

Allotment Report 3/9/21

A recent inspection of the plots revealed 5 which were overgrown. There were sufficient reasons for 3 of them, and the others have been advised to take action otherwise they will be issued with a warning letter. This year has been a challenge for a number of plot holders, mainly because the weather patterns have been unusual, and have caused more rampant vegetation.

The closure of the main pathway has been successful, and the no bonfires rule has meant the atmosphere is far better.

Allotment sites seem to have “waves” of different problems to resolve, and this year it has been the non-emergence of growth from seeds on our site. Many plot holders have had to reseed several times, before crops started to grow (possibly ant activity underground!). Now, we are dealing with blight on potatoes and tomatoes.

We have made several requests for plot holders to advise us as to whether there have been any rat problems this year, but have only received 1 report of such activity. This particular plot seems to have had issues over the last 2 years and regular bait is eaten. The CAA committee are fully supportive of the rat controller's efforts to keep the population down, after a huge issue in 2020 when there were over 40 plots affected, and his efforts have proven their worth. He has over 25 years experience with pest control, and, specifically, is very conversant with the needs of allotment sites. Our committee is not keen on spending out more money, as there seem to be no issues with most of the other plot holders. We intend to ask him to visit, to check, and rebait if necessary, the 20 bait boxes we have.

We have 7 people on the waiting list, at present.

Ian Gray

Community Speedwatch & Traffic Calming

Community Speedwatch

About the scheme

Kent Police Speedwatch Team consists of; Alan Watson, Speedwatch Manager and two Police Support Volunteers. They will shortly be recruiting an Enforcement Officer.

Community Speedwatch Schemes are owned, funded and operated by Parish Councils.

If we join the scheme we will need to appoint a co-ordinator, register on the www.communityspeedwatch.org website and use the site to input data collected.

The group then decides where to operate, when, how often and for how long each session will last.

For each session there will need to be (ideally 3) volunteers per session. A minimum of 6 people.

Volunteers must register online and once registered are covered by Kent Police public liability and personal injury insurance as long as they are operating at the agreed registered site.

Volunteer roadside training lasts 1 to 1.5 hours. Hi-Vis upper body long sleeved clothing is provided. Volunteers must be 18yrs +.

Speedwatch may only operate in daylight hours.

The process

1. Identify the area to be included in the speedwatch
2. Engage with Kent Police Speedwatch Team by registering on the site
3. Kent Police Speedwatch Team will visit the area, meet with the co-ordinator and agree the area
4. Kent Police Speedwatch Team will help with publicity to recruit volunteers for the group
5. Kent Police Speedwatch Team will risk assess the site
6. Kent Police Speedwatch Team will arrange onsite training
7. The scheme can start with support from the Kent Police Speedwatch Team.

The site

When choosing the site, it must:

- Have a clean line of sight 75-100 meters to approaching or leaving vehicles in the observed direction
- Have a safe area at least 2 meters from the edge of the road to allow pedestrians to pass and for volunteers to escape should a vehicle drive too close
- Not block an entrance or exit without the owners permission
- Be in a 20MPH, 30MPH or 40MPH and not near a vehicle activated sign or near a speed camera site
- Not be close to a school at beginning or end of school day

Cameras/Equipment costs

Handheld Bushnell gun approx. £500+VAT

Freestanding Static camera approx. £1700 +VAT

Cameras will record 25MPH in 20MPH Limit, 35MPH in 30MPH and 46MPH in 40MPH limit

How the volunteers work

Operator 1 records speed and counts all traffic by clicker or 5 bar gate

Operator 2 records 1st half registration + make of vehicle

Operator 3 records 2nd half registration + colour of vehicle

All records are then input to the community speedwatch website.

Teams deploy for approx. 1hr – the session must be booked in advance.

The team needs to go out regularly.

Enforcement

1st-3rd times - letter sent by post

4th time - letter hand delivered by PCSO

5th time onwards police will decide whether other enforcement methods are needed.

When letters are sent police also check for tax, car insurance and MOT

Once a group is active police will put up signs to show it is a Community Speedwatch Area.

I have a copy of the slides to share with anyone interested in taking part.

If a group

Traffic Calming

This is a separate issue from the speedwatch group. A decision needs to be made about whether we have one group to deal with both issues or, two separate groups.

The Clerk has contacted Russel Giles Partnership who assisted Cobham Parish Council with their traffic calming scheme.

Once there is a group of people identified as being interested the Clerk will arrange a site visit with Russell Giles Partnership so that we can move things forward.