

Wrentham Community Speedwatch Report to the Parish Council April 2024

Since the previous report to the Parish Council, dated 4 April 2023, the Wrentham Community Speedwatch volunteers have completed a further 38 sessions, a significant increase over the previous year. We attend the A12 London Road, A12 High Street and Southwold Road locations in rotation and provide the Police Speedwatch liaison officer with details of any vehicle detected travelling at over 35mph, as required by the Speedwatch scheme. Over this period we have reported 175 motorists for exceeding this limit.

We have gained a further volunteer but have lost one of the others so our team remains 6 strong. As ever, more volunteers would help spread the load. We are fortunate indeed to have such willing and enthusiastic volunteers.

As mentioned in the previous report, it is noticeable that the vast majority of motorists keep their speeds below 35mph. During a typical one hour session we count an average of 558 vehicles, with a peak on one occasion of 1367, and we detect an average of 4 or 5 who exceed 35mph.

There was one occasion when we recorded a motorcyclist travelling at 83mph on London Road and on another occasion we were present when the fatal accident close to the Horse and Groom took place. As we wear high-viz jackets we were asked to assist the police in helping to control the traffic.

I have contacted the local Police liaison officers on several occasions to see if we can obtain authorization to conduct Speedwatch sessions on Chapel Road but they have not responded thus far. I have lodged another request and am awaiting a reply.

I was approached by residents of Mill Lane who complained about speeding motorists. I've placed Speedwatch signs on lampposts there in the hope that may help.

I have also been approached by several residents of Southwold Road who complained about speeding motorists in the early morning. In response we held our first session at 6:00am on 26 March and recorded only 88 vehicles in the hour but 7 were speeding – a much higher proportion than in the daytime. It was noticeable that all of those speeding were heading towards Southwold. Hopefully this indicates that the new VAR sign is effectively slowing incoming traffic. We plan to conduct a few more early morning sessions through the summer.

Chris Mead

Wrentham Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

28 March 2024