

FOI Request: FOI/OPCC/20-019

Briefing Document

- **eCops** – is the force wide e-mail alert system that we currently use for sharing information. Residents register their e-mail address and their preferences, and we will then send them information relating to crime updates for their neighbourhood, scam awareness information, and to keep them updated with changes within the force. Residents can easily remove themselves from the circulation at anytime, and their details will not be shared with anyone. We encourage subscribers to share the alerts with their friends/family/neighbours, and sometimes Parish Clerks will register and do this. Registration can be found by googling 'cambs ecops' – I would recommend councillors and parish clerks register.
- **Neighbourhood watch** – is a separate organisation to the force, but we do support their aims and objectives, and do recommend promoting their membership. It is organised at a local level by having a coordinator per street/area; this person is the main contact, and shares information with their neighbours. It is not an onerous role, and essentially the organisation promotes residents being good neighbours – people 'keep an eye' on their neighbours properties, in the hope that they return the favour. Additionally, the organisation share information on scams and trends in crime, as well as preventing burglaries in their more traditional role. Groups can display a street sign advertising where they operate, and members can display window stickers. This helps to encourage would-be criminals to avoid the areas where they operate. Members can also benefit from reductions in home insurance charges, and perks that the national group can negotiate. Further information can be gained from the Cambs and national websites.
- **HGV Watch** – where there is an existing weight, height or width restriction in place, residents can form an HGV Watch group to report companies observed ignoring these restrictions. We will establish that areas are safe to be used, for both residents and road users alike, and then train residents to run highly visible sessions in their community. We will also supply all the equipment needed free of charge – this includes the collapsible sign and set of hi-vis vests needed. The residents return the details of the vehicles they observe to us and we will then make contact with those companies to understand why their vehicles were there, and to prevent them from using that route in the future. We will initially use telephone or e-mail, but may well visit repeat and regular offenders in person. Not all vehicles are prevented from using restricted areas, and these can include vehicles needing access for collection or delivery, public service vehicles including buses in and out of service, and vehicles involved in highways maintenance or waste disposal. It is a relatively new scheme, but is proving popular in affected areas – it can also be operated at the same time as Speed Watch, should there be a need in the specific locations identified as issues.

- **Speed Watch** – is a scheme that allows volunteers to monitor the speed of traffic driving through their communities.

We will risk assess locations that can be used, and establish that they are safe for volunteers and road users alike.

Speed monitoring equipment is either a tripod mounted display that detects a vehicle's speed and highlights it to the driver and volunteers, or an MVAS which is a mobile vehicle activated sign, displaying a vehicle's actual speed, and bolted to usually a lamp post.

The MVAS are usually bought by Parish Council's or supplied under Local Highways Improvement Initiatives through the County Council Highways department.

The tripod mounted signs can be supplied by ourselves and will usually be shared with neighbouring parishes. We will also supply a set of hi-vis vests for volunteers to wear, and a collapsible road sign that identifies to drivers that they are travelling through a Speed Watch check. This sign needs to be placed ahead of the volunteers, but there isn't a prescribed distance ahead of the group, unlike when the scheme first started.

The volunteers will then record the details of vehicles they observe speeding and send this through to us after the session. We will then communicate with those drivers, by writing to them saying they have been observed speeding and that we expect them to modify their driving behaviour. If a driver is observed speeding across the county on a third occasion, they will receive a visit by a uniformed officer.

Additionally, during the session the total number of vehicles driving through the session towards the kit are counted, which gives a reflection of the percentage of vehicles speeding, but also the volume of traffic the community experience. This information can be used to discuss longer term improvements with Highways that may be required in a community through the Local Highways Improvement Initiatives.

Speedwatch is a tool that can be used to identify a speeding issue, to collate information and to allow the community to have a direct effect on speeding drivers. It is one measure available to reduce speeding, and should not be seen as an isolated measure. There is a range of measures that can be adopted to reduce speeding including installing mobile vehicles activated signs (MVAS), installing gates to the entrance to a community, speed buffer zones, reducing speed limits and others - Speedwatch is one of these measures. Further information on measures available is shown at the following link,

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/speeding>

In terms of Speedwatch we are happy to discuss the scheme in more detail and the e-mail that can be used is: speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk