



WARWICKSHIRE CSW NEWSLETTER

An update from the Road Safety Unit Officers Gary Strain
and PC Ken Bratley

November 2023

CSW impact on driver behaviour



It is clear from recent DRS returns that many of you are having a positive effect on the driver behaviour within our communities. There has been an increase in your returns showing low or zero incidents of speeding. Reducing speed and the fear of harm on our roads is the overall aim and ethos of CSW. Our overt presence is enough to deter most from speeding.

Our figures show that 126 DRS have been returned between August and the end of October with 94 DRS showing single figure incidents of speed. These are the most pleasing results to us at the Road Safety Unit because it shows that CSW is effective and your efforts should be recognised.

To recognise these positive results we will display a list of the top 5 CSW teams returning the most positive results in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Drop in the use of vehicle checker sites – Thank you!

There has been a remarkable decrease in the previously reported issues of drivers contacting the Road Safety Unit about possible clones. A clone is when a similar vehicle displays another's VRM. We had experienced a severe increase of these over the first half of 2023 which is partly due to human error but mainly due to the use of apps such as Vehicle Smart & DVLA car checker sites. If a cloned vehicle is suspected, the Road Safety Unit officers then conduct further enquiries in the Warwickshire and surrounding areas.

Whilst it is good that groups have been trying to ensure accuracy, the use of the sites can provide false results. We have noticed an excellent response to our hot tip to refrain from using them in the previous newsletter. We thank you all for your cooperation and help with this and appreciate your continued efforts. Please keep it up

Bushnell Speed devices



The Bushnell speed gun uses digital signal processing technology to measure the speed of a baseball from up to 30 metres or a vehicle from as far as 500 metres, and is a very accurate speed device, being used by many other police forces engaged with Community Speed Watch Groups.

The devices have been approved by our Road Safety Team and a minimum of training is required, compared to the Ultralyte laser devices.

They are lightweight and easy to switch on and aiming is all straightforward then pull the trigger. Gary Strain has been circulating the groups showing the device and some of you have taken the opportunity to purchase them via your Parish Council funds. These can be sourced from LaserTech in Warwick for £350 inclusive of VAT and postage and packing but also slightly cheaper from Amazon at around £240 plus price of a cover or secure box.

For further information contact Gary by mobile or email.

Mob:07977574369

The CSW Ethos



CSW is based around community concerns regarding the use of excess speed and the fear of harm on our roads. CSW is a volunteer-based initiative to deter speeding and fear of harm on our roads. CSW is supported by the police. There is no direct enforcement involved with the efforts contributed by Speed Watch volunteers. They do not substitute low prioritised enforcement issues with 'policing-on-cheap' solutions. Neither are they "waging war on motorists", nor "retired people with nothing better to do!". Volunteers are recruited from a wide demographic representation of concerned citizens who contribute with their time to make local roads safer for everyone to use. And, by doing just that, they participate selflessly in a noble effort to save lives by raising awareness of the dangers of speeding.

If a CSW site suffers from parked vehicles on occasions, causing traffic to slow down naturally and preventing the team from catching speeders, surely this is what we all want – lower speeds?



Effective CSW's are demonstrated by the effect they have in deterring speeding and not the number of speeders they

can catch.

By returning a zero or single figure DRS it demonstrates that your group is effective. Please strive to deter and **not** catch speeders.

Let us just remember LESS IS BEST!

CSW teams in action!



We would love to see some photographs of our teams in action. Please send photographs of your team in action so we can add them to future Newsletters and media releases. Please seek the permission of all persons depicted before sending them to us though 😊

We would also like teams to share their session schedule with Gary & Ken. Gary & Ken would like to come out and show support to you and your teams by attending some of your sessions or meetings where possible. Please email either Gary or Ken with any planned session dates, times, and locations – thank you!

Effective CSW presence...

Below is a chart showing the CSW team activities carried out by you all, within Warwickshire. It shows an impressively low occurrence of speeding during the sessions with between 96.81% and 97.8% of vehicles passing through complying with the speed limits. Congratulations to you all for making our counties roads safer. Please keep up the good work.

MONTH	SESSIONS CONDUCTED	TOTAL VEHICLE COUNT	SPEEDING VEHICLES	% OF VEHICLES SPEEDING	% OF COMPLIANT VEHICLES
August	37	9434	301	3.19	96.81
September	33	8593	258	3.00	97.00
October	56	14996	331	2.20	97.80

Training sessions



Our new, but now settled, Road Safety Officer Gary Strain has been hard at work getting to know our groups. Gary is also undergoing a variety of training courses which will eventually allow him to add to our training team capabilities.

The bulk of training revolves around the LTI Ultralyte 100 device and safety. Of course, the Safety aspect is the most important but knowing how to use the devices we employ is also quite important. It usually takes around 3 hrs to conduct a training session with the Ultralyte 100 but the introduction of other more user-friendly devices, such as the Bushnell has slashed training times dramatically.

The device is a simple point and press device which is lightweight and so easy to use. We are encouraging its take up but we will still offer training on the LTI Ultralyte's too.

If your team has any training requests or would like a demonstration of the Bushnell alternative, please contact Gary Strain. Email on gary.strain@warwickshire.police.uk

New CSW Tasking team in training...



We recently had a meeting with Specials Chief Inspector Debbie Murray to discuss a tasking team to be operated by the Special Constabulary. SCI Murray was very positive and has agreed to provide staff for this role. This means when we have notifications of repeat offenders and +21 offenders we can send a tasking request to the CSW Tasking team to action.

The team will comprise of 6 Special Constables initially and will be responsible for knocking on the doors of the offenders to reinforce our messages regarding speeding being something Warwickshire Police and the community will not tolerate. The errant driver will be educated as to the consequences of speed and informed that should we get another report then enforcement will follow. We are currently in the training phase and hope to "go live" in January 2024. Until then we will continue as we currently operate. This is an exciting development and we will keep teams updated on the progress of the taskings.

Top tip of this Newsletter

Your visible presence as a CSW group in hi-visibility jackets, and signs warning of your presence is the greatest deterrent to motorists who are speeding.

It suddenly wakes them up, reminding them of what they should be concentrating on and to slow down.

The number of speeding motorists is not the most important thing to the Police or your community, it is you and your group reminding them to comply to speed limits, and then analysing the results, and to see if we can improve things.

Keep up the great work and we are always there to support you.

BRAKE Road Safety Week 19-25 November - Speed



BRAKE Road Safety Week starts on 19 November and is an opportunity to get out in your communities to deter speeding drivers. During the week BRAKE will be encouraging the public to talk about speed and there are tools to encourage people to do just this on their website that will be shared on social media www.brake.org.uk/RoadSafetyWeek So why not take part in Road Safety Week 2023 and join the national conversation. If you are on Facebook please share posts from @WarwickshireRoadSafety from 19-25 November so more people see these important messages. Thank you