



# Storrington Community Speedwatch



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the group?**

The group is one of over 250 in Sussex alone, and many more nationally, and its aims are to improve road safety and driver behaviour. It is wholly managed by the Sussex Police, who see these groups as a valuable resource for informing motorists of prevailing speed limits.

### **Who has agreed that Storrington should have such a group?**

The group has been established by volunteers and operates through agreement by the Parish Council and Sussex Police. All roadside sessions must be booked in advance onto the Police Authority's database using locations that have been previously assessed by the Police for operator risk and effectiveness. A clear line of sight is essential plus a safe location for the operators to perform safely.

### **Who can volunteer for the group?**

Anyone over 18 can volunteer. Volunteers need to be able bodied and able to read/record vehicle details accurately as they pass monitoring points.

### **Do volunteers receive any training?**

Volunteers receive online and practical training before being authorised under Police jurisdiction to participate in actual sessions. Volunteers are paired so that data capture can be verified with minimal data capture errors.

Online refresher training is provided to refresh understanding and build recognition skills as required.

### **What data is recorded? How is accuracy maintained?**

Data recorded includes time, speed, registration number, make, colour, type e.g. van, motorbike. These items are combined to maximise accuracy as all are validated by the Police against relevant National Databases.

### **How is the accuracy of the speed detection devices ensured?**

Devices are recalibrated annually in line with police procedures and calibrated before each monitoring session with batteries replaced as and when warned by the device to do so.

### **How is speed recorded as I received a letter but was only doing 30 when I passed the monitoring point?**

Speed is monitored when a vehicle enters the line of sight of the operator. If a vehicle is speeding at this point, it is monitored further and the highest speed recorded. Vehicle speed when the vehicle passes the monitoring point itself is rarely the highest speed recorded for that vehicle. Monitoring only takes place within 30 mph stretches in the village and begins after a reasonable distance from the start of the 30mph zone. Speeds of 36mph and over are recorded in line with Police procedures.



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(Frequently Asked Question continued)

### **How can vehicle identification be as accurate as possible?**

Two operators cross-check vehicle details at each monitoring point. Registration number, make and colour are recorded to ensure vehicle accuracy. Other examples of anti-social driving such as no seat belts or using a mobile phone may also be recorded.

### **How do the Police Use the Data?**

Recorded data is transferred to the Sussex Police computer, via Community Speedwatch Online, and advisory letters are sent to those recorded. After a number of repeat entries, a home visit by a Police Officer can be expected.

### **Why is this group needed at all?**

The group focuses on improving road safety for the benefit of all residents in the community, reducing accidents and anti-social driving behaviour.

To emphasise the necessity for this monitoring, in a three-week period, as many as 697 offenders have been recorded as speeding at 36 mph or more through Storrington during just 23 one-hour sessions. The majority of these drivers were recorded at locations frequented by young children, teenagers or older, vulnerable residents.

During one particular session, 70 offenders were recorded travelling at 36mph or more, with well over half at more than 40mph, and several in the high 50s.

It is our objective to just send 'a gentle reminder' to local residents who get caught up in this, but to mainly ensure via police intervention that the regular 'Rat -Runners' through our village adjust their driving habits.

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