

Annual Village Meeting Ashendon Speedwatch...Richard Phillips

Fiona Jacob & myself attended a Speedwatch meeting at Waddesdon Police Station last November. Basically, the meeting was to tell us that responsibility for village speed surveillance is now entirely up to us villagers and the police have provided an on line system for voluntary groups to do this.

In response, I have set up the basic requirements for an Ashendon group on line, so that we can establish a network of volunteers to monitor speeding through the village at specific sites. The online facility aims to replace the need for police to do a majority of the work involved- meaning registered and trained volunteers (trained on line, that is) can actually input the speed camera recordings into the police network computer and letters (and police visits where necessary) are automatically send out via the on line system. Now we villagers in Ashendon are completely in control of our own destiny in so far as dealing with speeding through the village.

It has taken some time to get us authorised to use a Sentinel camera and after two months from sending out two village email circulars, we have now 5 trained volunteers, including myself and Sian Miller acting as co-ordinators, who are able to go out to see and be seen monitoring traffic using the speed camera. Volunteers team up to work in pairs and provide a highly visible presence, which unsurprisingly is the biggest deterrent to preventing speeding through the village, which many have complained about. The more volunteers we have, the more sessions we can set up to reduce speeding.

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