

KINGS BROMLEY COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)

There are ten volunteers in Kings Bromley's CSW team. Two of the team have joined recently. We try and spread the load between us, as we all have other things going on in our lives. There are 5 site locations in the village. Two are where we record the worst offenders: by the Buddhist Temple on the A513 and by the church car park on the A515. Each CSW session is just for 30 minutes and we try to be out there twice a week at different times. It is getting darker earlier, which further reduces the time available to us.

In the group report from Staffordshire police, which recorded activity between January and September of this year, the total number of vehicles observed was 8,231. Of that number 709 vehicles were recorded over the speed threshold. The details of 37 vehicles were not on the Police National Computer.

A total of 604 offences were actioned as a result of our team's activities. 403 vehicles recorded at over 30mph, 200 over 40mph, 100 over 50 mph and 6 over 60 mph. The team seldom manages to collect the correct data on vehicles over 60mph – they are travelling too fast for us to obtain sufficient detail. Significantly, on several occasions the team recorded more than a vehicle a minute exceeding the speed limit. One vehicle last week was recorded speeding in both directions within the space of 15 minutes.

We were told recently that repeat offender rate in Kings Bromley is low, which in the police's view suggests that CSW is working.

A major frustration for the team is that vehicles travelling through Staffordshire from another county are not subject to any sanction, as there is no agreement between the forces. It was noted in the group report that 54 vehicles were out of area. We understand that Staffordshire police are trying to resolve this issue.

In October, our Staffordshire police coordinator, shared the force CSW results with Staffordshire Road Policing, by giving them the top 20 hotspots in the county. Kings Bromley is on that list. We understand that officers have been tasked to use enforcement, and that we should see officers out and about more frequently.

We as a team are about education, attempting to make drivers more aware of the need to comply with speed limits. Each time we are out we are subject to abuse of one type or another, although it has yet to become physical. As stated above, we are told by the police we are having a positive effect, repeat offender rate is low for Kings Bromley. So CSW has some positive impact but it has obvious limitations. In my view, Kings Bromley needs better means of permanent speed detection and law enforcement.

Pauline Greatrex

Kings Bromley CSW Coordinator

9 November, 2023