the TruCam was rejected by ACC Basra pre-COVID. However, as conditions have now changed to suit the TruCam perfectly , we will be suggesting a re-evaluation - unless, of course, the Parish Councils get there first. . See www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/TrucamSaga for details of the efforts to date.



The photo shows Anthea inspecting the Morelock SID after installation/programming and setup by CRW in Stretham Rd.