

## Community Speedwatch in Marsworth

### Public meeting on 9th January 2023

#### Background

In November 2022 a petition of some 55 signatures was presented to Marsworth Parish Council (MPC) asking for help to reduce the number of vehicles speeding in the village. This was mainly driven by the number of vehicles exceeding the 30 mph speed limit on Lower Icknield Way, in particular near the White Lion Bridge and near the chicane close to College Farm.

The Council discussed this at the Parish Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November and the following actions were agreed:

- To download and analyse the readings from the two speed measuring devices currently active in the village (The Speed Indicator Device- SID, and the Moving Vehicle Activated Sign – MVAS. The MVAS being shared with Cheddington Parish). Results to be reported at the December meeting.
- Ascertain the level of interest in the village for a Community Speedwatch (CS) scheme. A public meeting was held in the village hall with PC Lee Turnham, the CS Co-ordinator, Joint Operations Unit (Road Safety), Thames Valley Police on 9 January. This meeting was widely advertised in Marsworth News, the Marsworth Website, on notice boards and on the Parish Clerk and Everything Marsworth Facebook pages.

#### Meeting Report

The meeting with PC Turnham was held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January as planned. It was attended by 13 members of the public and 4 members of the Parish Council. The analysis of the results of the existing speed measuring equipment was presented by the Parish Council Chairman and is reported in this edition of Marsworth News.

PC Turnham spoke for nearly an hour about the way CS works, how data on speeding vehicles is captured and how the police intervene with regular offenders. If a Community Speedwatch Scheme is instigated, the Parish Council could apply to Buckinghamshire Council for signage at the entrances to the village to indicate that a Community Speedwatch Scheme operates.

Setting up a group in the village is straightforward, three people are needed to undertake a survey, drawn from a larger group of volunteers, and surveys can be carried out at any time. Equipment is provided by the police and mandatory training is online. There are some limitations as to suitable sites for surveys which have to be approved by the police to ensure reliable data is collected. Results from each survey of those vehicles exceeding the speed limit are uploaded to the CS website where they are analysed by PC Turnham and his colleagues, looking for regular speeding offenders, tax evasion, cars that are already being monitored, etc.

Actions taken on persistent offenders can be quite severe, starting with letters, a visit by a Road Safety Officer after three speeding offences and progressing on to court appearances in the worst case.

Cheddington and Ivinghoe are already running CS schemes and have seen a noticeable decrease in speeding traffic. If you would be interested in volunteering to be part of a Community Speedwatch group in Marsworth then please contact Caroline Smith, at [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk). A page has been set-up on the Marsworth Parish website (<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/local-information/community-speedwatch/>) with more information. The level of support will be discussed at the MPC meeting on 13 March and a decision taken on whether to move forward will depend if there are sufficient volunteers.