



Auto Speed Watch (ASW) Camera and the BoATC speed awareness campaign

The Auto Speed Watch camera continues to capture speeding vehicles on the Trowbridge Road. Over the summer months volunteers have been verifying up to 500 vehicles a week, taking up around **17** volunteer hours for June, July and August combined. The committee clerk has also verified about 3 weeks' worth of data (due to holidays and a volunteer pause due to tech issues) so the overall commitment across the summer has been over **20** hours.

On top of that **41** letters have been emailed or posted out which reflects about 75-80% of the commercial vehicles verified and we have received **4** apologies.

(As mentioned previously, as a rule, we only contact firms where we are completely sure we have identified them correctly and where we have a full registration number visible).

Campaign to persuade Wiltshire Police to consider ASW data more favourably.

An article detailing the Autospeedwatch volunteer speed awareness campaign has been published in The Clerk magazine and this generated some interest from a local parish council. Sutton Benger has been reluctant to splash out on an ASW camera for their main road through the village as Wiltshire Police will not accept ASW data beyond the heat maps (showing the worst times of day for speeding in any particular location). Councillors at Sutton Benger have been unable to convince the Wiltshire Police and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to reconsider their stance.

One of our ASW volunteers has decided to lobby MP Brian Mathew on the matter and he agreed to write to the Wiltshire PCC.

Wiltshire PCC wrote back and a few of the points have been summarised below:

- Despite not criticising the use of ASW cameras Wiltshire Police are not generally interested in data generated from privately funded equipment but perhaps town and parish councils might liaise with Wiltshire Council with any information they have.
- Wiltshire Police seems to see the lack of 24-hour operation of the cameras or the fact that the ASW website states the equipment is not a law enforcement camera as reasons to disregard collected data along with:
- the cameras are not mounted in accordance with the police's evidence-based systems to determine suitable locations to monitor speeding vehicles.



Agenda item 10 – Auto Speed Watch update

Written by – Committee Clerk

- the data may be collected by non-UK based IT systems causing potential GDPR and FOI issues.
- the images captured do not supply any identification data beyond the number plate so the police would be obliged to determine details of car ownership and do not feel they have the resources for this.
- The police concede that the data collected can show useful trends, but they seem reluctant to suggest lines of enquiry generated this way might be helpful however trends could be reported to the police via their website as a community concern in the normal way.

Brian Mathew summed up the response by suggesting the Police do not want to fund the administrative burden of handling the data.

Meanwhile it seems some other police forces are more interested in ASW data in so far as the trends revealed in the data can provide lines of enquiry. For example, persistent speeders can often be up to other nefarious activities so identifying regular speeders has helped lead some forces to other types of convictions.

Gloucestershire Police seem more inclined to send 'nudge' letters requesting drivers moderate their speeds and have published league tables detailing this activity (although possibly using their own equipment) in partnership with town and parish councils who have set up ASW cameras.

Wiltshire Police do support Community Speed Watch campaigns training volunteers, providing equipment and perhaps sending warning letters to some degree but will not support any other schemes.

Committee Clerk

17 September 2026