

Community Speedwatch for Launton

Introduction

At the Launton Parish Council meeting on 3rd February 2022 the Council agreed to the establishment of a Community Speedwatch (CSW) group for Launton.

With the Bicester Road overbridge closed until the end of May there is limited through traffic with only Station Road available. The Launton CSW group could be established to operate from the beginning of June.

Due to the Bicester Road bridge closure it is not possible to obtain a valid speed survey to support the “20’s Plenty” application. A speed survey could be programmed once the CSW group is up and running using the speed detection device on hand.

Background

The main road through Launton between the A41 at Blackthorn and the roundabout on the A4421 at Charbridge Lane has been used in the past by many vehicles as a shortcut to and from Bicester and routes north, or avoiding the sometimes congested roundabout at the A41 entrance to the Graven Hill development.

In the last two years there have been two works projects impacting on the volumes of non-village traffic passing through Launton. Increased traffic flows through the village were expected during these works but there was also an increase in the number of vehicles seen speeding through the village.

It has been observed that vehicles passing the Launton school during term time have been slowed more by parked vehicles than by the “20” speed signs.

Launton Traffic Flows

There does not appear to be any statistical data on the number of vehicles passing through Launton, either local or transient.

However, in the last two years there have been two major works projects impacting on the volumes of non-village traffic passing through the village. The first, East West Rail (EWR), included periods of closure of Charbridge Lane on the Bicester ring road and the closure of Station Road, both for new bridge works. The second is the construction of the new roundabout at the Ambrosden junction with the A41. Launton became an unofficial diversion during these works with Increased traffic flows expected and observed, more particularly during the morning and evening commutes, but there was also an increase in the number of vehicles noted speeding through the village.

At present the bridge on Bicester Road is closed until late May which has curtailed the through traffic. EWR have advised that Charbridge Lane will be closed at times until 16th May to complete the new overbridge lane alignment. However, with the local bridge still closed Launton will not be available as a diversion.

It is therefore expected that traffic through Launton will return to normal flows from the beginning of June.

Community Speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch program has been established to involve local communities in the monitoring and reporting of vehicle speeds in their local area. The program allows for speeding vehicles to be observed and reported to Thame Valley Police (TVP) for corrective and enforcement action.

New CSW groups can be provided with a starter kit on six month loan including the speed detection device. Equipment meeting the required specifications can also be purchased directly or may be available on loan from other local groups.

Post or wall mounted Speedwatch signage or pavement signage can be purchased (annex A). Signs attached to hardware will require local authority approval to fix.

TVP will undertake roadside risk assessments for each selected site to ensure the safety of team members during operation.

Community groups are led by a CSW coordinator who initiates the group on the CSW website, organises the teams and programs the speed checks. A local resident has offered to act as coordinator for Launton.

Individuals joining the Speedwatch program will need to register on the CSW website and complete the online training module before starting. For each programmed event the team will comprise three people, a radar device operator, camera operator and vehicle data recorder. If the camera is fixed e.g. on a tripod the team may reduce to two.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a. The offer of a coordinator for the Launton CSW group be accepted;
- b. The Launton Community Speedwatch group be established to commence from the beginning of June;
- c. Three post mount Speedwatch signs be purchased for attachment to the village boundary gates on Blackthorn Road and Station Road, and the village sign on Bicester Road;
- d. The CSW coordinator liaise with TVP for loan equipment and with other local CSW groups for ongoing access to the required equipment;
- e. A speed survey be carried out when traffic flows return to normal to support the "20's Plenty" application.

Annex A: Speedwatch Signage

Villages/towns are able to use signage that makes road users aware of an area being active in the CSW scheme. The signs can either be placed on entry to a village or town and be permanent, fixed to existing road side furniture or a single sign that must be placed between 15-20m prior to the activity taking place.

All prices are FROM;

Wall Mount

A 1 = 3mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Wall mount Signs
600mm x 150mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £23.99

B 1 = 3mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Wall mount Signs
1000mm x 250mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £48.50

C 1 = 3mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Wall mount Signs
1200mm x 300mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £64.25

D 1 = 3mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Wall mount Signs
300mm x 420mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £27.10

E 1 = 3mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Wall Mount Signs
420mm x 600mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £45.61

Post Mount

F 1 = 2.5mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Post mount Signs
600mm x 150mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £42.47

G 1 = 2.5mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Post mount Signs
1000mm x 250mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £80.47

H 1 = 2.5mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Post mount Signs
1200mm x 300mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £100.85

I 1 = 2.5mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Post mount Signs
300mm x 420mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £46.10

J 1 = 2.5mm aluminium composite Community Speedwatch Post mount Signs
420mm x 600mm with radius corners and laminated digital print in black / white on reflective yellow background £68.01

NEW PAVEMENT SIGNS.

O1= Eco-Swinger pavement sign. Panel applied to both sides with cut vinyl detail, black/white on reflective yellow background. Re; Community Speedwatch, with speed camera symbol and TVP logo. Panel size 430mm x 625mm. £132.62

P1= Standard pavement sign. Panel applied to both sides with cut vinyl detail, black/white on reflective yellow background. Re; Community Speedwatch, with speed camera symbol and TVP logo. Panel size 530mm x 900mm. £181.44

Stainless steel clips for above are from £3.00

The dimensions of the signs are those that would conform to TVP Community speed watch protocols.

These prices quoted from Sign Wizzard Aylesbury.

Other sign makers in the Thames Valley may quote differently.