

Meeting to Discuss Speeding in Beech and Bentworth

Date: Wednesday 19 October 2022

Present: Tony Ransley (Beech Parish Council), Tim Lipscombe and Kathryn Courtier (Bentworth Parish Council)

Main Points

Cameras

- Beech have 3 AutoSpeedWatch (ASW) cameras in their village. They allow them to:
 - Detect instantaneous speed of vehicles that pass and photograph those that exceed 36mph
 - If more than one camera detects the same vehicle over 36mph, the system calculates the average speed
 - If the vehicle registration is on the “Police Wanted” list, it will send a text to the police alerting them it has been spotted
- The system is linked to the DVLA and can confirm the vehicle make, colour, and whether it has an MOT, vehicle tax or it is SORNed. The DVLA will follow up untaxed vehicles, but not MOT infringements – this is a police matter.
- The system provides user-friendly, web-based reports. It also allows data to be downloaded in Excel format for further analysis.
- The cameras cost ~£1,000 each, incl. installation and 1st year communications costs (annual comms and cloud data base cost are £150pa) . This compares to ~£70k for a typical police camera
- The cameras only operate during daylight hours, so longer in summer than winter; dull, overcast days adversely affect their performance
- The roads through Beech are narrow and twisty, which tends to keep speeds low; they also have a SID that is useful to remind drivers to slow down on straight sections of road

Results

- There has been a decrease in speeding through Beech since the cameras have been installed, however there are a number of persistent speeders that ignore the signs
- Where a speeding vehicle has trade livery, Beech PC have been able to phone and email the company in question as GDPR does not apply in these cases. Companies generally react well to the feedback, promising to have a word with the driver in question. To date, there has only been one “repeat offender”.
- Reports are sent weekly to Hampshire Police. These reports, together with a monthly report, are forwarded to the Police Crime Commissioner’s office.
- Beech PC have exchanged emails with Damien Hinds MP asking for support; he is supportive and is keen to be kept up to date with progress
- Tony has a meeting on the 24th of October with the Chief Inspector for East Hampshire and a representative of the Safer Roads Policing Operations & Investigations Team for Joint Unit Road Policing Department Hampshire and Thames Valley Police. The Chief Inspector is particularly keen on the wanted vehicle text functionality to help combat drug dealing. Meeting purpose:
 - Agree to accept the data, along with any necessary qualifying criteria, and start to take action
 - Discuss how to spread the system to other villages as this would increase the system’s effectiveness and value

Potential Collaboration and next Steps

- Tony declined the offer of sharing Bentworth SID data at this stage, as that could dilute the focus of the next meeting, preferring to wait for the outcome to see how to proceed
- Tony agreed to update us after the meeting on the 24th.

- Tim suggested that he and Kathryn should:
 - Report progress back to Bentworth PC at the next meeting on 1st November (this note plus a verbal update)
 - Agree our response post the meeting on the 24th