

## Marsworth Community Speedwatch

As we approach the first day of Spring, we leave behind a period of reduced activity for the Speedwatch volunteers as a result of Christmas/New Year commitments, reduced daylight hours and appalling wet weather. Added to this, the Sentinel equipment required some replacement components which rendered it unusable for an extended period. These issues also affected the operations of Speedwatch in surrounding villages.

Activity has now resumed in Marsworth and has initially focused on the traffic in both directions on Lower Icknield Way. During a two-hour period in which traffic was monitored for one hour in each direction, no vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit out of a total of 424 vehicles monitored.

Ideally, this result would be attributed to those drivers who act responsibly and those who are deterred from breaking the speed limit due to the signs advising that Speedwatch operates within the village. However, there may have been other factors for vehicles not exceeding the 30 mph limit.

- The appalling condition of the roadway on the White Lion bridge and on each of its approaches. This causes drivers to drive more carefully and slowly
- The volume of traffic is higher at the moment as a result of the diversions in place whilst the Upper Icknield Way is closed. This limits the opportunities for some to 'put their foot down'
- **The continued parking of a vehicle on the road close to the village hall causes traffic in both directions to slow and/or stop, as it is located on a bend and is a potential hazard**

With the increasing number of daylight hours and less wet weather as Spring and Summer arrive, it should be possible to evidence that from time to time, Speedwatch will be operating at all five nominated sites within the village. With this in mind, we would welcome more volunteers who are prepared to give up a few hours each month to encourage safer speeds throughout Marsworth. Once set up, the tripod mounted video camera automatically records speeding vehicles and the information is passed to Thames Valley Police. Operators of the equipment are not involved in any follow up action.

If anyone would like to find out more about joining the Marsworth Group, please contact me at [ron@startops.co.uk](mailto:ron@startops.co.uk)