

Community SpeedWatch meeting

Attendees: Brett Worthington (CSW instructor and co-ordinator for Bristol), Damien Devanny (CSW co-ordinator for Avon and Somerset Police), Susan Acton-Campbell (CSW volunteer)

CSW = Community SpeedWatch

1. Purpose of the meeting

To understand what benefits the new Swan system will provide and how it will work. Cover the issues raised in a spreadsheet provided by Susan.

2. Swan

Swan has already been rolled out to other parts of the Avon and Somerset Police area. It has come from another constabulary and been modified to Avon and Somerset requirements.

Currently the details of vehicle are copied by hand at least 4 times, leading to unnecessary workloads and the possibility of errors. The concept of Swan is that the CSW volunteers will receive a blank spreadsheet. After their SpeedWatch session they will copy details of the vehicle and speed on the spreadsheet, save it to their computer's hard drive, then send an email with the save spreadsheet attached to a specified email address. This will reduce the manual copying to 1 as checks on the Police National Computer system will still need copy typing.

The additional benefit of Swan is that the data collected can then be used to create reports showing whether offending behaviour is reducing over time and would enable identification of trends such as whether people speeding generally come from close to the location where they are spotted or whether from some distance away. This could be used to prove or disprove the theory that people like speed on streets outside their homes to be controlled but then away from their home area are only interested in a speedy journey to their destination.

Community SpeedWatch teams would be able to request copies of data for their own information.

Under Swan the target for letters to go to members of the public is 15 days, the same as for fixed penalty notices. Under the previous system that time was considerably longer.

Damien intends to send out instructions to the Bristol CSW team week commencing 23rd May.

Action (1) Damien

The St George CSW team have suspended doing SpeedWatch sessions until they have received details of how to submit data via Swan. They still have data from their last SpeedWatch of Friday 6th May which can be used to try out Swan when they receive the instructions.

2.1 Issues with Swan

It has already been identified that some teams have difficulty with spreadsheets and the concept of attaching files to emails. The next phase will allow CSW teams to simply record their information on a website form.

2.2 General issues with data recording

The St George CSW team do not record details of vehicles speeding when they are unsure if they have read the number plate correctly. Damien asked that details of all vehicles speeding are recorded to give the correct picture of the total number. In Swan comments can be added to indicate an uncertain identification. Damien will include this in his guidance notes about Swan and Brett will include this in his training sessions.

Action (2) CSW teams Brett Damien

Currently if the colour and model of the car is not identified this is not deemed a good enough identification so the follow up letter will not be generated. For example ABC123D red saloon will not be followed up. Pictures of car logos are available on many websites including www.car-logos.org

Action (3) CSW volunteers

As now, when other offences are identified, such as drivers using mobile phones, they should be reported to the Neighbourhood team.

3. General issues

3.1 Training

Top up training is to be arranged so that those of us who have been trained in the past can refresh our knowledge and be updated on any changes in processes. The training will be delivered via the video on www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/services/watch-community-schemes/community-speedwatch/ and there will be a small number of questions for each CSW volunteer to answer to ensure they understand the training content. Damien to advise when there is a date for the roll out of this training.

Action (4) Damien

3.2 Team Numbers

The experience of the St George team of people agreeing they want to volunteer and then failing to attend training or attending training and then not committing to SpeedWatch sessions is not unusual. Using the training approach above might reduce time wasted.

There was no discussion about publicity for recruitment apart from Susan sharing what her own team had done.

3.3 Clothing

It would appear that the St George team are the only team to have received lightweight jackets. These are long-sleeved, have "Community SpeedWatch" printed in large letters on the back and show Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Police logos on the front. Damien has plentiful supplies and will give some to Brett. Brett to find out from teams what size they need which will allow them to use them in summer and also in winter on top of their winter clothing. The existing quilted jackets will be withdrawn and should be returned to Brett once the lightweight jackets have been received.

Action (5) Damien, Brett, CSW volunteers

It was confirmed that wearing sleeveless hi-viz vests would invalidate the insurance provided by the Police and Bristol City Council for Community SpeedWatch volunteers.

There should always be sufficient sizes of jacket within a team that any mix of team members can be duty together at the same time. In larger teams jackets are supposed to be passed round the team as they are needed.

3.4 Risk Assessment of Sites

The original risk assessment documentation of sites received by the St George team stated that the sites should be risk assessed annually. Damien advised that this had changed. Sites will not be re-visited for a risk assessment unless the volunteer CSW team identify that a change has occurred e.g. new building obscuring visibility.

3.5 Information for the public

Damien is working on a replacement document for volunteer teams to give to members of the public who approach them asking what they are doing. Damien to send this out as soon as it is ready.

Action (6) Damien

3.6 Printing

Any team who has needs supplies of stationery (recording sheets, copies of letters to be given to the public) can contact Brett and he will send supplies via the post.

3.7 Three weeks' notice of a SpeedWatch session

The St George team had been briefed that they need to give details of their SpeedWatch sessions 3 weeks in advance and locations and times could not change once set. This is apparently not the

case. As long as the Neighbourhood policing team have been advised, in advance, of the locations and times of the SpeedWatch sessions they can go ahead.

3.8 Letters to the public

Letters to offenders are now only going out at the time of the first offence. The letters have been modified and will be modified further. The aim is to take a more educational approach rather than “big stick”. Damien to supply a copy of the new version.

Action (7) Damien

Repeated offences will still lead to follow up by the neighbourhood team.

3.9 Speeds at which motor vehicles should be reported

Different teams seem to be using different speeds at which to make reports. Damien confirmed that in a 20 mph zone vehicles travelling at 27mph and over should be reported, in a 30mph zone then 37mph and above should be reported.

Action(8) CSW volunteers