

## **Rushlake Green & Warbleton Intervention CSW**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **Who Are We?**

SSRP includes members of the Fire Service, Police, Local Authority, and National Highways, working together in the community to keep roads safe through Education, Engagement, Enforcement and Engineering.

Through analysis of data trends and identification of priority groups, interventions are designed and delivered, before being evaluated in terms of their potential impact on behavioural change.

These Include Community Speedwatch, Biker Down, We're Keeping An Eye On You Campaign, Bike Safe and Theatre in Education.

Each intervention includes specific aims and objectives, to measure and evaluate success in a given context, contributing to the ultimate aim of reducing the number of individuals killed or seriously injured through preventative measures.

Community SpeedWatch has grown exponentially over the last few years and the problem of anti-social driving which of course speeding is one of the many elements that has risen. This is not just a local problem to Sussex but a Country Wide epidemic.

There are many ways to tackle this issue but for most by far the best way forward

is appropriate Education measures followed by targeted Enforcement.

How is the above achieved?

We have an army of well trained and equipped Volunteers that help with this task ranging from residents through to Parish and Town council Staff, to Police Officers and Staff also help from other emergency service personnel equally worried about the rising trend in speeding vehicles through their communities.

The Volunteers can report these vehicles accurately through their training and enter them into the database securely enabling us to driver profile through our Operation Crackdown Database for repeat Offences and Mapping.

It is the profiling and Mapping of the offences that ultimately leads to the



follow up process whereby our Officers visit the offenders and offer further education or in some cases other preventative measures.

None of this of course would be possible without the volunteers, in Sussex we have just over 2,400 volunteers trained to carry out this important work.

Last 12 months to date they put in just over 10,612 hours' worth of work completing over 4,400 speed checks across Sussex, a truly amazing contribution to us as a Force.

The work resulted in over 48,165 letters to drivers regarding the dangers of inappropriate speed.

The compliance rate based on repeat offenders being fed back into the system is 93.47% as of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, this

figure is the culmination of some really good work being achieved in Casualty Reduction and Education backed by Local residents.

## **Why do It?**

In Sussex alone last year 1,085 people were seriously injured and 48 people sadly lost their lives on our roads so the overarching message really is “Road Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility” and a massive thank you from all at Sussex Police, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, and the wider Community for your volunteering service.

Rushlake Green and Warbleton have had a chequered past with abuse, disgruntled residents, and poor behaviour against the volunteers, we are investigating some of

these and in fact have identified some of the culprits, shockingly some local businesses are involved. These will be dealt with in due course. To be clear they do not need the permission of residents or the Parish Council to operate, they are trained, insured, and supervised by Sussex Police SSRP.

The Rushlake Green Group since their conception have reported some 7,667 vehicles, maximum speed in a 30mph 68mph !!!!! , completed 442 sessions, 13 interventions by Roads Policing, 7 reports to partner agencies, 79 NPT / SSRP Interventions completed, 133 interactions with NPT.

The sites myth, the “Old Barn” is a registered site that I risk assessed in 2018 and again 2020.



**Myth** it's a National Speed Limit.

**Wrong**, the 30mph roundels are 200mtrs back round the bend on the Cowbeech side, the National sign as you come around the bend applies to Back Lane, not the approach Road which is a 30mph limit. We have asked for the National sign to be moved back slightly; however Highways have noted that it is placed in accordance with legislation and therefore no reason to move. Sussex Police Traffic Managers were part of this process. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure they are driving to the correct speed!

Other sites are outside the Village Hall in both directions. I have carried out sessions myself with Casualty Reductions Officers witnessing the shocking speed at which vehicles enter the Village, so we are at a

loss to see why the CSW activity is not supported in the Village. The Group are trained to a high standard and are using Police accuracy checked equipment as part of the audit.

Road Safety is everyone's responsibility, the Group are not targeting residents it just so happens residents are the worst offenders and think it is a waste of time not realising the potential danger this poses to other vulnerable people, also there could possibly be further action from us.

The Groups are now issued with Body Worn Video so that any potential threats can be monitored.

If there are any complaints towards the Group, they should be directed to me or the Local PCSO / Local Inspector through



the Community Safety Action Groups so that they can be properly addressed and dealt with accordingly.

Ideally moving forward, I would like to see more support given to the Group, it would be a travesty for the Village should the Group cease, especially if there were to be a KSI (Killed & Seriously Injured) in the Village or approaches to it.