

Rowlands Castle Parish Council

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Ms D Jones – Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
The Long Barn
Dean Estate
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15 November 2024

Dear Donna

As Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, we are asking you to persuade Hampshire Constabulary (HC) to take the issue of speeding on rural roads more seriously and, in conjunction with East Hampshire District Council, pursue identified drivers especially those persistently recorded as speeding.

We are aware that you will have unintentionally already received an indication of our views on the matter, by way of a local resident forwarding on to you our correspondence with them. This was unfortunate and we apologise for any confusion which may have been caused.

In common with many parishes throughout Hampshire, we are very concerned about the proliferation of speeding and reckless driving on the roads through our Parish. We are regularly contacted by residents on this topic, who ask what the Parish Council is doing about it. We have to explain that we have limited powers in this regard but are doing what we can.

We already have speed indicator and speed reminder devices which are regularly circulated amongst the many roads throughout the Parish. These provide general data on usage and speeding on different roads but it is anonymous so cannot be used to pursue offenders.

More recently, we successfully applied for 3 AutoSpeedWatch (ASW) cameras as part of an EHDC Initiative to tackle speeding. At present, these cameras collect specific data on those vehicles speeding along Manor Lodge Road, including those which may also not be taxed and/or MOT'd. We know that more than half the vehicles that pass our cameras are speeding to some degree above the 30mph speed limit, with quite a few are doing well over 40mph and a significant number over 50mph. The issue of speeding is particularly noticeable on this and other roads in the south of the Parish. The situation is made worse because of the increase in commercial vehicles visiting the new, large Amazon Distribution Centre in Havant.

We understand EHDC's Initiative aims to produce reliable and consistent data, especially on those serial 'speeders' who can often be tracked speeding across the East Hampshire District. Whilst the data is informative, what we really need is Hampshire Constabulary to act upon the data and pursue the miscreants, in conjunction with EHDC.

The Initiative was only open to those parishes which already had a local Community Speedwatch presence, which is supported and supervised by HC. In contrast with the supportive tone from our local police officer, we have been disappointed in the past at the negative and sometimes inaccurate tone from HC's Citizens in Policing Team.

Fortunately, more recently we understand that HC representatives attended a web conference on the effectiveness of the ASW cameras, hosted by Gloucester Constabulary (GC). GC are enthusiastic about the use of ASW data and the resource savings it provides. It will be hosting a visit by HC in the near future to demonstrate GC's use of ASW data and the significant benefits it has already realised.

ASW has developed functionality solely for police forces to identify persistent speeders. At a recent demonstration, ASW showed that c 2,500 recorded incidents of speeding caught on ASW cameras throughout Hampshire were committed by just 50 vehicles, and dealing with those 50 would encompass a significant proportion of speeding offences.

It is worth noting that HC can access the data from the cameras directly and indeed GC are already doing so and issuing fines accordingly, with the support of Gloucestershire County Council. What is stopping HC from doing the same?

AutoSpeedWatch believes its system can be very helpful to the Police, and its website includes a number of responses to popular misconceptions about the system:
<https://store.autospeedwatch.org/police>

We understand you recently met with EHDCllr Tony Costigan who is leading on this Initiative and is looking for yours and HC's support in establishing a Public Space Protection Order.

If HC won't support this Initiative, then it is doomed to failure and not only will speeders get away with reckless driving, but valuable tax-payers money will have gone to waste. The more that drivers who speed get away with breaking the law now the worse the whole speeding issue will become with more accidents and injuries/death as a result.

We urge you to persuade HC to support and get on board with this Initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Stanley', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Cllr Chris Stanley
Chairman of Rowlands Castle Parish Council

CC: Damian Hinds MP
EHDCllr Tony Costigan
EHDCllr Charlene Maines
HCC Cllr Marge Harvey
Beech Parish Cllr Tony Ransley

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