

Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting – 30th April 2024

Item 5 – Copythorne Community Speed Watch Update

The Copythorne Community Speed Watch was set up in December 2017 and continues to thrive. This small group of local, Police volunteers' primary aim is to help keep the roads safer through educating drivers. You may have seen them in their Community Speed Watch, high viz jackets standing at the roadside around the Parish, along with the blue machine that indicates a driver's speed with a bright LED display.

Any driver recorded as speeding by the team will receive a letter reminding them about road safety and driving at speed. Any driver who is considered as an 'Excessive Speeder', that is driving at speeds of 50 or more miles per hour in a 30 zone will have direct contact from Hampshire Police either with a visit or a phone call.

Since the team started at the end of 2017, they have conducted over 350 roadside surveys, monitoring over 100 thousand vehicles and 14,700 Police letters have been sent out to owners of speeding vehicles. That is 14.7% of drivers who were exceeding the speed limit.

Fortunately, the trend is a decline in higher speeds across the Parish, but there are still too many vehicles recorded at 35 to 40 Mph in the 30 zones. Last year saw 43 drivers speeding at 50 Mph or more where as in 2022, there were almost twice as many – 83 in total.

So far this year they have conducted 19 surveys, monitored 4,500 vehicles, 612 letters have been generated for those speeding and 17 drivers have been recorded in excess of 50 Mph in the 30 zones. So, 13.6% of drivers were speeding, a slight reduction on previous figures.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the local, friendly Speed Watch group and would like to experience a survey, please speak to me or email me for more information. The team would welcome anyone who would like to spend even just half an hour with them to find out more about how Speed Watch is carried out.