

WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Title: Community Speedwatch

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk, Witney Town Council

Background

Members will be aware this Committee has agreed to run a 'Witney Town' Community Speedwatch (CSW) scheme, administered by Witney Town Council.

Current Situation

Administration of the Scheme & Sites

Witney Town Council officers, along with the Chair met with the TVP CSW officer during the summer to understand more about the scheme and how it could be administered.

Three sites have been submitted via the Thames Valley Police CSW portal from the list agreed at the previous meeting of the Committee. These are:

- Woodstock Road – between Woodgreen and Wood Green School
- Curbridge Road – between Tower Hill and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
- Burwell Drive – between Queen Emma's Primary School and Burwell precinct

At the time of writing, approval has been given for two of the sites by TVP CSW. Approval must be given before Speedwatch sessions can take place. The Council is awaiting information/delivery of the speed detection advice.

Resident correspondence

Tower Hill

Correspondence has been received from a resident advising people are ignoring the 20mph limit and there is no police presence in Tower Hill/Burford Road and people are speeding. This area is on the list of sites agreed at the last meeting, Members may like to consider this as an area to hold a session once the school pilot areas above have been completed.

Cogges Hill Road

Correspondence has been received from Witney Town Councillor, James Robertshaw advising residents in Cogges have expressed concern over the inadequacy of the 20 mile an hour speed limits on the Cogges Hill road before the Blake's school. They are concerned a child may be injured and would favour a sleeping policeman in the road before the Manor Road turn and Tesco turn, possibly halfway down the hill.

Downs Road/Colwell Brook

The Town Council is aware of a request from Curbridge Parish Council to Oxfordshire County Council asking for consideration of a Vehicle Activated Sign (or SID) to help slow traffic along Downs Road by the Colwell Green development. The Committee may like to support the request.

Community Speedwatch Volunteers

The Town Council advertised for volunteers for the scheme during the summer and has so far received 8 expressions of interest. Of these, only one has completed the mandatory short training on the CSW portal to be able to take part. The Committee may like to consider additional channels to reach further volunteers.

Once there are enough volunteers and the equipment has been delivered by TVP, the first CSW session can take place. Hopefully, this will be during the autumn.

Members may like to note that support has been received from the Eynsham CSW group, with the co-ordinator offering to speak with Witney members.

The Committee has also received an offer to provide advice around speed awareness from a retired police officer who delivers speed awareness courses.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- Note the update on initial Community Speedwatch sites and consider any which require more urgency or should be added,
- Note the current situation regarding volunteers and offers of advice.