



community**speed**watch



LOCAL COMMUNITIES TACKLING SPEEDING IN THEIR AREA



Gloucestershire Constabulary  
People First Policing

Road**Safety**  
PARTNERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE

 COTSWOLDS  
Stronger & Safer  
COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

## What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes arose from an idea to involve local residents in speed reduction activity in the villages to the North West of Cirencester and the scheme is now being rolled out District wide. Put simply, speed monitoring is carried out by trained volunteers from the community, with follow-up work on education and enforcement by Gloucestershire Constabulary and Cotswold District Council.

Initially, letters are sent to registered keepers of offending vehicles, asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down in your community, with persistent offenders targeted for police enforcement. Gloucestershire County Council Road Safety staff can help with supporting initiatives, including the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SiDs).

Any community could be considered for a scheme. Originally it was envisaged that CSW would be better suited to villages and rural areas, rather than towns, however initiatives involving Neighbourhood Management Teams within towns are viable. Smaller communities could link with others to keep costs down.

## Isn't this a police job?

Gloucestershire Constabulary is committed to achieving casualty reduction targets and includes 'reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on the road' as part of their Policing Plan. With ever-greater demands it is simply not possible to

carry out speed enforcement checks in every community that wants them on a regular basis. Indeed, having to prioritise resources means that some communities that have a speeding problem without a corresponding collision record may be unlikely to see meaningful levels of enforcement. This is where working together can help.



---

## Does it work?

CSW has been successfully implemented elsewhere in the country since 2007. There is no reason why this introduction can not be just as successful, provided that schemes are set up and run in accordance with tried and tested guidelines.

Other police forces across the country implementing CSW can show a reduction in overall average speeds and a significant reduction in the proportion of drivers travelling well over the speed limit. This objective measurement is obviously a good indicator but means little if people do not actually perceive that things are better. The good news is that they have noticed a difference too.



## OK. So how do I start a scheme in my community?

If you and other members of the community think that speeding traffic has a dangerous or negative social impact on your area, then involve your local parish/town council, as their support is vital. If it appears that there are others who would volunteer to take an active role in speed monitoring, then forming a group is a good next step.

Contact the Watch Office (details inside the back cover). We will be able to guide you through the process and will facilitate training, risk assessment and liaison with your Local Policing Team.

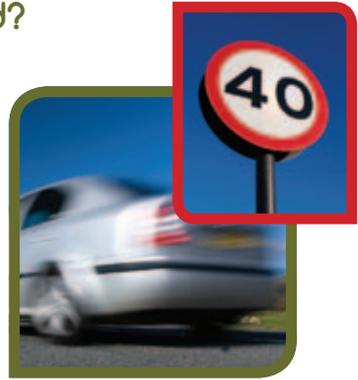
The County Council's Road Safety team fully supports CSW and should be contacted at an early stage to discuss what they are able to offer your group. Again, their details are on the back page.

You may find that some people want to help but not stand at the roadside - excellent! The follow-up administration may require help to process the letters to drivers.

---

## What equipment will be required?

Each team will be issued with a 'Speedar' radar, two CSW signs, hi-visibility jackets and a documentation pack. These remain the property of Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, who may withdraw and re-distribute the equipment if the need for, or support of, a CSW scheme diminishes.



## How much will it cost to set up and who pays?

In the initial stages, the cost of equipment will be met by the Road Safety Partnership, with the cost of training volunteers, risk assessing potential monitoring sites and ongoing administration being borne by Gloucestershire Constabulary. As the initiative develops, there will be the potential for teams to fund their own schemes locally.

## Is it dangerous?

Experience so far has shown that the vast majority of drivers either support, or are neutral to, volunteer speed monitors. Is it true that some drivers wave or gesture in a less than supportive manner but actual confrontation has been very rare and our training covers how to deal with such situations. Risk assessment of sites is aimed at making your presence at the roadside as safe as possible and is mostly common-sense. The Safety Code of Conduct also gives some guidance in this area.

## Still interested? Then read on...

As you may anticipate, many drivers slow down on seeing volunteers in high-visibility jackets at the roadside and the number of driver recorded may not be as high as you think it will be. This is a good thing, as the aim is to encourage people to slow down,

---

without having to involve any further action. For the majority of the time, most drivers will co-operate and experience elsewhere has shown that volunteers operate with little or no risk to themselves or others. It would be wrong, however, not to insist that new schemes adhere to some basic guidelines and safety practices. Here are the current guidelines:

### **Scheme Composition & Operation Guidelines**

1. There should be a minimum of six volunteers in the scheme, each willing to contribute a minimum of one hour per week. Small communities, who are unable to reach this figure, are encouraged to link with other interested local councils groups.
2. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age. Those who do not wish to be involved in speed monitoring may assist with administrative support and each scheme should include at least one person in this category. Some volunteers, of course, may be able to do both.
3. The scheme is to have a dedicated Co-ordinator and Deputy, responsible for the equipment and contact with the police.



