CSW Report to the Annual Parish Meeting April 2019

I would like to start by thanking Louisa Oldfield who retired from the leadership of the CSW team when she moved from the village in December. Our grateful thanks to her for getting us up and running. Julia Cook and I have now taken over as joint leaders. Thank you also to the Chippenham Police officers who support our efforts either by joining us road side or doing extra speed watch patrols when we are not available. On one memorable occasion they reported 6 drivers to court for excessive speeding and confiscated a car as the driver did not have an appropriate licence.

The team has the speed gun for 2 weeks in every 5, the number of sessions we can complete is dependent on the availability of volunteers, the weather and hours of daylight. Since our report last April teams of 2 or 3 members have been roadside for a total of more than 80 hours and have registered 27,517 vehicles passing through the village. There were 1274 travelling at 36+mph, including 240 vehicles at 40+ and 41 at 45+. The maximum recorded speed was 62 mph up Plough Hill. As a rough average about 280 cars pass through the village in 1 hour on a weekday, during our March session with the B4122 closure and drivers ignoring the diversion route there has been an average of 440 cars per hour resulting in long tail backs at the Plough Lane lights and vehicles travelling at speed along Days Lane. However, it has resulted in a very welcome reduction in speed on Plough Hill with only 49 cars travelling at 36+, 9 of them travelling at 40+ and none at 45+

During the year several members of the original team have had to withdraw but we are pleased to say we have 3 new volunteers bringing our total to 10. We would still welcome more volunteers as the more members we have the less onerous it becomes for individuals. Training has been simplified and is now completed on line with a short roadside session to explain how to use the speed gun. Even if you can only spare half an hour occasionally it all helps, so please contact either Julia or me if you are interested.

In December, members of the Parish Council and Speed Watch team met with Martin Rose, the highways engineer, to find a more permanent solution to the traffic speeding through the village. At their January meeting the Parish Council decided to apply to the Chippenham Area Transport Group (CATG) of Wiltshire Council for a 20 mph speed limit in the village, from the S bends at the Western end of the common all the way to the junction of Church Road and the B4122, as recommended by Martin and as requested in the CSW report to this meeting in 2018. The Parish Council have also requested “Pedestrians in the Road” signs to be erected in Church Road.