

Community Speedwatch Annual Conference June 17th 2024

Phil Payne, Traffic Justice Manager presented a session on current and future plans to tackle speeding in Norfolk. We will probably see 3 more average camera schemes in Norfolk, with the Acle Straight being one.

There are currently 102 speedwatch teams in Norfolk with 909 volunteers. Last year CSW in Norfolk recorded 18,225 vehicles speeding.

The purpose of enforcing speed limits is to reduce road traffic collisions and make the roads safer for all users.

50,000 vehicles were recorded across all Police speed camera equipment in Norfolk.

17,000 fatalities in 2023 on UK roads as a result of road traffic.

The purchase of a new smaller BMW Police motorcycle will allow the traffic officer to monitor speeds in locations that would not be possible with a camera van or patrol car.

Both 20 mph limits and 20 mph zones can be enforced by the police if it can be shown that around 20% of all traffic exceed the speed limit, and there has been public concern voiced to them. The Police will confirm this with their black box road monitoring equipment. The threshold for speeding traffic is 10% + 2 mph, the threshold at which a ticket would be issued. Although we were told that an officer could issue a ticket at 32 in a 30 limit if it was warranted!

We were also informed about operation Octane. A response to public concern about modified car meets which can generate anti-social behaviour, increased speeding and illegal road racing. Roads around Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn and Thetford being affected. Police are engaging with the responsible modified car owners to inform them of the risks associated with this type of driving and enforcement when the rules of the road get broken.

The conference was closed by Chief Superintendent Dave Buckley who thanked the volunteers for their efforts, as Police resources are so stretched, covering the rural county of Norfolk, and dealing with varied nature of crime now which includes cyber fraud, domestic abuse, and hate crimes to name but a few.

Graham Abbott