

# **SHIPSTON ON STOUR POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM SPEED ENFORCEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERN GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AREA COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS**

**Written by PC1681 Craig Purcell**

The following information outlines how local residents can best voice their concerns around speeding and road safety issues within the Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) area. It also explains how the Shipston Police SNT use this information to determine where speed enforcement activity is carried out.

## **Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team – An Overview**

The Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team currently comprises one Police Officer and two Police Community Support Officers. We engage with every single victim of crime within our 55 villages and Shipston town whilst conducting various operations surrounding burglary / theft / drugs and many other criminal activities.

Shipston SNT treats road safety very seriously and a large part of our work involves dealing with motorists for a variety of reasons. I have an affinity for roads policing and am a big believer in the overall benefits of dealing with motoring offences. Since taking over as the area Police Officer at the end of 2013 I have significantly increased the number of speed checks conducted and tickets issued.

Speed enforcement and education is one small part of our overall workload. We are constantly working towards remaining one of the lowest crime areas in the Country and ensuring our communities can not only see this in statistics produced but feel it in their day to day lives.

## **Speeding Complaint FAQ**

### **You have priority speeding areas. How do I make sure my road becomes one of your priorities?**

A Community Forum takes place once every 3 months at various locations around our policing area ([www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums)). At each Forum the public decide which 2 areas of policing we should view as a priority for the coming 3 months. Other SNT's can have all 3 priorities as speeding and nothing else. In Shipston we believe we can do more so we have committed to having 3 different types of priority whilst still covering 2 speed concern areas at the same time.

This means we may have Burglary/Theft Patrols as one priority, Drug Use/Supply as a second priority and Speeding as a third priority. Within the Speeding priority we will cover 2 separate areas.

### **Where does the Shipston Police SNT conduct speed enforcement?**

We do not have Warwickshire Police targets to meet and we do not conduct speed checks for any other reason than community concern. We will attend

and conduct speed checks in any 30mph or 40mph area across our entire area.

**I am concerned about speeding on a 50mph+ section of road. Why will the SNT not complete speed enforcement there?**

The Shipston Police SNT simply cannot deal with every single section of road across our 150 square miles. There are also safety issues surrounding work on roads of this speed. It is the Safer Roads Partnership who investigate whether enforcement of 50mph+ roads is necessary, practical and also safe to undertake. Please direct your concerns via [www.srpwestmercia.org.uk/about-us/contact-us](http://www.srpwestmercia.org.uk/about-us/contact-us)

**I have complained about speeding at a certain location before and the Police haven't done anything. Why should I believe you will pay attention now?**

Since becoming a local Police Officer I have come to see that the main problem surrounding speed complaints is the way in which the Police communicate with the public. We have been very poor in explaining our processes and requirements when taking a speed complaint. If we explain how residents can best raise their concerns through the set processes in place whilst explaining how speed enforcement fits into our overall workload then we are giving everybody a chance whilst managing expectations. The purpose of this document is to provide this information. We will also be handing out concise copies to those that make complaints in the future.

**So what makes another area a priority over mine?**

We prioritise areas depending on the number of complaints so your concerns may not be immediately addressed if other areas produce more complaints. The more complaints in an area the higher likelihood it will be voted in as a priority. We have previously had one or two people complain about speeding in one village but then representatives from other villages provide signed paperwork with 10 or 20 or even over 100 signatures requesting speed checks. To give your area the best chance approach friends, neighbours, local groups within the village and gather signatures. I have provided a second document to accompany this that can be printed to act as a petition and provides the information we need.

**There should be a roundabout / speed camera / more signage / reduced speed on this road because it is dangerous. Why aren't you doing anything about it?**

Shipston Police SNT are not directly involved with decision surrounding the make-up or speed of a road. If we attend an area to conduct speed checks our data can be requested by the Safer Roads Partnership and contribute to an overall assessment of the road. The Safer Roads Partnership works with the County Council, Highways Agency and others to assess complaints and determine if action can or should be taken. You should direct concerns regarding any of the above to your Parish Council or County Councillor who will in turn direct them towards the County Council for consideration. Warwickshire County Council improves the safety of the County's roads by identifying and treating those sites and routes that have a recent significant

personal injury crash history. As speed is a major factor in many crashes, the majority of work addresses speeding problems and can include traffic calming. The County Council also ensures traffic management (including parking management), and signing complies with key legislation and best practice.

**If you have any questions relating to speed enforcement by the Shipston Police SNT please contact me on 01789 444670 and I will be happy to discuss your concerns.**

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