

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Snape

For over two years now Snape has been running one of the County's many CSW volunteer groups and we have occasionally been asked why we bother; so it is worth setting out some of the background and what we have learnt over that time. Over periods of lockdown we were unable to operate as we had to follow police guidance to stop operating for periods.

The creation of the group followed work on our village plan which highlighted traffic and the related issue of speeding as a primary concern for a majority of people in the village. Prior to that Snape school, children and parents had raised concerns and donated money to some form of traffic calming and we had installed speed indicator signs which had some impact but there was a feeling that we could do more.

As with any scheme the police came and assessed appropriate sites, carried out checks on those who volunteered to help and then provided training. When we first started the police were only happy for us to operate on Church Road ((B1069) but last summer during a break in the lockdown restrictions following some persuasion from our group the police also then allowed us to operate on the Farnham Road (A1094).

Initially we shared kit with other parishes but the lack of regular access prompted us as a parish to buy our own equipment. We used money that had been raised locally and donated. Our own kit has enabled us to carry out speed checks around about twice a week at various times, including very early in the morning. We are probably one of the most active groups in the County according to our police colleagues.

When we do record someone speeding (above what the police regard as reasonable) we forward that information to the police centrally. Thereafter the police decide on whatever action is appropriate, dependent on the recorded speed.

Possibly surprisingly, but on a positive note, the vast majority of motorists are very supportive and many regular drivers now wave and give active encouragement to the volunteers. All the volunteers have found those shows of support as really positive. Yes occasionally we have had various motorists, (speeders and others) who are to put it politely, less supportive but they have been in tiny numbers and any negativity is far outweighed by the overwhelming encouragement. Interestingly walkers and cyclists also make many positive comments when passing.

The support and encouragement within the community and from those passing through is greatly appreciated so thank you.

If anyone wishes to help by volunteering then please contact our parish clerk
snapecp.clerk@gmail.com

The more volunteers the more visible we can be as a group and the greater the impact on speeding and safety in the village.

Caroline Meffan