

SPEEDWATCH – APPENDIX A

(SENT ORIGINALLY VIA EMAIL ON 24 JULY 2020)

I spoke with Jon Beales at OCC Highways and Chris Hulme (Traffic Management Officer) at Thames Valley Police and this is most up to date information passed in March just before lockdown.

Chris Hulme advised that on average the mph saving was only reduced 2mph by implementing VAS signs and taking into cost of £6000 each sign we would need to decide whether they would be cost effective for the result achieved. OCC advised that they had many board signs that we could use and put in various areas to promote safer speed. The signs are available as and when required, to be installed by our maintenance team to any existing lampposts in the speed affected area.

The equipment used to record speed in Community Speedwatch (CSW) initiatives across Thames Valley has up until now been with the use of non-hand-held, non-home office type approved equipment only. The reason for this is that CSW is about education and not enforcement and therefore there is no requirement for annual calibration or type approval. It has also been a concern that the use of hand-held equipment may have been more likely to confuse the motorist into thinking it was an enforcement activity and potentially lead to unnecessary and unwanted confrontations between the volunteers and motorist, however, more recent evidence that police have obtained from other force areas and community speed watch.org does not support that view. There is also the prohibitive cost for initial purchase and or replacement of non-handheld devices due to lack of funding support across Thames Valley with many CSW's finding themselves having to share equipment or even disband.

As a result of this feedback and determination to make CSW more accessible to our community, the Community Speedwatch strategic governance group have reviewed its position and I am pleased to inform that policy has been changed to now include the use of non-type approved handheld devices as an alternative option to non-handheld.

An example of such a device, and there are others, would be a Bushnell 101911 radar gun which is currently selling online at £122. This is significantly cheaper than non-handheld devices and therefore makes it a much more viable option for those who wish to take part in CSW.

This development is supported by police insurance providers and they have also reviewed and amended the risk assessment to include this change.

We are keen to increase CSW and make the process more appealing to volunteers and are looking at ways to improve CSW across Thame. We are currently speaking to Communityspeedwatch.org to determine the best support that we can provide to CSW's, this includes administrative functions and we will see what comes from those discussions. I will ensure that any further developments / changes are communicated to you.

Please note that any Home office Type approved devices, such as floor standing / LTI 20/20 Ultralyte cannot be used by Community Speed watch. These devices are used for enforcement purposes only, a function that does not sit within CSW, so there is now a preference to use handheld devices, suggestion is to use Bushnell as referred to above.

The portable handheld devices and VAS signs were discussed at a team meeting in March regarding next steps i.e., determining the need to purchase two handheld speed devices which could be given to a group of volunteers or a resident's association, the police would train residents /volunteers how to use equipment and what to do, the police would send letters to offending drivers as a warning and overall works well as a speeding deterrent!

The above was going to be proposed to Lea Park Residents Association who have contacted us separately about speeding vehicles in area however we then went into lockdown and this has not been progressed further due to other commitments.