

## **COMMUNITY ROADWATCH CONTRIBUTION TO VILLAGE VOICE SEPTEMBER 2020 BY MD - DAVID MCCANDLESS**

Lockdown with its attendant COVID 'household-mix' and '2m-distancing' restrictions initially precluded kerbside sessions involving at least 2 of us discretely checking traffic speeds from within in a single car. However, we in Community Roadwatch do not have obstacles stopping our activities for long. Instead, we have mere challenges that create opportunities to find innovative out-of-the-box solutions that, in the absence of other schemes, try to maintain lawful processes that will address some aspects of serious speeding or HGV shortcutting within the community. We believe that **every little helps a lot and that any little is always a lot better than absolutely no little at all. So can you contribute a little now that Speedwatch has been authorised to re-start? Please, contact your Parish Clerk if you can.**

Consequently, to meet our challenges, using funding from generous supportive Parish Councils such as Haddenham, we obtained a couple of cheap (3km range) walkie talkies (WT) and carried out our kerbside sessions from two legally parked cars with one of us calling and the other scribing using sanitised handsets. Another WT session on a fine day was carried out using just one car for the radar gun caller next to a resident's dwelling with the residents sat in chairs with a handset doing the scribing. Had it been cooler, the residents could even have sat in their front rooms to do the scribing. Sanitising is done using 70% Iso Propyl Alcohol (IPA) wipes and sprays.

Apart from arranging to have your SID batteries changed every 2 weeks and their data downloaded and posted on your web portal at [www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham](http://www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham), CRW has been actively and discretely monitoring and recording speeding where letters, + dashcam extracts, are sent to the owners of commercial vehicles detected at or over 10%+2 mph in our 20-30-40 limit. In July, CRW was also busy getting at least 2 days' worth of representative data, using its Mick George-sponsored Armadillo Data Logger for the parish council, in the High St, Camping Close, Duck Lane and Ramparts. The results revealed an 85 percentile of just over 20 mph for each location and this will assist your proactive parish council in determining the possibility of initiating some 'safer-roads' improvements.

As we go to press, we await the installation of 6 posts for your 2 new Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) obtained by your parish council under LHI 20/21 mainly but not exclusively for use in your 40 zones (Hill Row and Sutton Rd) where residents are exposed to serious excessive speeds and where a SID rather than a VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) will moderate speeds more effectively. It is anticipated that the village will then have 2 'same household' SSTs (SID Support Teams) to change the batteries every 2 weeks and move the SIDs as required. We have had kind offers to help these teams but, with apologies, we have had to postpone accepting such help until we are certain we can intermingle with them safely.

There is no one solution/method of addressing and controlling speeding but some assistance with enforcement from the Police will always be of great help. Unfortunately, unlike other constabularies, Cambs Constabulary - whose roads policing is managed centrally by Hertfordshire Constabulary - does not use TruCams costing just £10k each to enable PCSOs to play a vital role with kerbside enforcement in our communities that will complement the efforts of Speedwatch and Roadwatch with an effective 'Sword of Damocles' that will pay for itself within weeks.

**It is a fact worth repeating, and others to heed, that nationally the number of deaths and serious injuries in our 30 mph zones – where predominantly you will find Police Speedwatch and Community Roadwatch - exceeds the total number of those in all other speed limits combined. Stay safe. David, MD CRW(UK) CIC**



A Director of Community Roadwatch(UK) CIC No 10085683 downloading data from a Haddenham SID for analysis and posting to [www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham](http://www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham)

