

Speedwatch report

Since the start of this year the group has held 17 roadside sessions, with none taking place during April and May due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Police.

So far this year 178 motorists have been reported for exceeding the speed limit.

During the A2100 closure the average number of vehicles passing the roadside checkpoint rose from around 350 to 590 per hour.

The good news is that it meant there was much bunching of traffic so speeds were slower. Maybe that's the traffic calming measure we need!

The group still needs new members: there are six active participants at present, with two needed at each session. Currently we are running three sessions a month.

We are still awaiting police risk assessment and approval for additional/alternative sites in and around the village after nearly nine months of continuous prompting.

Co-ordinator Anne Smith has contacted Huw Merriman and Sussex Police with regard to the group's feelings that the scheme's value to Whatlington is not as effective as it could be.

A lack of alternative sites, the need to allow 200m after a change in the speed limit (from 50 to 40 for instance) before motorists can be checked, a minimum 200m visibility for the group to be able to operate, only speeds of 47mph or above to be recorded in a 40 zone, and the fact that when the 30mph roadworks limit was imposed we still had to operate as if it was 40mph as motorists hadn't been given three months' notice of the change.

In short, the dice seems to be loaded in favour of the motorists rather than the safety of residents.

In terms of seeking a parish council grant to cover the cost of the equipment, we have yet to be asked for the money but will let you know if and when we get a bill.

Steve Turner