



## Community Speed Watch Newsletter

Issue 6 – December 2024

### Hello!

Hello and welcome to our latest Community Speed Watch (CSW) newsletter.



As we hurtle towards the end of another year, it's a good opportunity to look back and reflect on what a year it has been. As many of you know, in May we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Community Speed Watch in West Mercia.

We had some great local media coverage of this special milestone which allowed us to highlight the valuable role you all play in keeping your communities safe. All volunteers in active CSW groups should have received a commemorative pin badge to mark the anniversary and say thank you for your support. If you didn't receive one, please get in touch.



In July we said farewell to Mark Booth who left the role of Community Speed Watch Coordinator for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Luckily for us, he hasn't gone too far (he's now a speed enforcement officer within the Road Safety Team) but we'd like to say a huge thank you for all his hard work and dedication to the CSW scheme over the past five years. Mark has been instrumental in getting many groups up and running and supporting them in running as smoothly as possible. We hope you're enjoying your new role Mark, and we're sure you are giving it the same level of enthusiasm that you gave to CSW!

We have recently interviewed for a new Community Speed Watch Coordinator and have offered the post to the successful candidate. Pending mandatory pre-employment checks, we are hoping they will be in post early in 2025.

*Steve Bullock, Force CSW Coordinator (Herefordshire & Worcestershire).*  
Email me at: [CSW@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:CSW@westmercia.police.uk)

### New Recruits and Coming Soon

Since our last newsletter, we've welcomed a new group in Sheriffhales, Shropshire.

Particular thanks go to Police Community Support Officers Sam Newbrook and Steve Breeze who did a lot of the hard work to get the Sheriffhales group up and running and were both present for the training day in May.



**Sheriffhales training day in May**

A new group has also started in Cleeve Prior, South Worcestershire. Many thanks to PC Alex Prentice for her work and support in getting the group up and running.

We are currently processing a number of new schemes across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. It's fantastic to see the group in Crowle, South Worcestershire returning, welcome back! Those that have progressed and are near to starting are Alvechurch in North Worcestershire, Stretton Sugwas in Herefordshire and Upper Hengoed in North Shropshire.

Steve has recently carried out some volunteer and refresher training for groups. Due to the work of PCSO Dave Hughes from Oswestry and the group coordinators, Steve was able to train a number of volunteers for a few groups at a joint session in Gobowen. It worked really well and meant volunteers from different groups met, showing that each group is a part of a large West Mercia family. Definitely worth doing!



**Gobowen training day in December**

## **Goodbye and Thank You**

We are sad to say goodbye to the Waters Upton group in Shropshire who are calling it a day while major roadworks take place in the area up to 2026. We would like to thank all the coordinators and volunteers for playing such an important role within their community.



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## Annual Meetings

During the summer, Mark Booth re-introduced an annual meeting for CSW group members, with the first one taking place in Cockshutt, Shropshire for all nine of the North Shropshire groups. The meeting was very well attended with over 30 volunteers attending, and a valuable input was given from the local safer neighbourhood teams and a demonstration of speed enforcement kit from the Road Safety Team. There was great feedback from the teams on what we as a force could do to support them further and several groups discussing how they could support each other. Watch this space for details of future meetings for other areas across the force.

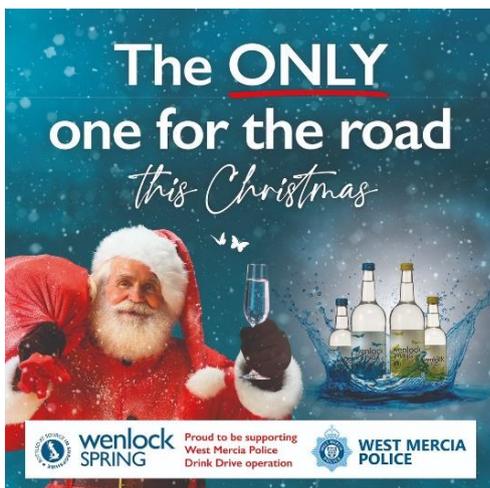
## Road Safety News and Campaigns

### Think Bike

The 'Think Bike' has been out and about this year, attending a number of events throughout the force area. One of these events was a ride out to the Valkyrie Bar in Evesham, Worcestershire and was attended by Steve and Safer Neighbourhood Team officers.



## NPCC Drink and Drug Driving Operation (Op Limit)



Throughout December, the force is supporting 'Op Limit' - the national drink and drug drive operation. While drink and drug drive enforcement is a 24/7 commitment for West Mercia Police, the month-long operation will involve increased enforcement over the traditional party season as well as messages in the media raising awareness of the dangers of impaired driving.

