

Sway Community SpeedWatch Report for 2017

With Christmas just around the corner, Sway Community SpeedWatch have now operated their final week of surveys for 2017. We await feedback from the police on numbers of letters sent in December, but key statistics for 2017 so far are (with 2016 and some of 2015 figures in brackets):

<u>Volunteer Statistics</u>	2017	(2016)	(2015)
Total number of hours at roadside	88.8	(136.45)	(116.5)
Total volunteer hours at roadside	272.4	(376.6)	(343)
Total volunteer hours overall this year	537.9	(647.35)	(582.4)
Number volunteers at start of year	8	(11)	(13)
Number volunteers at end of year	13	(8)	(11)

<u>SID Statistics</u>			
Total vehicles surveyed	14574	(22023)	(15370)
Total law abiding drivers	9054 62%	(12563 57%)	(8055 52%)
Total speeding (>=35 mph)	1992 14%	(3876 18%)	(3152 21%)
Total high speed (>=50 mph)	13	(17)	(29)

<u>Police System Statistics</u>			
Total records submitted to Police	1298	(2322)	
Total records failing PNC checks	29	(49)	Note: final 2017 stats still to come
Total letters	1141	(2273)	ditto
Total First time letters	952	(2057)	ditto
Total Second time letters	144	(181)	ditto
Total Third or more timers	45	(35)	ditto
Total high speed (>=50 mph)	9	(10)	ditto

Despite having more volunteers in 2017 than in 2016, the number of hours at the roadside was just 65% of those in 2016. This is in part due to the restriction imposed on us by the police whereby we now must have at least 3 volunteers at each session. Previously we were permitted to operate with just two thus allowing more flexibility when drawing up the rotas.

It is encouraging to see the percentage of law abiding drivers steadily increasing by another 5% this year and the percentage of those exceeding 35 mph continuing to reduce this year by 4%. It is however deeply disappointing to see that the numbers caught 3 or more times has increased, as have those driving at excessive speeds (when the reduced number of survey hours is taken into account). This clearly demonstrates that while Community SpeedWatch is very effective at educating drivers who are minded to learn, there is a hard core of offenders for whom no amount of our gentle persuasion is going to help. The only answer in such cases is police enforcement.