

Decelerate.

Community Speedwatch

Newsletter # 6

Welcome to the 6th newsletter from your TVP Community Speedwatch co-ordinator for;

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire. (TVP)



Hi everyone.

Firstly, Happy New Year to you all.

CSW has become, for many, a part of community life. Since the start of the online platform, interest continues to grow. Within the Thames Valley Policing area there are 2350+ volunteers who have joined the CSW community. Over 1700 authorised sites located across the 3 counties, building a substantial network.

I personally thank you all, for your time and dedication given to your communities.



The CSW platform gives individual groups the ability to retrieve statistics, for those who are involved or have an interest. Your statistics are available from within the individual group platform.

Yes, we have seen a great take-up of the platform, with 318 groups now registered on the system. We still have a little way to go.

Thames Valley work alongside Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary in an operations capacity. However, the two police forces do not run off the same platforms for CSW.

Equipment

The PCC, Matt Barber continues funding, enabling loan kits for new groups. These will now be available on a permanent loan basis. The individual group must show use of the equipment within a rolling 6 month period, otherwise they will be reclaimed and distributed to another group. Once loaned you cannot request to loan a second device. There are many new devices coming onto the market and we are trying to keep abreast of these. However, I must stress that should your group wish to purchase any new devices, would you kindly make contact with me in the first instance. Some devices are NOT sanctioned for TVP CSW use. Your intended purchase may therefore be a costly outlay when the device cannot be used.

Only **NON HOME OFFICE APPROVED** devices can be used. The likes of Laser LTI 20/20 and SPEEDAR devices are **NOT** to be used within the scheme. An example of such an approved device, and there are others, would be a Bushnell 101911 radar gun, which is currently selling for around £160-£200 online. The likes of Sentinel from Unipar and ASWC from Westcotec are sanctioned for use with the Thames valley Police area. There is however one caveat, the use of a device called **pocket radar** will not be sanctioned. This is due to the increased ability of operators to misuse the equipment.

Where are we now!



New letter processing system.

Many of you have raised the question of how long does it takes for the letter to be raised and sent out. This, in the past has been a long and laborious process with each letter taking approximately 10 minutes to produce. As you can imagine in the peak of the summer and with an average of 600 returns per day, letter production was dragging behind.

We now have a new system that went live on the 01st December 2024, after many false starts and a few hiccups ironed out, we are now on the correct rails. The new server is capable of checking and producing a letter as fast as the operator can work. All letters will now be produced within a maximum of 14 days from the individual groups uploading. During the leaner month's there will be an active target to reduce this rate to 7 days.

The CSW system will still show the words 'reported to TVP', this is due to TVP not using the lettering system of CSW online. However, we will be looking at this area in the next few months to see if there is any link that can be fed back into the CSW platform to update the letter status.

To find out roughly how many letters have been sent from your returns please follow; Campaigns - local council report. Change the dates in which you wish to check and click update. The first number will be those uploaded from your checks and the DVLA valid will be the letters sent. However, often there are a few that cannot be sent for many a reason.

Please enter the Report Date range

Start Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	<input type="text" value="2024-12-01"/>
End Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	<input type="text" value="2024-12-31"/>
Show Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Do NOT include Group sites report
Long Term Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Do NOT show Long Term report
Show Operator Names	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Show Sessions with Zero Speeders	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="button" value="Update"/>

Summary for this Period	
Number of Sessions this period	= 53
Total Vehicles exceeding limit	= 677
DVLA Valid vehicles	= 668
Accuracy	= 98%
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit	= 62 mph(+106%)



TVP roadside documents.

When you open the system and your co-ordinator books a session, the TVP roadside form will now be available as a pdf file at the bottom of the page. I am sorry that this has taken a while to establish. The CSW online document, has been superseded with TVPs official document. It is different from the old one. However, it is set out in evidence procedure (importance) in which the data has to be collected.



Thames Valley Speedwatch protocols.

TVP has just had its third full year of the platform, still a learning curve for us all, the CSW platform is subscribed to by TVP. However, TVP has its own protocols, as does every other Police force across the country. They are not all the same but do have similar characteristics.

The protocols are posted in the TVP platform of CSW online. Their exact Location Within is; 'Help'-'Documents'-'Policies'-Briefings and Protocols'.



