

Update on the implementation of AutoSpeedWatch Cameras in the village

Background

Following ongoing complaints about speeding vehicles on village roads and the difficulties in maintaining an active and reliable Community Speedwatch Group, the Parish Council decided to purchase and install two AutoSpeedWatch cameras.

Installations

The cameras have been installed on BT poles on two of the main four routes into the village centre; both around 60 metres from the start of the 30mph limit.

Locations are:

Coalpit Lane Southbound. The camera is set to trigger over 35 mph.

Long Cross Bottom Northbound. The camera is set to trigger over 38 mph.

The cameras only record during daylight hours. They take a picture of the rear of vehicles exceeding the trigger speed. The system also flags vehicles with lapsed tax and / or MOT.

Monitoring

Councillors Simon Collins and Peter Rhodes have access to the data and are responsible for verifying pictures taken of individual vehicles.

Results to date

Since installation at the end of January 2024 the cameras have recorded approximately 350 instances of speeding above the camera trigger speeds of which 150 are over 40mph (one at 50mph)

220 vehicles have been recorded more than once (listed as persistent). Some up to 8 times.

The busiest times for speeders is weekday afternoons.

Police

Councillors, Rhodes & Collins met the local PCSO's, the local Frome-based policeman and Ashley Reay who is the main coordinator of Community Speedwatch at the Knatchbull Arms recently. They were all aware of our purchase of the cameras and in fact the PCSO and Ashley Reay had already been monitoring our data via AutoSpeedWatch.

Conclusions

Compared to other installations in our area, the feedback we have received is that the numbers of speeding vehicles and the speeds we are seeing is relatively low. The feedback is that currently the Police Speed Enforcement Unit are not likely to be interested whilst there is no active Community Speedwatch Group in the village.

We will continue to collect and monitor the data for the coming months and build a bigger picture of the speeding levels in the village.

Speed Indicator Devices

Ashley Reay told us that from time to time there may be money available to fund Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) As it's unlikely we can get a CSW in place over a longer period we will also pursue this avenue as SID's are known to reduce speeding.