

## Community Speed Watch Newsletter

Issue 3 - April 2023

Hello and welcome to our latest Community Speed Watch (CSW) newsletter. This edition includes CSW-related news as well as information on upcoming road safety operations and updates from West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner, our local fire service partners and RoadPeace charity.

### Latest News



Firstly, for those who aren't already aware, Marc Watts, the CSW Coordinator for Herefordshire and Worcestershire has moved on.

Marc is now a police officer over in Worcestershire and I'm sure you will all join us in wishing him good luck in his new role. Here's Marc and his fellow new recruits with Chief Constable Pippa Mills recently. Well done if you can spot him!

We have recently appointed a successful candidate to replace Marc's role. The new coordinator should be joining us in the near future. He will be required to attend several training courses before being able to go it alone, so please be patient while he finds his feet.

Mark Booth has been single-handedly covering CSW for the whole West Mercia force area during this interim period which is a huge task given our geographical area. Thank you Mark for your sterling work and commitment, as always.

Both Mark and our new recruit can be reached by email at: [CSW@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:CSW@westmercia.police.uk)

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to our Baschurch CSW group in Shropshire who have recently called time on their activity after operating CSW for many years. They have been an excellent example of the success this scheme can have in changing driver behaviour in our local communities and improving the quality of life for local residents.



**THANK YOU!**

### Coming Soon!

We are working alongside our safer neighbourhood teams to add to the West Mercia Community Speed Watch family. Amongst others, we hope that Ross-on-Wye, Shawbury, Gobowen, Trefonen and Drakes Broughton will soon be joining us. We also have other new enquiries being processed and groups spreading the word for volunteers.

As some of you will be aware, West Mercia Police is currently undertaking a major recruitment drive for new police officers and vetting is being prioritised for student officers. Whilst this means a current delay to the vetting of other roles within the force (including CSW volunteers)

it will ultimately result in a positive outcome for residents of West Mercia as police officer numbers have just reached the highest in our force history, meaning more officers will be visible and accessible in your communities. So please bear with us, we are as keen as you are to continue to grow our CSW team.

## Safer Neighbourhood Team Support



Police officers from our safer neighbourhood teams have put in a huge amount of effort over recent months to support CSW. For example, in Telford, four of our seven groups have been supported by SNT during speed monitoring periods which is fantastic and much appreciated by our teams. We look forward to this continuing through the spring and summer months, around other operational commitments.

Officers from our Roads Policing unit have also proved a real asset in the past so we will continue to see if they are available to show additional support when operationally able to do so.

*Pictured: South Telford SNT with Ironbridge CSW team.*

## Other Successes

Three additional volunteers have recently been trained up to help with the processing of CSW warning letters, which continues to help manage the overall work load.

Our program of training officers with laser speed equipment continues. This is giving us a more robust pool of officers to help with speed surveys and to help target our main offenders. An additional 24 officers have been trained since our last newsletter and we now have a high percentage of SNT officers trained to use this equipment.

All the police cadets at Shrewsbury (pictured, right) have also been trained recently, providing additional capacity to help with local speed surveys.



Many of our current sites have recently seen additional site locations added to their existing locations. This gives the teams greater flexibility and better coverage of their areas. Let us know if you have any feedback on how this is working for your group.

And finally... Our CSW poster (pictured, left) is proving a success in numerous locations, increasing the volume of new volunteers joining the scheme. If you'd like copies of this poster for your own local community, please get in touch by email: [CSW@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:CSW@westmercia.police.uk)



## New Stuff Coming Soon

An updated version of the Community Speed Watch training package has recently been developed so all new volunteers will benefit from a more relevant product.

## Road Safety News and Campaigns

West Mercia Police remains fully committed to road casualty reduction. In line with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Roads Partnership Calendar, the force will be supporting the following road safety operations in the coming months:

### April: National 2 Wheels Operation

West Mercia Police are focusing on enforcement and awareness raising activities to improve road safety for those on two wheels (motorcycle and bicycle) from **10<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April**. The first week is dedicated to communications activity with the second week focusing on enforcement.