TVP insurance cover

Providing each scheme has signed up on the system and have undergone the relevant online training, only then will the TVP insurance will be in place. This has a liability of £50M, far higher than that of a small parish being able to obtain. On the new scheme the platform will enable each location to be certified and thus creating a service level agreement to the group. There has recently been talk of a sliding scale of cover that relates to the age of the community operator, this is being looked into. I will update you all as soon as I have a firm answer from the force insurance team.

**The insurance is only in place once CSW activities are in progress and providing that the group has pre- booked using the websites calendar system.
It does Not cover the equipment whilst it is stored.**



Community Speedwatch signs, mandatory or advisory!

The signage, under all CSW rules state that this MUST be in place during the CSW period of monitoring. As per the newsletters #2 onwards, the siting of fixed signage falls to either the local parish or the county highways division.



Tally counters to record all vehicles.

Recording the amount of vehicles going through the CSW location at the time enables the percentage of excess speed to be analysed. Should you only record excess speed you would show that 100% of all vehicles are offending when the true offenders may only be 1 or 2%. Should this be the case it would therefore be inappropriate to have officers and parishioners thinking that the issue is worse than it really is, or visa-versa.



Letter procedure.

In terms of the operation, a motorist can receive three graduated letters over a rolling six month period; following a third transgression it will lead to a visit by a Roads Policing Officer to discuss driving behaviour. If a motorist is 50% over the specified limit, they will automatically receive an Excess 50% letter, explaining potential police action if the speeding occurrence had been carried out by a Police Officer. If the motorist is detected at twice the specified speed limit, it will be flagged for a Roads Policing visit as soon as possible.



Having access to a copy of one of the letters.

A sanitised copy of a letter can be requested from me via email.

However, with the new letters being produced from the new processing system, can I please ask that you refrain from requesting for a 3 month period. This will enable us to receive feedback on the letter content from those motorists who receive any of the graduated letters.

The incorrect way to do this is by registering your own vehicle as going through a speed monitoring session. This has many implications. It is against the law to furnish Police with false information. We, the police have a duty of retaining data under GDPR regulations. If we hold incorrect data this puts the integrity of the whole system under scrutiny, we simply cannot be put in this position. Upon finding this had occurred, sanctions were applied to the individuals and any further breaches will result in those individuals being removed from the platform.



Speedwatch in 50mph limits.

Community speed watch has always had safety at the forefront of its operations. Should a vehicle be travelling at speeds above 50mph the likelihood of the index number being gathered correctly greatly reduces. Taking into account the mandatory allowance of 10%+2, vehicles would not be recorded until 58mph. In addition, being at the roadside with speeds of this nature, operators are susceptible to the backdraft of a vehicle, which in turn would pull the operator in the direction of the carriageway itself. I am sorry but there will not any authorised 50mph locations.



Previous



New

Some of you may be aware that Thames Valley Police has changed its corporate logo. I can confirm to you all that this does NOT invalidate any signage already purchased or erected within your communities. A mixture of old and new are excepted should you have to purchase additional.

I have been informed, prices have increased, however being kept to a minimum. These signs are available from, Sign Wizzard, Aylesbury, who are authorised to use the TVP logo. Please make contact with them direct for current prices and lead time for delivery. There are **Other** sign makers in the Thames Valley area.

AUTHORISATION MUST BE SOUGHT FROM YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY OR PARISH PRIOR TO PURCHASING, REGARDING FIXING TO EXISTING ROADSIDE FURNITURE.

A FEW TVP SPEEDWATCH RESULTS

PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED NEW TVP CSW SCHEME.	= 2,352
SITES APPROVED ACROSS TVP	= 1,738
ROADSIDE SESSIONS IN HOURS (2024)	= 4,122
OPERATOR HOURS ACROSS TVP (2024)	= 11,451
LETTERS SENT (2024)	= 42,718
VEHICLES PASSING THROUGH CSW SYSTEM (2024)	= 504,470
VEHICLES REPORTED TO DVLA FOR NO TAX (2024)	= 1,025
Percentage of NON re-offenders after receiving 1 st letter	= 95.32%

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT. 😊

The Vision.

All community speed watch activities across Thames Valley Police are aligned in the implementation and administration of the scheme.

All community speed watch activities are carried out in accordance with Policy, procedure and the best intentions of the community volunteers.

Members of the community are happy with the education process and potential targeting of persistent offenders.

**CHECK
YOUR
SPEED**
CHILDREN
LIVE HERE!!

Kind Regards

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IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK

