

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH(UK) CIC - REPORT FOR KINGS RIPTON'S 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

(By David McCandless, MD CRW(UK) CIC – md@roadwatch.org.uk)

Community Roadwatch(UK) CIC is a registered, limited, not-for-profit community road safety company operated by 4 unpaid, volunteer directors all of whom have, to some degree or another, been involved since 2010 in initiatives seeking to make King Ripton's roads a safer place for all. The company's sole income is from voluntary donations from individuals and Parish Councils who wish to help offset our operating costs and who wish to see our services remain free of charge to all/others.

From 2010 until it ended in August 2014, we as individuals helped Gordon & Ros Townsend operate Speedwatch in your village and beyond. Since 2014, we as a company, and Ros – who since 1 April 2024 has joined us on the Board as a company director - have all remained involved with your village's (and others') road safety in several ways but in particular actively by carrying out discrete speed gun sessions from legally parked vehicles and getting results (copied to you) by making commercial vehicle owners aware by letter of any serious transgressions by their drivers. We have reported serious speeding by private vehicles to the Neighbourhood Police – currently PS Andy Caruana - for intel or action as he sees fit. Where the circumstances of any incident (at any speed) are judged to be dangerous, we report to the Police and are prepared to go to court with our evidence. On this basis we* have had one successful prosecution for dangerous driving and 5x Section 59's (Vehicle ASBOs) issued. None in Kings Ripton ... yet.

** Further details on the 'Threshold for S59/Prosecution' are available from us.*

In 2019 (pre-COVID), because of the speeding we had recorded from our sessions and using our own Loggers and Speed Indicating Devices (SID), we used £500 of our donations as a gift to the Parish Council, to seed a Local Highways Initiative (LHI) to get the village its own SID and 3 posts. Since its installation, until last year, Steve and Sal Cooper – as the village SID Support Team (SST) changed the SIDs two 6kg batteries every 2 weeks with us regularly moving the SID between the 3 posts and buying the SST a trolley to safely cart the batteries to/from the village hall. When we identified lighter (2kg) Lithium batteries for the Morelock SIDs in Willingham, we noted that they also fitted your ElanCity SID. On making your Parish Council aware of this, it did not hesitate in buying these for its SST. Also, when we identified a Solar panel to keep the batteries charged to save the SST even needing to change them, again it did not hesitate in buying that for us to fit to the top post over the Winter. The suitability of the other posts has been assessed to see if it's worth the £500 a solar panel costs for each of them. The bottom post gets enough sun and we recommend the Council buys a 2nd solar panel for there and in the next round of LHI's (Oct/Nov24 for 25/26), a good use of another £300-500 (if available) would be to apply for a 2nd SID with a 10% contribution.

In 2023/24, we have continued to provide our Speed Monitoring Services (free of charge) to Kings Ripton as well as regularly downloading the data from the SID using our Windows and/or Android paired Laptops/Tablets, and subsequently uploading the data into the special software to create the reports, the essence of which we extract and publish on the parish web portal on our website at www.Roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/KGR. The data from SIDs everywhere does demonstrate that to show drivers their actual speeds – rather than just flash 30 at them like your VASs - does have more of a moderating effect on the speed of most drivers. We plan to carry out more Speed Checks in 2024.

Naturally, if you were to start up Speedwatch with Police support (needs 6-9 volunteers for an hour a month) that Team could use the SID to render it more effective. A Flyer to do a parish (not police) survey to determine the interest in DIY Police Community Speedwatch, is available on request.

Have a safe 2024.