

FULL COUNCIL

Date:	Monday, 17 April 2023
Title:	Community Speedwatch
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

At the meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee held on 21 March 2023 it was proposed that the Committee could be responsible for formulating a Community Speedwatch scheme across the town, subject to a necessary change to its terms of reference.

Current Situation

Witney Traffic Advisory Committee is administered by the Town Council and the facilitation of a Community Speedwatch scheme would fall indirectly to the Council and its officers. While this is unlikely to be overly time-consuming process, it would inevitably cost some administration time. A Speedwatch scheme is solely reliant on volunteers and without them it cannot proceed under the auspices of the town council and its staff.

Thames Valley Police have advised Witney TAC they will cover the cost of the speed equipment and insurance of volunteers. The only additional cost would be signage which could be sought via Councillor Priority or discretionary grant applications. The Town Council could provide the following support:

- Publication and Volunteer Recruitment Promotion
- Administration (via the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee) This would involve the management of volunteers.
- Storage of Equipment

If the Council agrees, the Witney TAC terms of reference can be amended by Members at its meeting in June and the scheme can be advertised. Once volunteers have come forward and training has taken place the scheme could potentially be ready to run later in the summer.

Environmental Impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019, Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make regarding its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There is a reputational risk that the Town Council is involved in becoming involved in the 'policing' of a scheme outside its remit.

However, There is a risk that if the Town Council does not assist facilitation of a Community Speedwatch scheme it will not happen, and as such negates the purpose of the implementation of lower speed limits as further enforcement by Thames Valley Police is not definite.

Financial Implications

- Administrative costs
- Potential cost of signs

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider the Town Council assistance in establishing a Witney Community Speedwatch scheme, as stated above, under the supervision of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee.