



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME

November / December 2010 UPDATE

Foreword

Included with this Update you will find

- A copy of the MoU and Appendices
- A Letter from ACC Sue Harrison

It is now some time since the last update newsletter was sent. The Community Speed Watch scheme continues to expand. There are currently 59 existing groups with 46 waiting to join the scheme.

Since the last update there has been considerable activity and in particular recommendations from the recent CSW review are being implemented. On October 20th the Government released its Strategic Spending Review. The impact of this review has required all Public Service organisations to consider their current position across the full range of their responsibilities. The impact of this on the Essex Community Speedwatch scheme has been explained in detail by Assistant Chief Constable Sue Harrison in a letter to all groups. Further details of this are given later in the update.

Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

The MoU has now been produced which lays out the expectations and requirements of Essex Police and the Community Speed Watch groups. The aim of this document is to give clear guidance and to ensure a consistency amongst all those involved in the scheme.

Essex Police Structure

Essex Police has now allocated a Single Points of Contact (SPOC) to every CSW group. If you are not aware of your SPOC or wish to contact them then please call Georgie Davis on 01277 636632, who has the their details and contact numbers. At present 81 SPOC's have been trained and are now able to deliver either initial or refresher training to all groups. They have been instructed to make contact with every group to arrange a suitable date and venue to undertake this task.

A decision has been taken to provide training to every CSW group as it is clear that the level of training delivered in the past has been inconsistent and in line with the MoU that needs to be rectified. It should be noted that priority will be given to training and setting up those new groups waiting to join the scheme over the refresher training to established groups. However, it is anticipated that every group will receive training before March 2011.

In addition every district now has a designated manager who the SPOC reports to. This person will locally manage the CSW scheme and is available to deal with day to day issues. Georgie Davis will continue to administer the scheme and she will deal with specific issues relating to replacement equipment, purchasing and calibration of speed guns and all funding issues.



Risk Assessment of Sites

A further recommendation from the recent review is that all sites where CSW activity takes place will be risk assessed. That will apply to both new and existing sites. Initially new groups will only have one location risk assessed, due to the demand to ensure that existing sites are also risk assessed within a reasonable time period. Following this process a photograph and full details identifying exactly where activity will take place will be placed on a laminated sheet and given to each group.

Once all sites have been risk assessed additional sites can be added for groups as required. This process may be completed locally by the SPOC or with the assistance of a dedicated Police Officer who has already completed 12 risk assessments at new sites. It is anticipated that every CSW group will have at least one site risk assessed before the end of 2010.

Funding

Since the Essex CSW scheme has been operating long term sustainable funding has never been an issue to concern any group, as Essex Police has largely met all equipment and operational costs; the one exception being where groups have opted to purchase their own speed gun. Due to the requirements that the Comprehensive Spending Review has placed upon all public bodies it is important that Essex Police supports this aim. Whilst Essex Police will continue to fund the majority of the costs, a small annual contribution from each group will ensure the further development of the scheme, and allow any interested groups the ability to join. Various methods of calculating this contribution were considered but the option of a fixed contribution was considered to be the easiest and fairest to administer.

Therefore from 1st April 2011 each group will be asked to make an annual contribution of £200 towards all the operating costs of the scheme. The contribution is required to be paid by 1st October 2011. The aim of the contribution is to support all aspects of the scheme, from postage to training not just equipment and speed guns. However, this change will mean that any group that has purchased their own speed gun will no longer be responsible for the calibration costs as these will be included within the annual contribution.

A concern that groups may have over the contribution is the availability of speed guns, which could restrict their opportunities to conduct CSW activity. This is particularly pertinent over the next few months as the number of new groups setting up will increase the size of the scheme by 80%. Once trained and a site has been risk assessed new groups will want to put that training to good use and carry out CSW activity. However, initially new CSW groups will be encouraged to share speed guns until they have established themselves and determined how frequently they will be operating.

During the winter months we have seen CSW activity diminish primarily due to the reduction in daylight hours. However given that speeding is an ongoing problem, there will be a general expectation that every group will be active at least once a month. Initially it is anticipated that a speed gun will be shared by no more than three groups. There is no intention to restrict any groups activity therefore the most active will be given greater access to speed guns. That process will be managed centrally by Georgie Davis.

It is appreciated that initially finding this annual contribution may be challenging but any group experiencing difficulties should contact their SPOC or CSW Manager. They will be pleased to assist you with this task.

Community Speed Watch Area Meeting

At the March meeting in Braintree CSW members wanted a regular opportunity to discuss issues and to spread good practice. Given the proposed changes it is felt that a meeting with groups early in the New Year would be of value. To prevent members travelling great distances there will be 4 meetings arranged located across the County at the following locations Great Dunmow, Chelmsford, Billericay and Colchester, time and dates to be confirmed.