

SPEEDWATCH & SPEEDING IN WHADDON

After a winter sabbatical brought about by dark days, dirty number plates, muddy verges and the cold weather we expect to be back in operation by the time you read this. With four new volunteers: Joanne Burgess, Keith Green, Maria Mould and Maureen Pinner joining myself, Malan Peyton, David Evans and when here Nigel Strudwick, we have up to eight volunteers to call upon. It's particularly pleasing that the team is drawn from all parts of the village.

For those that are new to Speedwatch, which is County wide, our main objective is to educate those drivers who choose to go too fast that here in Whaddon we want you to observe the 30mph – nothing more. It is not to see how many people we can record exceeding the speed limit as if it is a competition. Our ideal would be to record nobody. However, failure to observe the limit will result in vehicle details finding their way to the police. A suitable letter will arrive on the registered owner's doorstep explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. If repeated by the offender, a further letter will be sent which is cooler in tone and a third time will probably see it being delivered by a member of the constabulary. It is important to note that Speedwatch is not an enforcement tool and there are no fines or points involved but where regular speeding is seen to be a problem then the police will conduct speed checks themselves.

In recent weeks we have seen a car accident at the corner by College Farm and in a later incident the repeater post/sign and the Speedwatch sign have been destroyed in the same area. These may well have involved excess speed. We have many of these sharp corners in the village and over the years each has been attacked by drivers failing to make the turn. Most villagers have a continuing concern about speeding traffic which is a sentiment expressed widely amongst South Cambs villages. Speedwatch helps but is not a solution in itself.

Mike Monks