



## **Road Safety - Dealing with speeding traffic in Buckinghamshire**

The problem of speeding traffic remains one of the main concerns in Buckinghamshire. Transport for Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Police receive a high number of complaints about speeding vehicles at many locations across the County. Sadly, many people are injured on the roads as a result of excessive or inappropriate speed.

It is the driver's responsibility to drive in accordance to the conditions of the road and within the posted speed limit. The Highway Code states that you should drive at a speed that will allow you to stop well within the distance you can see to be clear. The driver or rider is responsible for their actions and the way in which they drive or ride. According to the Transport Research Laboratory 95% of all collisions involve an element of human error.

### **Education Solutions**

Before beginning any activity it is important to establish exactly what the problem is, as very often concerns are based on perception rather than fact.

#### **Data Gathering**

One initial action which could be taken would be to make use of the Road Safety Teams offer of a free **Community Speedwatch** session (once in a 12 month period) using Speed Detection Radar (SDR) equipment. Following this, further Community Speedwatch activities could occur to gather data using the Thames Valley Police (TVP) own equipment. This can be used by volunteers without TVP attendance to carry out a vehicle speed data gathering exercise. To find out the availability of this equipment please contact your local neighbourhood police team via the non emergency police number 101, there is no charge for using this equipment.

Or a community can operate the scheme with volunteers, either purchasing their own equipment (this can be purchased from Traffic Technology visit [www.trafficechnology.co.uk](http://www.trafficechnology.co.uk)). Or in partnership with neighbouring Parish Councils who may already own speedwatch equipment.

#### **Community Speedwatch**

This is a scheme where a SDR is used at the roadside and registration numbers of vehicles that have been seen speeding are noted down. The information is fed into a TVP database and a warning letter is issued to the registered vehicle owner. Should the vehicle be identified speeding on a subsequent occasion, a further letter will be sent to the owner informing them that the information has been passed to Roads Policing (RP) for possible further action.

Further information on this scheme can be found at:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/speedwatch.page>

An alternative would be to request a speed survey from the Traffic information Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire. The cost would be £310 for a 7 day survey. Requests can be made on 0845 230 2882.

### **Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)**

A speed check can also be requested via a Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) if there is one in your area. For further details on NAGS please see:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-nag>

Neighbourhood Policing deal with reported speeding in various ways, depending on the nature of the problem (i.e. the number of speeding motorists and the number/type of collisions on the road length).

**If the data gathering exercise or speed survey shows no speeding, no further action to be taken by the police.**

### **If a regular number of speeding motorists are detected:**

Community speedwatch would be recommended, or if majority of speeding motorists are local residents (this information can be gained from the speedwatch database) it is recommended working with the Road Safety Team on an educational programme called Make the Commitment.

### **Make the Commitment (MTC)**

If the majority of users are local residents it may be that the 'Make the Commitment' scheme is suitable. The scheme simply asks drivers to sign a pledge that they will try to keep to the speed limits at all times. The idea behind this is that it will focus a driver's attention on the speed at which they travel and help them maintain a lower speed. This initiative is most effective when the majority of users are local residents who travel the road regularly, and therefore if leaflets and publicity regarding this scheme could be distributed within the local area alongside further publicity on speeding concerns, it could help to reduce the speed of the majority of the road's users. Further information on Make the Commitment can be found at:

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/mtc)

If you think this scheme would be suitable for your area, please contact the Road Safety Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire on 0845 2302882

### **If there is evidence of considerable numbers of speeding motorists:**

Thames Valley Police are responsible for all matters concerning enforcement of traffic laws. The Thames Valley Police run a **Community Concern scheme** where requests from the public about speeding are considered for

enforcement, either by Police presence/speed checks or mobile camera enforcement through a "dealing with speeding traffic" scheme.

A request for this enforcement can be made by contacting the Thames Valley Police either by email at:

[SpeedSolutions@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SpeedSolutions@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Or by post to:

Speed Solutions

Thames Valley Police

Roads Policing Three Mile Cross

270 Whitley Wood Road

Reading

Berkshire

RG28FT

Following a request a decision would be taken by the Police, who will then contact you.

**If there is evidence of a considerable numbers of speeding motorists and a casualty history:**

Roads Policing would consider creating a 'target package'. This is a speed package for roads policing bases to use for priority enforcement with the aim to reduce casualties.

This would be a natural progression from a community concern request and a demonstrable speeding problem.

**If there is evidence of fatal or serious injury collisions during the past three years together with a demonstrable speeding problem:**

Following a site survey Thames Valley Police along with Transport for Buckinghamshire may consider the site for mobile camera enforcement or for a safety engineering scheme.

## **Engineering solutions**

**Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB)** is supporting Parishes with speed control through their villages by enabling them to apply for a range of **permanent or temporary electronic sign options**.

For more information and how to apply for a vehicle activated sign please visit:

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Road-Safety/Vehicle-Activated-Signs.aspx>

The Thames Valley Police still have their own versions of these signs which other organisations or community groups can borrow or hire. Please contact your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or local neighbourhood police office for further information. This can be done through the police non-emergency number 101.

A guide has been produced for Parishes which sets out traffic calming measures available to rural and urban areas in Buckinghamshire.

A version can be viewed at:

[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/our\\_communities/traffic\\_calming\\_guide.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/our_communities/traffic_calming_guide.pdf)

Traffic calming or road safety engineering schemes may be funded through local community funds or through the Local Area Priorities Budget. Residents who feel that a case should be put forward should contact their Parish Council for their support.

More details can be found at: <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Road-Safety.aspx>

Some collisions cannot be prevented through simple engineering measures for numerous reasons, such as driving under the influence of alcohol or that the severity of the collision is far worse simply because the occupants of a vehicle have failed to wear a seat belt. In these cases the solution may be through better education, therefore the Road Safety Team run many campaigns, courses and initiatives to better educate road users. These include the dangers of drink driving, not wearing seat belts and inappropriate or excessive speed.

Some of the complaints we receive concern anti-social problems, resulting in high speed driving mainly at night. As this is "anti-social behaviour" it is a Police matter and wherever should be reported to them.