



## OSPRINGE PARISH SPEEDWATCH UPDATE – FEBRUARY 24



### **Background**

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

Ospringe Community Speedwatch has nine sites throughout the Parish from where the volunteers conduct sessions on a regular basis. These sites are selected by the police; the Community Speedwatch team don't have latitude to alter them.

### **Monthly Summary**

This month the Speedwatch team have conducted a concerted 3 week-long campaign within the Parish on two stretches of road where the team have recorded the most frequent speeding events previously. We have paid particular attention to traffic entering Brogdale from Faversham.

We have also been assisted by our Community Police Officer – Gary Morris. He attended one of our Speedwatch sessions and observed the number of speeding vehicles that were recorded. Since, he has been out within the Parish conducting his own speeding-checking sessions and has issued a number of fixed penalty notices, which will result in points on the offending drivers' licences.

Having conducted a number of sessions over the half-term period, it is very apparent that there is no one type of road user that is singularly speeding through our community. In fact, this mini campaign has shown that drivers speeding within the community include those from the community itself, drivers passing through it, parents ferrying children to the schools, individuals driving into the Parish for sporting / leisure purposes and finally, individuals driving in for employment purposes within the Parish. The evidence we have would suggest that the distribution of speeding motorists across these main groups is fairly even.

What has been extremely gratifying is that as the Speedwatch initiative has continued since it was commenced by us in Ospringe, the proportion of speeders has fallen significantly. Vehicles that were recorded speeding earlier on and who subsequently received letters from the police, we observed most driving well within the speed limit thereafter. This is the positive behavioural change that the Community Speedwatch team are trying to achieve. Speedwatch is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community.

A summary of the month can be seen on page 2. A huge thank you to Victor, Shiona, Carol, Mark, Adrian and Frances who have given up their time this month in volunteering.

## New Volunteers

New volunteers are very welcome. There is only a short online training course and a 10 minute road-side induction needed to become a qualified Speedwatch volunteer. Volunteers for Speedwatch sessions are then requested weekly through the Ospringe Speedwatch volunteer WhatsApp group.

To register for Ospringe Community Speedwatch visit the website:

[communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Register.php?m=60](http://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Register.php?m=60)

Click the button for 'Join existing', and then select Force Name: Kent Police; Police Area: XB Swale; Group: Ospringe.

Please do consider volunteering. There is no pressure to attend all the sessions. It is entirely up to you how little or often you want to give your time.

## Statistics

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Period</b>  | 01/02/24 – 01/03/24   |
| <b>Number of Sessions</b>                                | 8   |
| <b>No of vehicles recorded<sup>1</sup></b>               | 693   |
| <b>Vehicles exceeding 35 Mph in the 30 Mph zones</b>     | 149   |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Observation letter<sup>2</sup></b>     | 120   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Observation letter</b>                 | 14  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Observation letter</b>                 | 3   |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> - 50%+ speed limit letter (45 Mph)</b> | 5   |
| <b>Locations</b>   | - Brogdale, travelling from Faversham<br>- Painters Forstal village, travelling from Eastling |

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<sup>1</sup> Only the first vehicle in a convey of vehicles is recorded. Actual number of vehicles is therefore higher.

<sup>2</sup> Letters are only sent by the police if the recorded details match the DVLA database.