

## **Radford Semele Community Speedwatch Annual Report 2022/2023**

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative whereby proactive members of local communities, with the support of the local police, record details of speeding vehicles using an approved detection device. Registered owners of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted by letter warning them of the consequences of speeding with repeat offenders receiving a “knock on the door” from a Police Officer irrespective of where in the country they live. The whole exercise is designed to raise awareness of the consequences of speeding and act as a deterrent against breaking speed limits.

The Radford Semele Speedwatch initiative was initially set up in the winter of 2020, the Parish Council voting to fund a LASER speed detection device – an Ultralyte 100™ - and subsequently a professional grade tripod which greatly improved the accuracy and “hit rate” of operating the rather heavy LASER device. We set about recruiting volunteers with the help of FoRGE and the Sports & Social Club Newsletter in addition to the Parish Council Social Media channels.

We currently have a team of eleven volunteers, all of whom have received “roadside safety training” from our local Police Community Support Officer Ed King. Ten volunteers have undergone further Police training in the use of the LASER device and after passing an examination, are qualified to operate the device at the roadside. One volunteer remains content to act as a permanent recorder of the registration, colour, make and model of vehicles detected speeding at 35mph or greater (and not operate the LASER speed detector).

Speedwatch activities were suspended nationally during the worst of the COVID-19 crisis but were restarted mid-2021. We began to field teams later in the year, the first being on 28 September 2021. During the course of 2022, we conducted 40 sessions at the roadside at random locations chosen from the eight sites risk assessed and approved by Warwickshire Police. We operate at the roadside for around 60 to 90 minutes per session and on average detect the speed of 179 vehicles per session, the maximum being 250 during a single session. We typically detect an average of 6 vehicles travelling at 35mph or greater per session, the highest number reported in one session being 17. The fastest detected and reported speed was a Ford Fiesta travelling at 49mph on the A425. It is a source of wonder that anyone drives past us exceeding the speed limit as large clear signs are erected in both directions warning of our presence and our teams of three are highly visible in our Hi-Viz jackets. Perhaps the offence should be renamed “total awareness failure whilst in control of a motor vehicle”?

We hope to expand our volunteer numbers in order to operate more sessions so if you would like to contribute to road safety in our village, get out in the fresh air (we do not operate in adverse weather conditions) and make new friends, please contact me at [speedwatch@radfordsemeleplc.org.uk](mailto:speedwatch@radfordsemeleplc.org.uk) for further details.