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# Briefing Note

## Community Speedwatch

2 min read

### 1.0 Background

1.1 Within the past two months, the Clerk's Office has received three enquiries from residents asking about measures the parish council might consider to mitigate the problems caused by speeding vehicles. The enquiries came from Menheniot village in the area around Mine Hill. Councillors will also be aware of the ongoing problems at Merrymeet and the junction of the B390 and road leading to Menheniot.

1.2 With the agreement of the Chair, the Clerk made contact with Community Speedwatch (CSW) to take their advice on ways in which residents and councillors may be able to involve themselves in managing the issues around excessive speeding across the parish. A closed meeting was held on 30 April 2024 when two residents attended, along with the representative from the Liskeard Community Speed Watch Group.

### 2.0 What is Community Speedwatch?

2.1 Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where, in partnership with Devon & Cornwall Police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down. If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. The aim is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

2.2 Community Speedwatch does not result in prosecution itself. However, if a persistent speeding driver is identified through the scheme, police can use this evidence to take action against them if required. If there is a persistent general speeding issue where highway improvements are required (eg speedbumps), the relevant agency will be contacted.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9terbk>

2.3 Locally, there is a Liskeard CSW Group operating at East Taphouse, Dobwalls, Doublebois, Liskeard, St Ive, Pensilva, Fore Down, Widegates and Upton Cross. Other groups operate throughout the county. In order to increase the frequency of observations, and to cover additional locations, a requirement exists for more team members.

### 3.0 How does CSW work locally?

3.1 Volunteers may act individually by registering with a local contact who can direct them to registration, online theory training, and following successful completion, practical training (speed monitoring), including equipment use. Operating teams are made up of a minimum of two members (preferably three, and no more than four) and can be drawn from an area wider than the volunteers own locality.

3.2 Volunteers may also choose to group together to create a local (parish) team. There is no obligation on any volunteer to engage with other people from the same or adjacent parishes in carrying out this work. Two volunteers from Menheniot and Merrymeet have already registered for online training and are progressing with practical experience.

### 4.0 Next steps

4.1 Councillors may wish to consider if the parish council should endorse the initiative and further commit to promoting the scheme by publicising it and acting as a coordinating body (this may include receiving expressions of interest, monitoring progress of the group, facilitating communications)

## **5.0 Options**

Councillors may choose from these options:

- Vote to welcome the initiative and promote the scheme through the council's own publicity
- Vote to welcome etc and agree to the Transport & Highways Working Group having oversight

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