



Harborough District  
**Community Safety  
Partnership**

# **Tackling Road Safety**

**A guide for Parish Councils**

One of the Harborough Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2023-26 is raising awareness of road safety. The issue of speeding vehicles is also a common complaint from our residents.

We work to reduce incidents involving what we call the *FATAL Four*, these are -

- *Speeding,*
- *Mobile phone use,*
- *No Seatbelt*
- *Drink and drug driving*

Collisions cause a great deal of distress to victims and their families and friends, particularly when people are killed or injured. Sadly, most of these incidents could have been prevented. In promoting road safety and better driving, police hope that every individual road user will take action to reduce their own risk of becoming involved in collisions and thus reduce the numbers of people killed and injured. Certain areas are being targeted in particular. They are

- speeding - a contributory factor in more than a third of fatal collisions
- drink driving - not just whether or not people are over the 'legal limit' but whether their driving has been impaired by alcohol
- drug driving - motorists are being tested in this area and more and more are being brought to justice for driving under the influence of drugs.

This document aims to raise awareness of schemes available to use to reduce community issues in relation to road safety. More information about the whole campaign can be found at <https://leics-fire.gov.uk/your-safety/road-safety/the-fatal-four/>

## **SPEEDING**

### **Community Speedwatch**

Community Speed Watch is an educational scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic through their community. The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

Leicestershire police run a Community Speedwatch Scheme which may operate in your area. This is a scheme where a Speed Detection Radar Device (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 police 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.

A community can operate this scheme with volunteers, either in partnership with neighbouring Parish Councils, who may already own Speedwatch equipment, or by purchasing their own equipment.

Community Speed Watch incorporates poster campaigns and a pledge system linked to direct action using speed detection equipment all under the supervision of the County Council. The use of the radar devices will not lead to prosecution – drivers will get a letter

from the police instead – but will help to underline the community's commitment to reducing speed.

#### *How to start a scheme*

1. A Parish Council, or a Formal Action Group, within Leicestershire must request to become part of the scheme. Register your interest with the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator email [SpeedWatch@leics.gov.uk](mailto:SpeedWatch@leics.gov.uk) or visit <http://www.communityspeedwatch.org.uk/contact/> to get in touch.
2. There must be a suitable and safe area(s) for the speed checks to be held. The final say is with your local County Council Officer after consultation with the local co-ordinator.
3. There must be a minimum of 200 signatures obtained or 20% of the village/location population (whichever is the lower) to support the scheme. A Pledge document is available for downloading: please visit <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org.uk/get-involved/>
4. There must be a minimum of 12 people to take part as Community Speed Watch Volunteers, the more there are the easier it is to operate. **All volunteers must attend the training in order to be able to take part.** One volunteer should be identified as a co-ordinator and another as a deputy. The co-ordinator should have access to e-mail and one member of the group should be able to complete a spreadsheet in a timely manner.
5. Identify a site locally for the training to take place, Parish Rooms or Halls have been used and are ideal.
6. When all the above is in place the Parish Council or Formal Action Group can contact the Community Speed Watch Coordinator to discuss available dates.

#### **AUTOSPEED WATCH**

Is a community-funded tool to make Community Speedwatch easier, safer, and more efficient. It was developed by a CSW volunteer in Somerset and is now available to all communities that have issues with speeding traffic. It automatically identifies persistent and high speeders and reports verified offences electronically to the police, all without the need for teams of people at the roadside. It reduces the burden on limited police resources and helps them prioritise where and when to deploy Speed Enforcement Units more effectively.

By identifying persistent speeders it allows the police to use 'nudge' tactics to modify driver behaviour, or target enforcement to individuals at known times and places. It also improves the relationship between CSW volunteers and the police. It has been designed to be compliant with legislation and fit seamlessly with existing internal police processes.

Further details can be found at the AutoSpeedWatch website, <https://store.autospeedwatch.org/>

## MVAS SCHEMES



### Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs

The Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) scheme is an option for areas or parishes within Leicestershire that wish to have an ongoing method of addressing excessive speed in their community.

The MVAS units are usually battery operated and display either the speed at which the approaching vehicle is travelling or give a reminder of the speed limit. Subject to the agreement of the County Council, MVAS units can be mounted to existing metal lamp posts (not concrete or telegraph posts). If no suitable metal lamp posts are available it can be possible for Leicestershire County Council to install new posts at agreed locations.

MVAS works best when the unit can be moved between a few locations. A good option is one MVAS unit to four locations. This has the advantage of drivers not becoming over familiar with the units location. Extra mounting brackets can be left in place to make the process of moving the MVAS between locations as easy as possible.

The MVAS units cost approximately £3,000 and the purchase of the unit is made direct with the supplier. There are also lamp post safety inspection costs and any new posts (if required) cost approximately £250 each.

MVAS units are available from a number of suppliers. Westcotec is a UK company that has been used by many parishes to supply MVAS units. Information on their products can be found at <https://www.westcotec.co.uk/community-speed-watch/>

### Setting up a MVAS Scheme

If your community is interested in buying an MVAS, please get in touch via our Customer Service Centre to register your interest and an officer will make contact:

**Email:** [CustomerServices@leics.gov.uk](mailto:CustomerServices@leics.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 0116 305 0001 (Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5pm)

The following steps will be discussed:

- Arranging a site meeting to discuss suitable locations
- Agreeing a map showing the proposed sites
- Discussing the preferred supplier and MVAS specification
- Arranging to have lamp posts inspected
- Signing and returning a Memorandum of Understanding

## MOBILE PHONES

Using a mobile phone, sat nav or any similar device whilst driving means that the driver's attention is distracted from the road. Studies show that drivers using a hands-free or handheld mobile phone are slower at reacting to hazards. Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/mobile-phones.html>  
<https://www.gov.uk/using-mobile-phones-when-driving-the-law>

## **SEAT BELTS**

Always wear a seatbelt. In a crash you're twice as likely to die if you don't. Not wearing a seatbelt can be a fatal decision even on short, familiar journeys and at low speeds. Wear your seatbelt correctly so it can offer you the best possible protection in a crash.

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/seat-belts.html>  
<https://www.gov.uk/seat-belts-law/overview>

Child car seats – the law. Follow this link for information on using a child car seat or booster seat when carrying children. [www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules](http://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules)

## **SHARING THE ROAD CAMPAIGN**

Share The Road campaign focusses on anyone that uses the roads and encourages everyone to treat each other respectfully

The aim is to ensure that anyone in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that uses the road, for any purpose is kept safe

We have consulted professionals from a number of partners who are supporting our campaign to make the roads a safer place, including: The British Horse Society, British Triathlon and Cycling UK

More information at <https://www.leics.police.uk/sharetheroad> - You can use the infographics on social media.