

ROAD SAFETY IN FINCHAMPSTEAD

We are very aware of the traffic issues in the Parish and get many reports of speeding. Road safety is one of our priorities and we hope this helps explain the action we and others are taking to address the issues.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is the Highway Authority responsible for the road network and traffic management and Thames Valley Police (TVP) is responsible for enforcement of speed violations. The Parish Council itself has no jurisdiction over highway matters. However, it works closely with these organisations and is committed to help identify areas with problems and to raise awareness of traffic issues.



1. Gathering data

When we receive a report of speeding the first stage is to check if the location is already included in our regular monitoring and / or speed awareness sessions.

If not, a visual check or a site visit is undertaken to assess the situation and the potential action we could take.

2. Speed data recorders (SDR)

We have two of these units which have been in use since 2010, monitoring vehicle volumes and speeds.

The units are rotated around 20 regular locations for 7 day periods. The units are also used to monitor other locations as required.

The units are installed on lamp posts with the agreement of WBC and the Police. They can only be used where suitable lamp columns / sign posts are available.

The data collected is analysed and shared with the Police and WBC.

If the SDR reports show a significant issue, the location will be monitored over a longer period. The Police require approximately 12 months of data to verify a consistent problem before additional Police enforcement action will be taken.

3. Speed Indicator Device (SID)



The Parish Council owns a SID. If the SDR reports show there is an issue, a SID session will be run as long as there is a suitable location (sometimes a residents driveway) and sufficient volunteers.

SID sessions are dependent on volunteers from the Parish Council, the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group and residents. We run one session a week at present.

Sessions run for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are recorded, and reports are passed to the Police who will then send a letter to offending vehicle owners.

If a vehicle is caught more than once, TVP will take additional action.

4. Thames Valley Police (TVP) Speed Enforcement Action



TVP receive the traffic volume and speed data collected by the Parish Council and use this to plan where they can best use their resources for extra enforcement action . The data tells the Police which roads have the most significant problem, and on which days and or time of day the speeding is worse.

They use their own guidelines to determine whether to invite offending drivers to attend a National Speed Awareness Course (NSAC) or to take further action.

5. Post mounted SID

These units have a flashing indicator of a vehicles speed and are rotated around various locations. These are proven to be more effective than static cameras or signs.

The Parish Council plans to purchase two units in 2018.



More volunteers will allow more traffic monitoring and awareness sessions to take place - please get in touch if you would like to help.

6. Vehicle activated signs (VAS)



Fixed VAS, such as those on the Finchampstead Road near Pine Drive and on Nine Mile Ride east, have limited impact given their static location. Drivers soon get used to these and ignore them.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has a number of VAS which are used in various problem locations for two week periods to help raise awareness of speeding. WBC has the whole Borough to cover but we work closely with WBC and given the data we can provide WBC has installed these VAS in various locations in the Parish at our suggestion.

7. Speed cameras

Many think that speed cameras are the answer. However, these have been proven to have limited impact due to their static location and, in addition, not all have active cameras - as drivers know. Thames Valley Police has no plans to increase the number of cameras in the region.



Having monitored data over several years, the Parish Council believes that there is no quick fix to traffic issues. However, a sustained combination of approaches aimed at educating drivers is resulting in a steady improvement.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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