

## Why do we have Speedwatch?

I'm Graham and I run the Ashill Speedwatch Team. Rather than a report that gives you statistics of traffic and speeding in the village, I thought I'd write something that tells you why we have a Speedwatch Team and why Speedwatch is important in Norfolk.

Firstly, we are all volunteers that live in Ashill. We are not employed by Norfolk Constabulary, but are their representatives when we are on a session within the village. Despite what some people think, our aim is not to catch people speeding. We are deliberately very visible and we have to put up signage in specific places - all in the hope that we are seen and that drivers will adjust their speeds while in the village.

Our village is home to all ages of adults, children, dog walkers, domestic pets (and of course, the ducks). At certain times of the day, we share our village with drivers on their way to/from work, drivers dropping children off at school, delivery vans and trucks, and so on. Ashill doesn't have footpaths everywhere and the 30 limit is there to try to keep everyone safe.

It's disappointing that our presence sometimes encourages some drivers to shout abuse, gesture to us, or deliberately increase their speeds (even within the 20 mph school zone). We are just trying to make the village a safer place to live. We stand and run our Speedwatch sessions in the hope that our visibility in the village, specifically at peak times, will encourage drivers to slow down. The aim of the Speedwatch system is to educate drivers so that they keep to the speed limit in the village.

From an Annual Speedwatch Meeting I attended, I found out that there are 101 Speedwatch Teams like ours. Our group of 9 volunteers is a small part of the 910 Speedwatch volunteers in Norfolk. In the last year, 13 new teams were added. Last year there were around 46,000 speeding offences logged by the police in Norfolk. Already this year, the police have reported a higher number than normal of fatalities on Norfolk's roads, and they are starting to target speeding in rural areas (B-roads, etc). Speeding is one of the main causes of accidents and fatalities on Norfolk's roads.

We are volunteering in the village to help the police lower the number of speeding offences and reduce road traffic casualties. We are there for your benefit and your safety, and for the safety of your children and pets. Life is often busy and we are all in a rush to get somewhere, but please allow a little more time and slow as you go through the village. We all want Ashill to be a village where people can live and walk safely.

Finally, if you'd like to play your part and help us by volunteering in the Speedwatch Team, we can run more sessions and have more visibility in the village at various random times of the day. You can email [Community.Speedwatch@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Community.Speedwatch@norfolk.police.uk) for more information, or contact me on 07519 656381.

Graham Street, Ashill Speedwatch Team Coordinator