

Radford Semele Community Speedwatch (CSW) Frequently Asked Questions

By now most village residents will be aware of our teams of CSW volunteers sporting high-viz jackets and a tripod mounted LASER speed measuring device operating from various locations and at different times in order to deter motorists from speeding in and through our village. Here is an attempt to provide answers to some of the questions we are frequently asked:

Q. At what speed are motorists considered to be “speeding”.

A. We record vehicles that we detect travelling at 35 mph or over. This is mandated by Warwickshire Police.

Q. Do you have a “speed camera”?

A. No – our LASER speed measuring device (purchased by the parish Council and owned by the village) accurately measures and indicates the speed of vehicles and the distance from the device but it is not a camera. Recording of offenders relies on our sharp eyed teams accurately noting the measured speed, the vehicle registration details and the make and colour of the vehicle as well as the direction of travel on a data recording sheet provided by Warwickshire Police.

Q. Are offenders you record prosecuted?

A. Unfortunately not – we are not authorised police officers in uniform. We do however report offenders who then receive a warning letter from the Police. Repeat offenders will receive a “knock on the door” (wherever they live in the country). In this way, we raise awareness of speed limits and act as a deterrent which is our purpose.

Q. Why don't you carry out checks on my road *insert road name here*?

A. We are only authorised to carry out checks at locations specified and risk assessed by Warwickshire Police. This *does* include Lewis Road and School Lane from which we periodically operate as a deterrent. Please note however that although vehicles frequently travel at speeds “inappropriate for village roads”, they are not exceeding the 30mph speed limit as they are impeded by parked cars and other obstructions. The Parish Council is however supporting a national initiative to apply a 20mph limit to inner village roads. When (and if) this is implemented, you will see us operating at more village locations.

Q. Why don't we see you operating early in the morning or late evening?

A. We are only authorised to operate during daylight hours. Also, we do not operate in poor weather conditions for the safety of both our teams and motorists. Most of our volunteers are retired after a working life of "crack of dawn" or earlier starts and so are less inclined to leave the warmth of our beds too early thank you! However, if there are any larks out there who would like to join us, please do volunteer as we should be delighted to welcome you.

Q. We sometimes see you outside the Community Centre "doing something" – what exactly are you doing?

A. We are carrying out compulsory alignment and calibration checks on the LASER device using fixed distance markers before and after a session to ensure the accuracy of our measurements.

Q. I would like to get out in the fresh air more often, make new friends and contribute to the safety and wellbeing of our community – how do I go about this?

A. If you can spare a couple of hours a month during the day (or weekend) we are actively seeking new volunteers so we can organise more frequent sessions. If you are interested, please contact us on speedwatch@radfordsemelepc.org.uk or by contacting any member of the Parish Council for further details.

Councillor Roger W Munn

Radford Semele Parish Council