Report summarising Speed Control activities in Risby for the period April 2021 through March 2022

There are currently two different forms of vehicle speed monitoring/control that take place in the village, both of which include the collection of speeding data:

1 *Community Speedwatch (CSW)* - which involves a team of 2 volunteers making roadside speed checks with a radar gun. This has been operating in Risby since 2010.

2 *Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS)* – which is mounted on a choice of three posts and automatically detects, displays and records the speeds of passing vehicles "around the clock". This commenced in Risby in its current form in 2016.

NOTE: Speeds detected by CSW may follow a different pattern from those detected by the unattended VAS because of the 'high profile' and deliberately-overt nature of the CSW operation. The 'HI-VIZ' jackets that are worn by the volunteers, combined with the bright blue roadside 'advisory' signage are generally construed as having a 'deterrent effect' on drivers – except perhaps 'die-hard' speeders.

As a personal reflection and because I am sometimes asked the question, I will just add that since we began operating roadside speed checks in 2010, we have from time to time received abuse from a handful of unpleasant drivers. However, the overwhelming response to our activities has been frequent expressions of heart-felt gratitude from local residents, either passing by on foot or stopping in their cars. They tell us of their surprise and disquiet at the ever-increasing, dismal lack of social conscience of a minority of speeding motorists who put us all at unnecessary risk. The latter feedback is more than enough to make it all worthwhile.

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Under normal circumstances, with a team of two volunteers we conduct two roadside speed checks of one hour duration each month in both South Street & School Road. However, during the period in question, the frequency of operations was curtailed by Covid restrictions and in the event amounted instead to a total of sixteen roadside speed checks, equally split between South Street and School Road:

Speed detection is carried out using an approved radar gun. In keeping with national CSW guidelines, vehicles that pass at 35 mph or more are recorded by registration number, vehicle model and colour. Vehicles are not stopped but the recorded data is forwarded in spreadsheet format to the Community Speed Watch HQ where it is entered into a computer program which is currently being shared between Suffolk & Norfolk.

The drivers of those vehicles registered in Suffolk and Norfolk are then sent a letter from the Constabulary advising them of the speeding infringement, suggesting safer driving habits and informing them that their details will be retained on the system. In the event of the receipt of three such 'CSW' reports on the same vehicle, the system automatically flags up the repeat offence in question and a visit is made by the police to the driver's premises to discuss further action/prosecution.

During the period April 2021 through March 2022:

South Street: In eight one-hour sessions, we detected 52 vehicles exceeding 35 mph; the top speed was 48 mph

School Road: In eight one-hour sessions, we detected 38 vehicles exceeding 35 mph; the top speed was 49 mph

Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS)

In May 2016, the village took delivery of a Westcotec Vehicle-Activated Sign, funded with the assistance of a County Council grant from Becky Hopfensperger. The sign has been in operation ever since, rotating around three alternative operational locations, one each in South Street, Flempton Road and School Road, the Flempton location being additionally suited for bi-directional vehicle speed detection..

With current settings, the sign displays the speed of all passing vehicles exceeding 27mph and when detecting speeds of 30 mph or more will display a 'SLOW DOWN' message. Thus, this type of sign serves as a timely & effective reminder to the vast majority of responsible motorists of their current speed, though clearly there will always be a minority by whom the display will be ignored.

In addition to the sign's display, an onboard computer records the speed of each passing vehicle and the resulting data is downloaded to a hard drive, from which it is available to interested parties. The collected data does not currently include registration numbers however so in this case provides 'statistics' rather than 'quasi-judicial evidence'.

SOUTH STREET 'PER DAY' VAS RESULTS - *averaged* over the entire period April 2021 through March 2022:
Vehicle counts: 1073; *speeders over 30 mph:* 272; *speeders over 35 mph:* 39; *speeders over 40 mph:* 5; *speeders over 45 mph:* 1; *speeders over 50mph:* 1 in 4 days; *speeders over 55 mph:* 1 in 10 days; *speeders over 60 mph:* 1 in 17 days; *speeders over 65 mph:* 1 in 50 days; *speeders over 70 mph:* 1 in 100 days

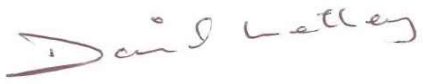
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FLEMPTON ROAD INWARD 'PER DAY' VAS RESULTS - *averaged* over the entire period April 2021 through March 2022:
Vehicle counts: 594; *speeders over 30 mph:* 106; *speeders over 35 mph:* 18; *speeders over 40 mph:* 3; *speeders over 45 mph:* 1 in 2 days; *speeders over 50mph:* 1 in 5 days; *speeders over 55 mph:* 1 in 10 days; *speeders over 60 mph:* 1 in 30 days;

FLEMPTON ROAD OUTWARD 'PER DAY' VAS RESULTS - *averaged* over the entire period April 2021 through March 2022:
Vehicle counts: 639; *speeders over 30 mph:* 166; *speeders over 35 mph:* 30; *speeders over 40 mph:* 4; *speeders over 45 mph:* 1 in 2 days; *speeders over 50mph:* 1 in 4 days; *speeders over 55 mph:* 1 in 4 days;

SCHOOL ROAD 'PER DAY' VAS RESULTS - *averaged* over the entire period April 2021 through March 2022:
Vehicle counts: 554; *speeders over 30 mph:* 118; *speeders over 35 mph:* 22; *speeders over 40 mph:* 4; *speeders over 45 mph:* 1; *speeders over 50mph:* 1 in 5 days; *speeders over 55 mph:* 1 in 17 days; *speeders over 60 mph:* 1 in 50 days; *speeders over 65 mph:* 1 in 50 days; *speeders over 70 mph:* 1 in 100 days

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David J Letley 23 April 2022