

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH(UK) CIC – ANNUAL REPORT FOR SOMERSHAM – MAY 2024

(by MD, David McCandless)

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 Somersham'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 residents operate Speedwatch. Since then, we as a company have remained involved with Somersham's (and others') road safety by:

1) carrying out discrete speed gun sessions from legally parked vehicles and getting results by making commercial vehicle owners aware by letter of any serious transgressions by their drivers. We report 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 are prepared to go to court with them. On this basis we* have had 1 prosecution and 5x Section 59's (Vehicle ASBOs) issued.

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

2) obtaining and making best use of Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) where the batteries need changing once every week or so, depending on both traffic volume and the speeds detected.

3) fitting one of our 2 traffic bi-directional data loggers at speeding hotspots and following up any serious results by fitting one of the 3 of our own Westcotec SIDs that have been sponsored by Mick George or subsidised by the Big Lottery or the Red Tile Wind Farm.

In 2012, with HDC design approval, we bought & sold 20/30/40 'SPEED KILLS' Wheelie Bin stickers for Chatteris Rd & Colne Rd residents to use as a means of reminding drivers of the respective speed limits. Mick George kindly sponsored '30 PLEASE' stickers in 2019. Some of those now need to be replaced with '20 PLEASE' and we will see about managing that this year.

In 2015/16 we approached Mick George personally and with the cooperation of Joe Gossage, we had a mains-powered Westcotec 'Your Speed' SID permanently fitted in Colne Rd and in 2017, with the assistance of Steve Criswell, Mick George subsidised the purchase of the SWARCO SID for the village. We manage that SID for you via teams of residents but it's us who setup the SIDs and do the monthly data downloads using Windows or Android tablets and publish those data on the Somersham web portal at www.Roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/Somersham. We believe you will get 2 LHI SIDs soon and will need more support for that unless the Council can stretch to obtaining solar panels for them.

Also in 2016, we approached Mick George about the need to reduce the impact of speed-related nuisance of noise, vibration & pollution being created by his numerous and especially early-morning 32t gravel lorries that serviced his Chatteris Rd quarry. With the cooperation of Joe Gossage, the 'Lorry 20' zone in the then 30 limit was initiated with us monitoring compliance.

In the past year, we have continued to support and be supported by Somersham Parish Council and the residents of Chatteris Rd, The Bank and even though in Colne, Colne Rd where we have used surplus donations to have a post installed to moderate the speed of vehicles inbound to the embankment where slow-moving dog-walkers especially cross, with many on the 'blind' side. In 2024 we hope to continue our close association with Somersham and help resurrect Speedwatch to our mutual benefit.