

## Radford Semele Community Speedwatch Annual Report 2023/2024

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 (30 mph in our area) 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 so we have been running for nearly four years continuously (except for a non-operational period during the Covid “lockdown” months). We currently have a pool of 12 volunteers, all of whom have received “roadside safety training” from our local Police Community Support Officer Ed King. Eleven 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. Unfortunately, health issues have impacted on our team this year reducing the number available for “duty”. It is also likely that we shall bid a very fond farewell to a founder member who will be moving out of our area so the search for new volunteers and fresh blood is on!

We operate at two main sites on the A425 Southam road and another in Offchurch Lane. You will be aware that former approved (30 mph) sites on School Lane and Lewis Road are now designated as 20 mph zones (after much lobbying by the Parish Council). Currently, we are not permitted to operate Speedwatch in 20 mph zones but we are in earnest discussion with Warwickshire Police regarding this restriction.

We conduct roadside sessions for around 60 to 90 minutes per session and on average detect the speed of around 180 to 200 vehicles per session, the maximum being 242 during a single session this year. We typically detect an average of 7 vehicles travelling at 35mph or greater per session, the highest number reported in one session being 10. The fastest detected and reported speed was a Mini travelling at 45mph on the A425. These figures indicate that we are having a positive deterrent effect as they reflect a reduction on the maximum number detected per session and also a reduction in the maximum detected speed compared to last year. We are looking 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@radfordsemelepc.org](mailto:speedwatch@radfordsemelepc.org) – include your phone number if you would like a callback.

During the year, the Parish Council has received approaches from a resident regarding specific speeding concerns which are outside the remit of the Speedwatch group or the Parish Council as a whole. Anyone with specific concerns should submit these via: *Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Central Reporting System - Warwickshire Road Safety – Warwickshire Road Safety Speed Concern* <https://warksroadsafety.org/safe-speeds/>. This is the central reporting method for speed concerns within Warwickshire, which enables a consistent and data-led approach.