

Suspension of Speedwatch in Acol

In the February report from Acol Parish Council published in the monthly Birchington magazine—written approximately one month before delivery to homes—I, as Chair of Acol Parish Council, described that the Parish Council had approved a plan formulated by KCC Highways detailing the proposed 20-mph speed limits for our village. We subsequently requested Highways to proceed to the next stage, which we understood to involve costing the scheme.

Highways responded, stating, “...part of our consultation process of a 20mph limit means that we have to consult Kent Police and Speedwatch. Having run the proposed 20mph extents for Acol past them, they have said that **based on the Speedwatch results, they would not support the scheme.**”

As the Speedwatch Coordinator for Acol over the past eight years, I am disheartened that it seems our participation, as the only Thanet village involved in the Speedwatch scheme, has put us at a disadvantage in achieving our community's long-standing and widely supported goal of implementing a 20-mph speed limit through Acol. Consequently, I have decided to suspend our involvement in the Speedwatch scheme pending a thorough review of its objectives, policies, management, and utilization of the data we provide.

I will present my actions to the Acol Parish Council for consideration at its next formal meeting on Thursday, 20th February. Further updates will be reported in a subsequent "News from Acol Parish Council" article in the Birchington magazine.

Richard Steel
Acol Speedwatch Coordinator