

## **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

### **Warrington Borough Council**

This initiative is based on a scheme originally trialled in Somerset. The aims are:

- To address real or perceived community concerns relating to speeding vehicles through a village or community
- To share the responsibility for addressing speed related offending between the community, the police and other agencies
- To enable and assist active members of the community to join together to monitor speed at selected locations

Speed Watch provides high profile speed monitoring using highly visible signs, high visibility jackets and speed detection equipment. The speed guns are the same as are used by the police, and cost £2500 each. Due to their weight they need tripods, which limits where they can be used. The speed guns are operated by volunteers, and it is difficult for a driver to distinguish them from a policeman.

The procedure for setting up a Speed Watch scheme is:

- Identify a co-ordinator
- Request an application form
- Find 6 to 8 volunteers who can offer at least one hour per week
- Identify approximately 6 sites where you feel that speed is a problem
- Return completed application form

Schemes are selected taking account of the following criteria:

- Only in areas subject to 30 or 40 mph speed limit, or less
- Only in areas not covered by a speed camera
- Only at locations risk assessed and agreed by the partnership

All volunteers carry full Warrington BC public liability insurance. For safety and insurance reasons, they must wear a high visibility jacket when engaged in monitoring and abide by a set of 'golden rules.'

Training days are organised for volunteers, and the volunteers' kit comprises a high visibility jacket, an identity card and a guide to Speed Watch.

Volunteers record the speeds of a car and its details. If it is travelling over the police limit (38mph in a 30mph limit) the details are sent to the police, who send a warning letter. If they are caught again a second letter is sent, with the threat of targeting enforcement at the site.

Evaluation has shown that when speed monitoring is in progress, traffic speeds are appreciably lower. Survey of offenders shows that 33% live within 1 mile, 27% between 1 and 2 miles and 14% from elsewhere in Warrington.

#### **Peer assessment of this initiative (March 2004):**

 Community Speedwatch

*Contact Alan Dickin for further information*

*Email address:*

[adickin@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:adickin@warrington.gov.uk)