4. Gloucestershire Constabulary will nominate a liaison officer, from your Local Policing Team, for processing the Activity Log recording sheets and for ongoing support.
5. The local parish or town council must support the scheme.
6. The locations for monitoring are chosen by the community, based on their experience and knowledge of the area. The Road Safety Partnership or police may provide supporting data.
7. Risk assessments will be carried out by a trained police officer, who will approve the nearest safe site to that chosen. All sites must be within 20 mph, 30 mph or 40 mph limits.
8. Training for volunteers will include use of the equipment and health & safety issues, both general and site specific. This training may be cascaded to new volunteers by scheme members but direct approval must be given by Gloucestershire Constabulary, following a visit by a trained officer.
9. Registration numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit must be recorded in full by the volunteers; partial numbers will not be accepted. The number must be verified as accurate by at least two volunteers, or not recorded at all.
10. The aim is to encourage drivers to choose to drive at or below the speed limit. For practical purposes, the recording of vehicle details should be restricted to those travelling at 37 mph or more in a 30 limit, or 48 mph or more in a 40 limit.



11. Offending drivers' vehicle details are recorded on a timed, dated and signed CSW Activity Log sheet. Completed sheets are forwarded to your Local Policing Team, who will arrange for letters to be sent out in accordance with the availability of administrative support but the Constabulary will endeavour to contact as many offending drivers as possible.

12. A maximum of three letters will be sent to the same registered keeper. After this, the vehicle details will be circulated for targeted police intervention with a view to prosecution.

## Safety - A Code of Conduct

The safety of volunteers and all road users is paramount and the following safety rules must be adhered to:-

1. Volunteers must not stand in the road at any time.
2. Volunteers must not obstruct the footpath.
3. Approved high-visibility jackets must be worn at all times on site.
4. Volunteers will only use approved equipment and only after final approval by the Gloucestershire Constabulary.
5. Volunteers will only use the equipment at locations which have been agreed in advance by the Constabulary.
6. When traffic is being monitored, the signs provided will be placed in accordance with the instructions given.
7. The radar device must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Volunteers must not attempt to conceal their speed-monitoring activities from passing motorists.
9. Monitoring is to be undertaken by a minimum of three volunteers at any one time.
10. It is strongly recommended that at least one volunteer be in possession of a mobile phone.
11. Monitoring only should take place. **NO** signals or gestures are to be made to drivers. Volunteers **MUST NOT** attempt to stop any vehicle.
12. Checks should be carried out in daylight hours in 20 mph, 30 mph and 40 mph speed limit areas.



13. Drivers who stop to enquire your purpose should be treated politely and courteously. Letters, explaining the scheme, will be supplied to you to hand out to drivers, enquiring about your activities. If they are not satisfied with an explanation of the scheme, they should be given contact details of your police liaison officer. If a confrontation occurs, abandon the monitoring and, if necessary, call the police by dialing 999.

If all of the above sounds a bit formal, don't worry - there have to be some reassurances that the scheme is properly organised before it can be supported by the Constabulary and the County Council. It will be your scheme, not ours. Monitoring sessions for volunteers are set by you, to accommodate the time people are able to give and there should be no expectation that monitoring will take place in all conditions at all times of the year - volunteers will quickly disappear if expected to stand in the rain on a cold February afternoon. The scheme will work if we are able to give what we can, when we can.

## We're definitely interested - what now?

Please contact us if you require further information or an application pack.

Telephone us on 01242 247198 and ask for Watch Office. Alternatively, you may contact us by email at [cotswold.lpa@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:cotswold.lpa@gloucestershire.police.uk)

You can also speak to a member of your Local Policing Team.

There is an expectation that communities wishing to be involved in Community Speed Watch will sign up to the scheme. This is a road safety initiative, supported by Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, where the community undertakes to observe the speed limit. You may wish to make contact with the Road Safety team, who can discuss ways of helping you with other road safety issues, in conjunction with Community Speed Watch.

You can call then on 01452 425600. Alternatively, you can go to the Road Safety section of the Gloucestershire County Council website for more details of how to contact them.

Gloucestershire Constabulary,  
Road Policing Unit, Operational Services Centre,  
Bamfurlong Lane, Cheltenham. GL51 6ST Tel: 101



communityspeedwatch