

EHDC Moving towards modern speed reduction measures..

EHDC is making rapid progress in its mission to create a safer environment on its roads across the district. The Council has decided to invest in innovative new camera systems which will help identify those who speed through the district's villages.

These systems are operated by local volunteers and will hopefully be part of the Community Speed Watch scheme, they will enable identification of speed vehicles over a more prolonged period rather than just for the hour villagers stand roadside. The camera systems help gather evidence which can then be sent to the police for follow-up action and enable more targeted use of Roadside Police speed gun operators. The images are checked by volunteers to ensure that the registration numbers match the description of the speeding vehicles against the DVLA records.



EHDC camera in action

It is not unusual to find that those who happily flout the speeding laws also break other traffic laws too, with MOT certificates and insurance not up to date. These breaches are then reported to the police and the DVLA. As with Community Speedwatch, EHDC are-is working with police to educate vehicles' owners/motorists so that speeding offenses can be reduced in the district.

Some argue that this approach amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist. However, evidence gathered from the camera's use both across the country and locally (See fig1 below) shows that average speeds are greatly reduced when these cameras are put in place.

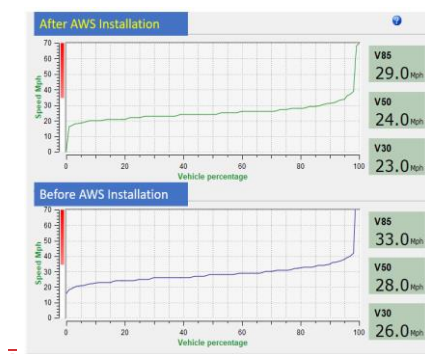


Fig 1

Driving this initiative is Cllr Tony Costigan who has at least four villages within his ward which suffer from being on rat runs. These villages mostly lack footpaths or any other form of refuge which enable pedestrians and other vulnerable road users to find safety in the face of vehicles travelling at speeds well in excess of the local limit.

It is often the case that pedestrians can only get from A to B along the road, where they are particularly vulnerable. It is not well-known but where there is no footpath, the pedestrian has right of way. Recent changes in the Highway Code have

their car with the intent to kill or seriously injure someone. Please remember next time you press the start button or turn the key "**speed kills**".

