Rutland County Council Community Speed Watch:

Working together to reduce speeding in our county

What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch is a scheme that enables trained volunteers to monitor speeds of vehicles within a given area. This data can then be shared with the police and the authority to take action where appropriate.

Why take part?

The rurality of our county means that we have a wide range of road users; we want to make our roads as safe as possible for all to enjoy; speed is frequently the factor that reduces this sense of safety; excess speed is a commonly reported concern from our residents.

We recognise that concerns about speeding is a key issue across our county. When issues have been raised, accident data has shown a disparity between what's on record and what has been noted by residents. This is an opportunity to add data to the anecdotal evidence. The police and the authority have limited resources; by taking part in this scheme we can generate a comprehensive picture of speeding within our communities, ensuring that resources can be focused on the right areas with the greatest impact.

Our aim is 'Vision Zero': we move towards having no serious or fatal accidents on our roads. Driver error can never be completely eradicated but we can make sure we reduce the opportunity for poor decisions with targeted use of resources in 'problem' areas.

Getting started:

What do you need to do?

1) Establish a group of willing volunteers. (Smaller villages may wish to combine resources; a minimum of 4 people advised; three people at any one time has been found to be the number that works the best for a given session). Pass a minuted resolution of support at your Parish / Town Council meeting.
2) Identify where, ideally, you wish to monitor speeds (an existing maximum speed limit of 40mph – anything higher will be deemed too dangerous; the most popular historically has been the 30 – 40 mph areas but you may wish to consider any 20mph zones however the police do not enforce in these zones so it would be a case of collecting data to monitor effectiveness of these zones.
3) Consider when you would like to conduct your speed survey. For example do you have a school and you believe there are issues with speeding around school pick up times? Are there particular weeks / months in the year where speeding is noted as being a problem e.g. the summer months?
4) Contact travel4rutland@rutland.gov.uk and let them know you would like to take part, with accompanying minute of resolution.
5) Discuss with other local Parish Councils the opportunity to work as a cluster to share and manage the equipment on a local basis
6) Advise your insurers that trained Councillors and/or members of the public will be engaged in an authorised Speed Watch programme.

What will we do?

1) Conduct a risk assessment of your preferred area(s) for conducting a speed survey. The safety of volunteers at all times is of paramount importance.

2) Liaise with the police to train your volunteers to be able to conduct the speed survey safely and effectively. (This will include how to use the speed gun, where to stand, in effect the dos and don'ts, accurate recording of data, and what to do with the data at the completion of a session).

3) Erect and remove signs in the village stating that community speed watch is taking place.

4) Establish a timetable of speed surveying (it is hoped that desire and support for this scheme will be wide spread; RCC initially has two sets of speed guns and so we will need to establish a time table of use with the agreement of the interested parishes).

5) Provide you with the necessary equipment on a loan basis to conduct your surveys. You will need to collect this from the council offices.