

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative. Trained volunteers monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices and are supported by Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers.

CSW is about improving the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

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Speeding increases the risks of accidents and is considered antisocial. Speeding is an offence and drivers can receive a fine and penalty points or offered a choice of attending a compulsory course. However, enforcement alone does not always change behaviour. Education is recognised as a better alternative to prosecution with lower level speeding offences.

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CSW is not enforcement. The scheme provides an opportunity for the public to influence and contribute to the education of drivers and assist the Police identify areas and times for enforcement activity. CSW allows the Police to send letters of advice to the registered keepers of vehicles warning them of the driver's behaviour and dissatisfaction by the community through which the vehicle travelled. The results and locations of CSW operations are monitored by the NPT to help identify areas in need of enforcement action.

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NPTs are directly linked with CSW volunteers and they assist with setting up speed watch groups. They also assist groups to obtain equipment and training and support the community by enforcement activity.

CSW Volunteers operate the equipment in line with guidance issued by the Police. Their recorded observations are passed onto the Police for further appropriate action.