

## Help reduce speeding in Sutton - Volunteer for the Community Speedwatch Scheme:

North Yorkshire Police (NYP) have recently set up a Community Speedwatch Scheme and have asked whether Sutton on the Forest would be interested in taking part.

Essentially, the scheme involves a group of volunteers using a hand-held speed gun to monitor vehicle speeds in 30 mph and 40 mph areas. Although new to North Yorkshire, this is not a new initiative. It was being used in areas of Surrey, with great success, at least 15 years ago.

The volunteers do not interact in any way with vehicles or motorists, beyond measuring speed. They are specifically instructed not to do so, and if approached by a motorist may only state that they are taking part in a speed monitoring exercise sponsored by NYP. They may also hand out an explanatory leaflet.

The minimum requirement to set up a scheme is a village coordinator plus five other volunteers. Training will be given and monitoring sites will be chosen by NYP.

A minimum of three, but preferably four, people are needed for each monitoring session. One person will man the speed gun, one will record speed and vehicle registration, and one will confirm the registration number and identify the make and colour. Only vehicles exceeding 35 mph in a 30 mph zone and 45mph in a 40 limit are to be noted.

The village coordinator is responsible for organising sessions and for entering the details of vehicles exceeding the limits on a spreadsheet and emailing it to NYP within 24 hours. NYP will write to drivers regarding their speed and in cases of multiple appearances, may visit. It should be noted that there can never be a prosecution on the basis of a speed watch measurement.

**More details of the scheme are provided in the North Yorkshire Police Speedwatch Guidance Pack on the village website.**

Initially, monitoring sites will only be located in Main Street and Huby Road. However, this will address speeding, particularly in the vicinity of the school.

Unfortunately, although Carr Lane and Stillington Road have a more serious speeding problem,(confirmed by monitoring in May 2014), NYP will not consider revisiting the issue until three years have elapsed. The Parish Council has pointed out that the action taken after the 2014 exercise was inadequate and totally ineffective, but to no avail.

However, if a speed watch exercise can be set up, there is no reason why extra sites, on these roads, cannot be added when the time limit has expired in the Summer of this year. If you are willing to volunteer and increase road safety in our village please contact one of the Parish Councillors.