

Community Speedwatch Group

We have had the most fantastic response to the Community Speedwatch Group. So far we have a group of 14 members who have all received their induction and roadside training from the police. All the clothing and equipment including the radar gun and signs were purchased and funded by DLH Parish Council and DLH Together.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative aimed at educating drivers who choose to drive in excess of the speed limit through towns and villages. Obviously, the aim is to ensure that our community is safe and to reduce the risk of injury and fatal accidents.

Following the training we were so keen to get out and about it soon became apparent that we needed to be well organised and structured to ensure we met the requirements of the Community Speedwatch polices, rules and requirements. The group therefore met on Monday 3 February to agree the structure and approach.

We agreed to divide ourselves into 3 teams of 5 (almost)! This enabled the team to have flexibility as only 3 people are required to be on site at any one time. Each team has a team leader responsible for organising the team itself, obtaining the equipment and deciding on the site for that day. Team leaders are also responsible for informing Derbyshire Police we are on site before the Speedwatch commences and again when we have finished.

The teams have already been busy, having been out and about in the community since the New Year with the aim of undertaking a site visit every week. This means each village area (Lea, Lea Bridge and Holloway), will be covered once every 3 weeks as a minimum. Therefore each group need only be out once every 3 weeks so it isn't that onerous and already we are starting to see a positive reaction when drivers first get sight of our fluorescent jackets and signs!

We plan to meet again in May to ensure all is working well, and discuss whether we think we have been successful so far in educating drivers to drive more carefully and within the speed limits of the Parish.