

SPEED WATCH NEWS 8 ~ January 2010



The Hollies
13, Marden Rd
Staplehurst

NEW email mbuller147@btinternet.com

(01580) 892746

Dear

It seems appropriate to use the New Year cold weather to sum up the activities of our Speed Watch scheme in Staplehurst for the last year. Hopefully you have seen the figures for the whole of Mid-Kent Police Area via our Update.

Twelve people have stood by the roadside in Staplehurst. These have included the four newly trained volunteers getting their first taste of action. Of the other eight; one has deployed once, three twice, one five times and one six, with ourselves operating twenty times each. One extra volunteer has just been trained and is eager to start.

From the table below it can be seen that there could be a lot more use made of the equipment, although 21 ranks our parish third in the area. Since the threshold reductions in March the numbers of speeders has increased. The June figures are highest, it being a sunny Sunday afternoon.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TIMES OUT	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	3	1	3	1	21
SITES USED		4	10	10	10	10	10,4	1,3,10	10,6	10	10	10	
SPEEDERS		1	8	5	30	22	31	29	26	6	29	1	188

At our 40mph sites we are highly visible and find all traffic slows. Members of the public pass comment that motorists only slow because we're there. The one deployment yielded just two speeders (46 and 48) in nearly two hours.

	1 (40mph)	3	4	6	10
LOCATION	A229, Pinnock Lane bus stop	Headcorn Rd, Poyntell Rd	Marden Rd, op Northdown	A229, Parade	A229, Cornforth Clo.
TIMES USED	1	1	2	1	16
SPEEDERS	2	6	6	4	170

Site 10 has many advantages. It is nearest to the Parish Office and so equipment can be carried without the need of a vehicle. This stretch of A229 has most local traffic as well as those passing through. There are many passing pedestrians who appreciate the time and effort volunteers are making. The road bend near the Village Centre lessens the visibility of our jackets and so gives a truer reflection of 'normal' speeds.

During this year two letters have been issued by Mid-Kent Police to motorists passing through site 10 at 45mph or above. Another to a local resident warned that they have been identified as a repeat offender.

So, will you get out more in 2010? How can we better arrange times or days to suit more volunteers? Will the other sites yield more? Are we letting residents of some areas down by concentrating on site 10? Should we be pleased to catch motorists speeding? Please share your thoughts and give some time to making Staplehurst a safer place! Thank you.

Joan Buller
Parish Speed Watch Liaison Councillor

Malcolm Buller
One of the Team Leaders