

Speed Watch Conference 27 June 2023

"Today I spent **an excellent** day at University of Surrey broadening my knowledge and listening to others, experts in the field of policing using volunteers. A series of high-level presentations by Chief Constable of Sussex and three academics sponsored by the Road Safety Trust, and networking with other groups and the Police officers and PCSO's who manage speedwatch. There were two workshops and the ideas will be correlated and distributed in due course. I will be getting a full set of slides from all four speakers which will be distributed to all, but before that a few 'takeaways':

- Need to increase numbers, there is one team of thirty who do 2-3 sessions a week
- Surrey/Sussex have 400 groups with 2100 volunteers
- The compliance statistic is 94% that is only one letter is required to change driver behaviour
- The police are very supportive, this is policing by consent, we do the education/monitoring they do the enforcement
- Police need to recognise the time/effort and perhaps 'recognise' long serving volunteers
- 5 people are killed on UK roads every day, the victims are not just the casualty, but their families AND the Emergency workers who have to attend and 'clean up'
- The driver feedback is that the main deterrent is loss of license, fines do not affect certain people
- Police attendance at sessions is minimal and needs to be increased, this was a recurring theme from all groups
- There needs to be a more permanent visual warning on street furniture of Speedwatch activity and not just our pop-up signs.
- The Police need to assist with recruitment
- Speedwatch teams should all receive Police accident statistics for their area
- Sussex are trialling body cameras for teams to deal with driver aggression (£80-£100) and there are funds for this in the pipeline
- New Radar is in the pipeline, an initial contract is going through procurement for Surrey. The new unit it will be single vehicle/single direction only, smaller and easier to use.
- Speedwatch needs to be made a socially acceptable activity
- We need to advertise more and publish the statistics to a wider audience. (parish web page ??)
- From Gloucestershire Police we had a study of responses from offenders, interesting most were broad supportive, although the sample was small and we did not know the total size of the offending group.
- There needs to be follow up and refresher training to reflect new practices
- The various constabularies have differing process for Speedwatch, Sussex does not require warning triangles (in my view this tending towards enforcement!)

- Sussex tend to have groups of three, I had the feedback they have issues with physical driver aggression

The really bad news is that currently the CSW database data has no direct nor indirect process for inputting serial offenders onto the Police National Computer (PNC) except by special request, which prevents real-time access by the roadside. There was an example quoted of an individual in Sussex who has amassed 9 letters (yes that is 27 recorded transgressions) and is still driving as the police have to catch him in the act of speeding before they can do anything. They are looking at such an update process, but this has to be manual due to the nature of the PNC, agreed by all Chief Constables and the Home Office (fat chance!).

Cllr Bolton