

Community Speed Watch Newsletter

Issue 1 – 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of our Community Speed Watch (CSW) newsletter. CSW schemes continue to support the work of West Mercia Police Road Safety and are supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner.



The scheme is managed and run by volunteers in the community, enabling local people to take an active role in road safety.

This newsletter includes an update on the CSW programme and information on relevant forcewide news and campaigns. We welcome ideas on what you would find useful in future editions.

CSW Group Update

This is our first newsletter in a while and we're really pleased to re-introduce regular updates to our groups. It's been a difficult time for everyone over the past two years with Covid19 and the long term impact is still affecting many people.

We're pleased to report that many of our groups are now back up and running and we currently have 47 active CSW groups across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire. We'd like to give a warm welcome to our newest groups and to those members who have joined our active groups.

Worcs & Herefordshire CSW groups

Battenhall
Bishampton
Bournheath
Colwall
Cookhill
Crowle
Eardisland
Eardisley
Eckington
Fladbury
Fownhope
Grandstand Road, Hereford
Honeybourne
Lenchwick
Luston
Madley
Martley
Much Dewchurch
Peterstow
Redditch
Ryall
Tibberton
Welland
Wellington
Wilden Lane, Stourport

Shropshire & Telford CSW groups

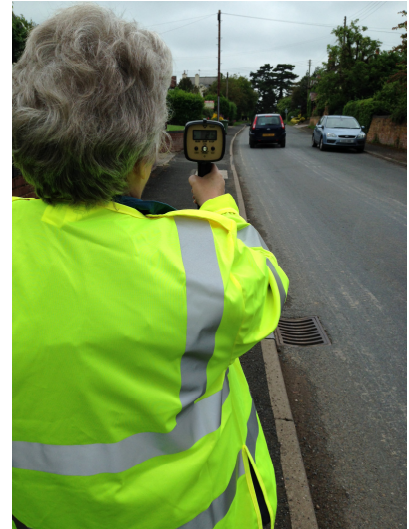
Baschurch
Bridgnorth
Clive
Cockshutt
Crosshouses / Atcham
Doddington / Hopton Wafers
Edmond
Ellesmere Road
Horsehay
Lawley
Little Wenlock
Market Drayton
Munslow
Newport
Northwood
Pulverbatch / Longden
Pontesbury
St Martins
Waters Upton
Welshampton
Wem
Whittington
Woore

Coming soon!

Look out for the following new groups who are currently going through the process of joining our CSW family in the near future:

Kingstone, Bishops Frome, Shobdon, Cropthorne, Kinnersley, A38 Redditch Road, Peopleton, Drakes Broughton, Bayston Hill and Donnington.

The more we grow, the bigger our influence in reducing speeds in our communities and making our roads safer. All our groups' activities are linked, so an offender in Herefordshire may be caught again in Shropshire, so follow-up action is swift and more robust.



New Look Community Speed Watch

We have recently made changes to the way we set up and support our CSW teams, with the focus on being more available to our groups and communities. These changes include clarifying the roles and responsibilities involved for both Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Road Safety Team when setting up new CSW schemes and supporting existing groups. Here's a brief overview of what you can expect:

Safer Neighbourhood Team Liaison Officer

- Point of contact for parish councils
- Follow up initial enquiries
- Conduct initial site feasibility study and speed survey
- Manage vetting of volunteers
- Liaise with Road Safety Team re risk assessments and training
- Respond to group concerns and visit sessions when operationally able to.

West Mercia Police Road Safety Team

- Responsible for site risk assessments
- Carry out full speed surveys on site
- Arrange training
- Supply all equipment for new groups
- Provide ongoing training and replace equipment as required
- Process all offending drivers warning letters / police visits
- Actively promote the CSW scheme

Your Community Speed Watch Coordinators

The Road Safety Team has two dedicated Force Community Speed Watch Coordinators: Marc Watts (covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire) and Mark Booth (covering Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin). Both coordinators can be contacted by email at:

CSW@westmercia.police.uk

Marc and Mark would like to pass on their thanks to all groups for their continued efforts and for supporting Community Speed Watch, particularly throughout the Covid restrictions. The majority of teams returned to operational activity as soon as the restrictions were lifted by the government. As a result of the great work the groups had achieved prior to Covid, most areas saw little or no increase in speeding traffic when they resumed.

The pandemic has meant that some volunteers no longer wish to participate in the scheme, which we fully understand and we sincerely thank them for their work in helping to improve road safety in their community and wish them well for the future.

Joint Working Opportunities



Pre-Covid, we had started to invite the traffic unit and local officers to attend pre-planned CSW sessions. We held numerous sessions in Cockshutt, Munslow, Marden, Newport and several other locations. These events were well-received by our CSW groups and local residents.

Should you wish to participate in future events, please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team who will try to accommodate if operationally possible.

Road Safety News and Campaigns

The Highway Code



The Highway Code changed on 29 Jan 2022.

Changes have been implemented to improve safety for people walking, cycling and horse riding.

The changes include new advisory measures that are not legal requirements, but could be drawn upon in court proceedings.

For more info, visit:

www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-changes

Staying Safe on Two Wheels

During April, West Mercia Police is supporting a national two wheel campaign, focusing on enforcement and awareness raising activity to improve safety for those on motorbikes and bicycles.

Police officers will be taking part in targeted operations to enforce compliance of road traffic legislation and improve driver / rider behaviour.

In addition to this, you will start to see 'Think Bike' and 'Ride Safely' posters appearing on key routes across the force area, encouraging all road users to share the road responsibly.



And Finally... Struggling to Recruit Volunteers?



We are aware how difficult it can be sometimes to keep the momentum going with volunteers and recruitment can sometimes be an issue.

Some groups have recently used open days or other local events or gatherings to promote CSW and to recruit more members to their teams.

If we can assist at any local events then please do ask.