

Parish Council Report for Buxted Speedwatch Group August 2019

Activity to date (approximately 9 months).

Current Active Volunteers = 12

Number of Sessions to date = 127

Total Vehicles recorded exceeding limit = 1726

Accuracy = 99%

Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 54 mph(+80%)

Maximum Speed recorded in 40 limit = 67 mph(+67%)

The Group has operated an average of 4 sessions per week for the past 9 months, generating 1726 vehicles reported to the police for speeding. This averages 15 vehicles per hour during the 'quiet' periods between 9am and 3pm, and 20 vehicles per hour between the busier times of 3pm and 5pm. At 5pm we regularly record over 500 vehicles passing through Buxted in one direction, so over 1000 per hour in total going through the village.

The number reported to the police is only a small percentage of the number of vehicles actually speeding as we generally only record the first vehicle in 'convoys' of speeding vehicles. As a generalisation, there are about four times as many speeding vehicles as we record. During the busier times it is more like six times the number recorded.

The average speed of vehicles in the 30mph zone through Buxted is 38mph, as observed and measured by volunteers. In the 40mph zones the average speed is 50 mph. It is rare to see any vehicle observing the 30mph or 40mph speed limits.

There is unfortunately no evidence that the Speedwatch scheme has had any tangible effect in slowing down motorists travelling through Buxted. This is not surprising given that we have only managed to organise an average of 4 sessions per week due to having a fairly small group of volunteers. There will still be many motorists who travel through Buxted who have never seen a Speedwatch session in operation.

We feel that after nine months of operation the evidence gathered to date indicates a need for more effective speed compliance measures. In our view two options should be considered in order to achieve greater compliance.

1. Installation of average speed monitoring devices at either end of the 30mph zone
2. Installation of artificial 'chicanes' at strategic points along the High Street.

We don't believe that a single fixed speed camera is of value as motorists would simply speed up again after slowing down to avoid triggering the camera. However, monitoring average speed over the mile-long High Street would be effective. If that is deemed to costly then narrowing the road to one lane for short stretches would also work, much as it does in Maresfield.

We would like to commence the process of working with the Parish Council to try to persuade the relevant authorities to install average speed monitoring equipment at each end of the 30mph zone, and would welcome advice as to how we should commence the initiative.

Ian Irving

Co-Ordinator

August 2019