

The Community Camera GCC/Police Project

In Gloucestershire, Parishes can erect speed recording cameras that are not Type Approved and so not evidential but that can be used as part of a Community Speedwatch project. The Parish own and control the data and supply data to the Police for advisory letters to be sent to selected vehicle keepers. The Community Cameras effectively do a similar function as a Community Speedwatch group and are best used in conjunction with visual Community Speedwatch.

At present two types of devices are used in the County. The Autospeedwatch Camera and the MavRapiar as described below. Both camera types data will be processed by the Police in the same way.



The MavRapiar system can be purchased privately and are in the region of £10,000 per camera with maintenance remaining with the supplier. The MavRapiar, pictured on the left, is powered with infrared and covers both directions.

An Autospeedwatch camera can be purchased privately for approximately £600. There is an annual maintenance fee of around £150-£160. The Autospeedwatch cameras are solar powered and record the rear of vehicles travelling over a threshold during daylight hours. This device works in one direction.

The ASW Camera is pictured below, the website is: www.autospeedwatch.org.



Once the data is captured the Speedwatch Coordinator accesses their camera data on the Autospeedwatch site or similar for the MavRapiar and populates a spreadsheet similar that used by Community Speedwatch for the Police with their choice of vehicles and email it in. The Police do not have access to your data or individual cameras so we respond only to what you supply.

Advisory letters are sent out to registered keepers. The cost of postage of 70 pence per letter, at present, is reclaimed quarterly by the Police from the Parish. Parishes are able to send up to 10 letters per week.

Each Parish wishing to purchase a camera, or cameras must complete and return a Triage form, this form establishes that there is a speeding problem and a perceived need for the camera. The Parish must ensure that they can comply with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner Code of Practice before applying for a camera and enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Police for the process to be considered. Please note an SLA can only be entered into with a recognised authority such as a Parish Council, Town Council and not with community groups or Residents' Associations. The Parish/Authority will be responsible for settling the quarterly invoices.

A representative from the Police will conduct a site visit and agree a suitable place for the siting of the camera. GCC will also be required to agree the location for the camera particularly if an existing piece

of road furniture is to be used to affix the device. Where there is no suitable post for the camera, GCC Highways will install a post at that location. This will incur additional costs to the Parish.

The cameras and their data remain the property and responsibility of the Parish with regards to GDPR. The cameras are not enforcement cameras and nobody will be prosecuted as a result of the data that they supply.

Frequently asked questions

The cameras are referred to as ANPR (Automatic Number Plate recognition), are they therefore tied into a Police National Computer?

No, the cameras are not ANPR cameras, they take an image of the vehicle captured at the speed threshold set by the Parish and it also automatically populates a spreadsheet with the number plate.

How do you access the results from the camera?

Preferably one person from the Parish will be responsible for logging on to the camera to look at the highest speeds, they will cross reference the spreadsheet with the images of the vehicle to ensure that the number plate is clearly visible to avoid letters being sent incorrectly. The details of the 10 selected from the last week need to be transferred on to a spreadsheet which is then sent by email to dataforspeedwatch@gloucestershire.police.uk

Will drivers be prosecuted?

No, the devices are not 'Home Office Type Approved' for enforcement. The drivers captured are sent a letter in the spirit of education, asking them to reflect on their driving and advising them to adjust their driving behaviour. If they are recorded on a second occasion, a more directly worded letter is sent.

How time consuming is the process?

Cross-referencing the photographs of the vehicles captured to ensure the camera has not misread the number plate is a time consuming element. This is essential to avoid errors and to ensure that the letters are sent to the correct keeper.

Who fits the camera?

The ASW camera comes with a collar and Allen key to fit it to the post, it comes with full instructions and will be the responsibility of the Parish to erect and maintain. The unit has an inbuilt solar panel which will need cleaning every now and again to keep it clear of debris to charge. The MavRapier camera will be fitted by MavRapier and will require a power source.

Can the cameras be moved from one location to another?

The idea is for the camera location to be sited in agreement with the Police and GCC, the letters sent will refer to the road where the camera is situated. If, after a period of time, it is found the camera is not being used efficiently and the Parish feels it would be better in a different location, it may be possible for a further site visit to agree a different position.

To request the Triage form, enquire further, or for traditional Community Speedwatch enquiries please email:

communityspeedwatch@gloucestershire.police.uk