We are working with Wenlock Spring over the festive period and supporting their 'The Only One for the Road' Christmas campaign. Look out for our logo on Wenlock Spring's vans this month, and promotional materials in pubs and bars.



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## Be Bright Be Seen

With the darker nights upon us, our Be Bright Be Seen campaign continues and we are reminding all road users to take extra care and share the roads responsibly.

**Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders:** Think about how visible you are to other road users. Consider wearing hi-vis clothing and reflective material to ensure you can be seen easily.

**Cyclists:** Ensure your bike is in good working order. Check your brakes and gears and tyres. If cycling in darkness, make sure your bike has front and rear lights.

### Motorists:

- Look carefully for other road users, especially vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.
- Ensure your lights are in good working order and your wiper blades work effectively.
- Carry out a winter car check – Check brakes, tyres, oil, water, antifreeze and screen wash levels.
- Check your eyesight. Legally, drivers are required to be able to read a number plate 20 metres away, in daylight. If you are struggling, book an eyesight test with an optician.

**Mobility scooter users:** We have been provided with some Mobility Scooter Safety Packs from Surewise which include road safety advice as well as reflective stickers for mobility scooter users to increase their visibility. If you like to obtain any copies of the pack, please contact us at [RoadSafety1@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:RoadSafety1@westmercia.police.uk)



## Mature Driver Awareness Sessions

Over the last six months, the Road Safety Team have delivered 17 Mature Driver Awareness Sessions, aimed at drivers aged 65+. Events were held in locations across our three counties and delivered in partnership with Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Shropshire Fire Service, Telford & Wrekin Council and YSS charity. Attendees had the chance to watch 'Keep Driving VR' – a virtual reality film tailored for mature drivers. Sessions also focused on issues including eyesight, medication and fatigue.



We will be planning further events in the new year. If you are interested in receiving details, please email us: [RoadSafety1@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:RoadSafety1@westmercia.police.uk)



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## Road Safety Magazines

Did you know? Our communities can access a fantastic range of free road safety magazines online, each one targeted at a specific road user group including mature drivers, young drivers, parents of young drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists and those who use child car seats. Feel free to share these links with friends, family members or your local community:

**DriveOn** (for mature drivers):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/driveon\\_c3c7f993ca39d5](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/driveon_c3c7f993ca39d5)

**RideOn** (for motorcyclists):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/rideon\\_e2df6417b8b4f7](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/rideon_e2df6417b8b4f7)

**Young Driver's Guide** (for learners and new drivers):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/young\\_driver\\_guide\\_52575fbc8af5c6](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/young_driver_guide_52575fbc8af5c6)

**Parent Guide** (a guide to helping new drivers):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/parent\\_guide\\_68fa8ce90dafad](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/parent_guide_68fa8ce90dafad)

**FirstBike** (for new/young motorcyclists):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/firstbike\\_aaaa190286f4b3](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/firstbike_aaaa190286f4b3)

**Ultimate Guide to Cycling:**

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/ultimate\\_guide\\_to\\_cycling\\_a748751434e0e4](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/ultimate_guide_to_cycling_a748751434e0e4)

**Car Seat Smarter** (a guide to safely transporting children):

[https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/fc\\_parents\\_guide\\_v4\\_16pp\\_issuu\\_9af9496a906b67](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/fc_parents_guide_v4_16pp_issuu_9af9496a906b67)



## News from Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Champion

### Local Policing Teams Benefit from New Technology

Following funding by the Police & Crime Commissioner and to support the Commissioner's Safer Communities Plan, policing teams across West Mercia will now have the latest speed enforcement technology available at their fingertips. TruCamII enforcement cameras are being introduced to local policing teams to give a further capability for enforcement in areas that are causing the most community concern.

TruCamII cameras can be used as either handheld devices by officers or on a tripod, allowing greater flexibility on sites where they can be used. The equipment has the ability to capture and process offences much quicker than older devices and produces higher quality,





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clearer pictures of offending vehicles and therefore ensures a more efficient use of officers' time and a more effective court process.

Telford & Wrekin local policing teams are the first areas to be using the new equipment across the force area, which has been made possible due to funding through the Telford & Wrekin Council Safer Stronger programme. The use of this new technology will be rolled out across other areas of West Mercia in due course.

### Show Your Support for Graduated Driving Licensing

Make a difference to the lives of young motorists by signing a petition to help them stay safe on our roads.

The petition is organised and led by Crystal Owen, who tragically lost her 17-year-old son, Harvey, in a traffic collision. She has been actively campaigning for The Graduated Driving Licence, backed by the AA, to be introduced.

Focused on making West Mercia's roads safer, PCC John Campion is proudly backing the Shrewsbury mother's calls for change. Sign the petition today: <https://www.change.org/p/safer-driving-licensing-for-newly-qualified-17-19-year-olds>

