

Great Ellingham Parish Council Community Speedwatch Team

Report for the 2026 Great Ellingham Annual Parish Meeting;-

The Speedwatch Team have continued to operate around the Village over the past 12 months. We strive to carry out 4 x 1 hour long sessions per month, but on some occasions – due to the personal commitments of team members, this reduces to 2 or 3 sessions.

Unfortunately, due to increased care needs of an elderly relative, we lost 2 of our regular members in August 2025. We will also be losing a 3rd member (due to advancing years) at the end of 2026. This will mean that we will be down to just 6 members for the start of 2027. We have advertised via the Village Facebook page for more members, and whilst we get many comments of support, nobody has so far volunteered their help. The job is not onerous, and training in accordance with the Norfolk Police Community Safety Guidance can be provided “on the job” by the Team Co-ordinator. We would very much welcome the support and help of the Parish Councillors in encouraging more people to volunteer. All we ask is for people to help for a maximum of 2 hours per month please. During the summer months our sessions are held between 08:00hrs and 09:00hrs, and 15:00hrs to 16:00hrs (these hours vary slightly during the winter months due to the reduced daylight), and we cancel sessions if the weather turns inclement.

Over the last 12 months over 350 drivers have been reported back to Norfolk Police HQ by the Team. These have all received “Cautionary Letters” advising them of the hazard that they present to other road users, pedestrians, and indeed to themselves. Drivers who are observed to speed at 50mph (in a 30mph zone) or above by the Team automatically receive a visit from the Police, this was the case for 11 of the total drivers over the last year. 18 of the drivers reported also received Police visits due to them not having either current Road Tax or MOT.

There are always doubters who question the usefulness of Speedwatch Teams, but at the Annual Speedwatch Team Event held by Norfolk Police in November 2025, it was shown that throughout England slightly less than 5% of drivers who received a first ‘Cautionary Letter’, actually repeated and received a second Letter. This simple statistic clearly illustrates the effect and usefulness that Speedwatch Teams actually have.

The data collected by our Speedwatch Sessions, and the data gathered from the two Speed Monitors that operate around the Village, is also used by Norfolk Police to determine where to deploy their Mobile Enforcement Teams. As a result of the high numbers that we submit, the Village receives between 2 and 3 visits per month. These visits have resulted in 294 drivers receiving fines and points on their Licences over the last 12 months.

Peter Joyce

Speedwatch Team Co-ordinator

10th April 2026