

## Marsworth Speedwatch Report 2026

In the twelve months that have passed since our last report, the activities of the Marsworth Speedwatch Group have been curtailed by three unforeseen difficulties:

**1. The inclement weather**

It is not possible to operate in the rain and other very cold and unpleasant conditions are not attractive for volunteers to operate in.

**2. The closure of the B489 whilst major works were undertaken to Wilstone reservoir.**

This was helpful to traffic calming as the overall volume of vehicles passing through Marsworth dropped considerably

**3. Equipment issues**

Marsworth Speedwatch shares equipment with other local villages and our allocation usually covers two weeks each month, but sometimes this is only one week per month. There are occasions when our allocation may be during holiday periods, inclement weather or other times when operators are not available.

In addition, the equipment is now twelve years old and components do occasionally need to be replaced

Despite these difficulties, the few volunteer operators in Marsworth have still reported 78 vehicles to Thames Valley Police (“TVP”) between April and November last year, TVP has sent letters to the owners of 76 of those vehicles.

In common with other local villages, we plan to use the daily statistics recorded by the SID (Smiley Face) radar to optimise the days and times when a Speedwatch deterrent would be most effective. For this to then be most useful we need to reduce our reliance on the small number of volunteers currently giving their time. To be truly effective we need to identify and train more people. As we said last year, the task is not difficult. Anybody can do it. Volunteers work in pairs. The essential tasks are checking and setting up camera equipment - at points identified by police as safe for the purpose – and then monitoring it during sessions to readjust to changes in conditions. The total volume of traffic is also monitored. The equipment automatically records offending vehicles and details are uploaded to the police after the session by the scheme co-ordinator from a memory stick.

Nor is it onerous. There is no minimum or fixed commitment and great flexibility. All it needs is two volunteers and the equipment (which we share with other villages) to be available along with decent weather. The cameras cannot be used in rain. The equipment is shared with nearby villages and the Marsworth co-ordinator circulates dates when Marsworth will have it so volunteers can indicate what sessions they feel able to do and when.

Most importantly from the volunteers’ perspective, there is no direct interaction with motorists. None of the existing volunteers have experienced any harassment – the more usual reaction, especially from villagers, is supportive.

Please seriously consider joining our group. The more volunteers it has, the more effective it will be. Everybody benefits! In the absence of more volunteers, the scheme cannot reach its full potential, and modest natural wastage might cause it to fail. Please contact [ron@startops.co.uk](mailto:ron@startops.co.uk) to find out more about volunteering.

Ron Busby & Stephen Wooler