

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH SUBMISSION FOR VILLAGE VOICE SEP 2018 EDITION

Community Roadwatch has not been idle during the school summer holidays enjoyed by many. Despite the heat we have taken on the task of setting up, installing and managing the battery changes and moves of the parish's own two SWARCO Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) you may have noticed in Hop Row and Station Rd. These SWARCO SIDs were obtained from the County Council having been justified by the observed effectiveness and data gathered by CRW from Mick George-sponsored SIDs and Armadillo loggers and presented to your proactive Parish Council in 2017/18 by Cllr James Morris who coordinates CRW efforts in Haddenham for us. Cllr Gareth Wilson, Chair of the Road Safety Sub-committee, handed over the SIDs to CRW in July 18 and after we set them up electronically using specialist software. Then Gareth helped James and us install the first in Hop Row outside the children's play area – a speeding hotspot previously identified by CRW using discrete Speed Check Sessions (and Bushnell speed guns) as well as the Mick George Data Logger and his SID. The Photos show that SWARCO SID being installed in Hop Row and Station Rd. Also shown as a sequence is the effect it has been set up by CRW to display: GREEN for speeds that please and RED for those that displease. Notice that with this SID, that is on the same side of the road as the traffic and in direct line of sight of drivers who - whether English-speaking or not - do not have to read any distracting message like 'Slow Down' or 'Thank You' under much smaller digits. Consequently, with your SIDs and where we will locate them, drivers do not need to take their eyes off the road ahead (where residents are crossing) or miss seeing their actual speeds because they are trying to get a 'Thank You' out of it. Your Parish Council has been very wise in selecting informative universal SIDs with large numbers that can be seen and understood (without words) at a much greater distance than those others without sacrificing the purpose – to educate drivers to their speeds..

The photos show Cllrs Gareth Wilson (Left) and James Morris checking the CRW installation in Hop Row and Linda Powell (Haddenham resident) assisting Dave McCandless (CRW) to install the SID in Station Road by handing him one of the two 12v batteries each SID needs to power it for up to 4 weeks at a time (depending on volume).



The photos below show the 3 states of the SID's clear message at. 28. 30 and over 30 mph



The CRW management of the SIDs for the Parish Council is a short-term measure to get the parish up and running with properly setup and installed devices in justified and approved locations. However, long-term, we hope to recruit residents to form a SID Support Team (SST); so, if you can spare a couple of hours a month climbing ladders, holding ladders, handing up/batteries, charging batteries and even downloading data to a Windows Bluetooth-enabled laptop, then please let me, James, Gareth or Jenny your Parish Clerk know and we will see about training you up to participate in making your village's roads a safer place for all.

Talking of making your roads safer, I should point out that for all the good we do and have done over the 3 years we have been operating as unpaid volunteers towards that objective (see our website for details) the Constabulary whilst officially 'content' for us to operate 'within the law' and despite repeatedly not taking us up on our invitation to audit our processes and procedures (as several County, District and Parish Councillors have done), still does not recognise the validity of our (or your) observations when using calibration-checked Bushnell Radar Guns (once used by the Police themselves and issued to Speedwatch in North Yorkshire). Consequently even with the safety of the community at stake and a web portal to report it, they will not process detailed reports from us (or you) of dangerous/anti-social deadly levels of speeding in residential zones. We are talking 50+mph in a 30 or 60+mph in a 40 zone. Apparently, that's solely because they see our efforts undermining - rather than supplementing - their own Speedwatch scheme that we support 100% but that uses uncalibrated kit. That's why we in CRW concentrate on using calibrated devices to record speeding that, if commercial, we report to company executives on your behalf with really satisfying and proactive, immediate results. Just see those appreciative companies that have signed up to our copyright County Council-supported, invitation-only Covenant as Community RoadCare Associates and for whom we are working on the design for a vehicle sticker.

So, with the difficulty the local Police have - with the best will in the world - of providing enforcement in the Parish, and without the Constabulary opting to obtain Trucams for your PCSOs to use within the Community (search the web for 'Trucam PCSO') and until there is a change of attitude by the Constabulary (not local Police) to the public reporting speeding to the Police when they see 55 on a SID located in a 30 zone or by using a device whose accuracy can be checked, you have to start Speedwatch, buy your own kit at £3000 if you don't want to share with others and without the use of any form of camera, between at least 3 of you, be able to obtain the Date, Time, Speed, Colour, Make, Model and Registration Number of a vehicle at 50+ mph as well as the easier mum on the school, run at 35. So with many elements combining to make the Parish's roads unsafe - speeding being just one of them - we urge you to answer your village's 'call to arms' to start up/join the only scheme supported by the Constabulary = Speedwatch and deter speeding, leaving us in CRW to do/address the rest despite the system and not because of it.