

East Tisted Parish Council

Briefing on Auto Speed Watch

How AutoSpeedWatch works:

- **Data collection:** The system captures images of vehicles and their speeds, creating a record of activity.
- **No direct penalties:** Crucially, AutoSpeedWatch is not an enforcement camera and cannot issue tickets or fines.
- **Police action:** The data can be sent to the police, who use it to:
 - Send "strongly-worded" warning letters to drivers caught speeding.
 - Identify and target repeat offenders.
 - In some cases, escalate to direct visits or even prosecution for drivers who repeatedly ignore warnings.

Key distinctions from official speed cameras:

- **Home Office approval:** AutoSpeedWatch devices are not Home Office-approved for use as evidence in court or for issuing penalties.
- **Purpose:** Their main role is to gather intelligence, raise awareness, and gather evidence to support police action against persistent speeding.

Auto Speed Watch is a system of roadside speed cameras that provide community-assisted support of local authority/police speed enforcement. The operation of Auto Speed Watch is a collaboration of parties, each of which has responsibilities and obligations for appropriate use.

Community Speed watch schemes are typically operated in built environments where there is a known persistent road speeding problem and are used as a means of reducing the frequency and severity of dangerous driving in built environments. Such schemes typically operate in conjunction with local authorities or police forces who may use the information supplied by the community team to take follow-up road safety action. Community Speed watch schemes tend to use non-Home-Office type approved equipment for the purposes of speed enforcement and, even if a police officer was present, cannot provide sufficient evidence for the issuing of fines.

Instead, these schemes notify the relevant authority with information only. The authority/police force may subsequently deploy an officer using Home Office approved measuring equipment to provide offence evidence of a form suitable for legal action.

Auto Speed Watch is a tool supplied and partially operated by Auto Speed Watch Limited. When using Auto Speed Watch, the community own and deploy one or more "Roadside Unit" camera(s) in known speeding locations. These roadside cameras contain a stills camera with a narrow angle lens that aims to capture the colour and vehicle registration mark, in addition to date/time and speed. The system improves the intelligence to the community and police about which vehicles drive at high speeds, are persistently speeding, and are speeding whilst without tax or MOT.

The system does not use continuous surveillance video (CCTV) and is not an 'ANPR system' which automatically recognises and logs every number plate passing the camera. Instead it is only triggered when an offence is committed, ie the vehicle is travelling outside of the prescribed speed.

Each picture is manually checked and the validated records may then be passed to the local authority/police force who may choose to use them as part of their enforcement of speed legislation. The system does not know about individuals (drivers, keepers, owners, occupants), only the vehicles that are speeding. It is up to the police, if they so wish, to determine who is associated with that vehicle and how they wish to follow up on vehicles reported to them. The Roadside Unit camera is a

fixed position, fixed field-of-view, daytime-only camera pointing at the roadway. The cameras take pictures of the rear of the vehicle to avoid the capturing of identifiable individuals.

Information gathered from the following local groups:

- C18 road group (Hedge Corner to Petersfield Road) – recent installation still gathering data, initial problems with fixing the speed parameters
- Farringdon PC – have decided not to renew licence
- Beech PC – very active (see information attached)

Beech PC - Their AutoSpeedwatch configuration consists of 3 cameras and a Evolis Speed indicator device in both directions through the village. They have had significant success in bringing down the average speed through the village (85% reduction in offences in 2 years) so much so that they now qualify for a 20 mph limit. However HCC want £30,000 to implement that. They continue to have difficulty with the 2% of drivers (who they now can identify) that persist in speeding and are working hard to get to police to act on that, which, they say, is no easy task.