

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MAY 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor P Harris:

“Up until recently the District Council provided some co-ordination on Speedwatch, and Community Safety Groups. The previous Police & Crime Commissioner appears to have directed that this should not happen. So, this support appears to have ended. Why is this?

What proposals will the Council now make to reinforce and support community run groups of Speedwatch and Safety Partnerships?”

Reply from Councillor Paul Taylor – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations

There used to be some limited co-ordination of Speedwatch information by NSDC. However, having met with the Police, we were advised by the SpeedWatch single point of contact (SPOC) at the Police for Newark that the situation has now changed. The police SPOC has advised NSDC that the PCC has directed that speedwatch should be a community run group with minimal oversight from the Police, apart from training and sending out the letters to offending vehicles. This a decision taken by the then PCC and we can't comment on this any further. However, I cannot help but wonder if it is anything to do with someone being booked for speeding 5 times, resulting in a driving ban. I am also wondering if it might have been to do with the Newark MP have been banned for speeding and yes, I got it right this time it was speeding.

To confirm, our Community Protection Officers will continue to be involved in Community Speedwatch but we won't be keeping a direct overview of all the groups. We will be liaising with the Police to support any community groups that wish to set up a Speed Watch, assist with delivery of training, and administration for the equipment. In the main, individual groups should not be affected by the changes. It will still run for them as it has previously.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Cllr Girling who has agreed to train a group of us including Cllr Ross and myself to carry out speedwatch in and around Hawtonville.