

Brenchley & Matfield – Road Safety Initiative

A new Speedwatch Group has been set up, seeking to try and do something to reduce speeds and improve road safety in the parish. We currently have 6 trained volunteers but are looking to expand the group so we can undertake sessions at several of various locations around the parish where there are known speeding issues.

The way Speedwatch works, is for groups of between 2-4 approved operators to undertake sessions of between 60 to 90 minutes in the various approved sites, on a regular basis over a set period. There are currently around 12 locations, but the intention is for this to be expanded, subject to compliance with the police guidelines. Before anyone is able to become an operator, they would need to complete online training, then attend an on-site training session with the group coordinator. Each of these would take around 60 minutes to complete. The Group already has its own equipment. Speedwatch can only take place in locations with an existing 30mph or 40mph speed limit and where there is clear visibility of at least 75 metres and further sites can always be added provided they meet the necessary criteria. Each session undertaken is notified in advance to the police via the Speedwatch portal.

At each session, data is taken recording the speed of each vehicle which is above the speed limit for that location. Together with time, vehicle type, colour and registration number. This data is then passed to the Police via Speedwatch and warning letters are sent to drivers who exceed the limit significantly, or who are repeat offenders. This data is also further helpful in that it can be shared with KCC Highways to help demonstrate the extent of speeding in the parish and is useful additional evidence to support further road safety improvements or speed control measures such as provision of active speed warning signs.

If you could be interested in joining the Speedwatch Group, please contact Graeme Stevenson on the phone number or email below:

graeme.stevenson@brenchleyandmatfield.co.uk

07774 823317