

SpeedWatch Policy

This is a common policy for the parish councils of Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield (the Northern Parishes). It will be reviewed by the Northern Parishes collectively and recommended to each council for adoption and review.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This policy covers the support and operational requirements provided by the parish council and the other Northern Parishes of Bracknell Forest. Together, the Northern Parishes have purchased a Sentinel speed camera for use by local SpeedWatch volunteers operating under guidance and support of Thames Valley Police.

2.0 SpeedWatch

2.1 Speeding is one of the factors that most affects the quality of life in communities and is an issue regularly raised with the council. Community SpeedWatch is a traffic monitoring scheme coordinated by Thames Valley Police (TVP) in partnership with local council and other stakeholders, but managed and run by neighbourhood teams and community volunteers.

2.2 SpeedWatch can only operate in areas up to a 40 mph speed limit. Community volunteers work alongside TVP officers to identify vehicles which break the speed limit. Registration numbers are entered onto a database which produces a letter informing the registered owner that their vehicle has been noted to have exceeded the speed limit and asking them not to do so in the future. If the same registration number is logged in another SpeedWatch area anywhere within the Thames valley, the owner will receive another letter advising them that if they are caught a third time further action may be taken.

2.3 The recruitment of volunteers and the operation of the SpeedWatch will be the responsibility of TVP. Locations for SpeedWatch will be suggested by the community and TVP will risk assess the location and make the final decision on suitability.

2.4 The Sentinel equipment will be available for use in each parish on an equal time share basis.

3.0 Role of the Parish Council

3.1 The parish council will provide support to assist the operation of SpeedWatch within the parish and the Northern Parishes.

3.2 The parish council will provide funding to purchase a Sentinel speed camera in conjunction with the other two northern parish councils. Warfield Parish Council will insure the camera on behalf of all the parishes and will be responsible for the

maintenance and upkeep of the equipment. Any costs associated with insurance or maintenance will be shared between the northern parishes.

- 3.3 The parish council will provide insurance for community volunteers undertaking SpeedWatch activity in their local area. Volunteers will be required to complete a declaration and read the Volunteer Policy during the recruitment process and a record will be kept by the SpeedWatch Co-ordinator of volunteers undertaking activity.
- 3.4 The parish council, with the other northern parishes, will assist in the promoting the recruitment of community SpeedWatch volunteers and will make venues available free of charge to TVP for training or other activity associated volunteer activity.
- 3.5 The parish council will provide support for the provision of safety equipment required by community volunteers, such as hi-visibility jackets and signage. The parish council may provide a small financial contribution to cover the expenses of the local SpeedWatch group, including the local co-ordinator.
- 3.6 The parish council will publish the results of SpeedWatch activity regularly with data supplied by SpeedWatch and TVP.
- 3.7 The parish council will not process any data resulting from SpeedWatch activity. Any information collected at the roadside will be processed by SpeedWatch volunteers and Thames Valley Police.
- 3.8 Councillors and employees of the council may become a Community SpeedWatch volunteer, but in doing so they are acting in an independent capacity and not as a representative of the parish council.