Police officers will be taking part in operations to enforce compliance of road traffic regulations and improve driver / rider behaviour.



West Mercia Police offers a number of motorcycle training courses to help increase the skill level of riders, including Take Control and BikeSafe. Mark Booth has had a very simple business card produced to hand out at events and biker meets with a QR code directing riders to the appropriate website to book our training courses and we hope this will help to increase take-up. If you'd like any of these cards to distribute in your area, please let us know.

### May: Global Road Safety Week 2023



Taking place **15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May** with a theme of #ReThinkMobility. Focus will be on sustainable transport, walking, cycling and using public transport safely.

Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death) will overlap with this week, taking place 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May.

## June: National Seatbelt Operation

The enforcement period for June's seatbelt operation will take place from **12<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June**, with officers carrying out targeted activity to ensure compliance with seatbelt and child restraint legislation.

## News from Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion

### Budget focused on making roads safer

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion is committed to reducing harm on the roads of West Mercia. As part of West Mercia Police's budget for 2023/24, the PCC has supported the creation of a Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU) and is enhancing investigative teams which will lead to greater detection and a reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured.

Read full story: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-to-boost-community-policing-with-latest-budget-in-west-mercia/>

### 'Mini police officers' to boost road safety



To curb speeding and inappropriate parking outside schools in West Mercia, 20 'mini police officers' have been recruited by the PCC.

Officers from Safer Neighbourhood Teams have placed the new signs outside more schools that are suffering with speeding or parking problems.

Read full story: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/mini-police-officers-to-boost-road-safety-outside-schools-in-west-mercia/>

## RoadPeace – Meet the West Mercia Team

RoadPeace, the national charity for road crash victims, has been continuing to strengthen its presence across the West Mercia region.



Kate Gynn (left) joined the team in November 2022 as the dedicated West Mercia Road Victim Care Coordinator. Kate is able to provide one-to-one emotional and practical support to those bereaved, seriously injured, caring for someone seriously injured, or witness to a road traffic collision.

Kate is working closely with Lucy Harrison (right) who is the RoadPeace West Mercia Outreach and Project Administrator.

Kate and Lucy have a busy year ahead, including getting involved with the RoadPeace Challenge which is running from 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May during Global Road Safety Week. Now in its third year, the challenge aims to bring together emergency service personnel, medical teams and other professionals who witness the daily devastation caused by road collisions in the UK, along with victims and bereaved families, to make a united stand against road harm. RoadPeace welcomes anyone who would like to get involved in the challenge – this could be as simple as sharing our social media communications during the week, signing up as a friend or member, or holding a fundraiser.

If you would like to know more about the charity please visit [www.roadpeace.org](http://www.roadpeace.org) or email Kate ([kate.gynn@roadpeace.org](mailto:kate.gynn@roadpeace.org)) or Lucy ([lucy.harrison@roadpeace.org](mailto:lucy.harrison@roadpeace.org))

### And finally... Is your home fire safe?

Both Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service provide fire safety advice to everyone.

Fire risk is made up of three elements; risk in the premises (e.g. no working smoke alarms), the person (for example, those more at risk due to ill health or disability) and behaviours (e.g. smoking, hoarding, etc).

A free home safety visit is available from both fire services. In Herefordshire and Worcestershire, this is called a Home Fire Safety Visit. In Shropshire, it is known as a Safe and Well Visit. Both services are essentially the same.

The visit includes a home safety check to help reduce the risk of fire in the home, including the checking and fitting of smoke alarms where required. This includes alarms suitable for those with a hearing impairment and giving advice on a fire escape plan. Having working smoke alarms and a good level of fire safety awareness prevents fires and saves lives.

If you or someone you know could benefit from one of these visits, contact your local fire service to find out if you / they are eligible.



#### **Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service**

Call: 0800 032 1155

Visit: [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)



#### **Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Call: 01743 260260

Email: [safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/safe-and-well-visit](http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/safe-and-well-visit)

Alternatively, you can complete a free online Home Fire Safety Check here:  
<https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/>