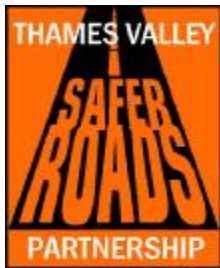


STATEMENT



Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership

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From	Dan Campsall
Release	Immediate
Reference	TVSRP_MarHill
Date	Thursday, 25 August 2005

Speed Enforcement at Marlow Hill

Speed enforcement will continue on Marlow Hill and other sites in High Wycombe in a drive to reduce the numbers of people killed or injured on roads in the town.

In the last three years 33 people have died and more than 2,000 have been injured on roads in High Wycombe. 14,000 drivers were caught speeding through High Wycombe in the last year.

The mobile camera site on Marlow Hill, a main road into the town centre, is a site for speed enforcement because it is a proven black spot. In the three years before that camera site was installed (24/03/1999 to 24/03/2002) there were 20 crashes, one quarter of which were caused by speed. In the three years after it was installed there were 12 crashes, and only 1 in 6 were caused by speeding traffic; a reduction of 40 per cent.

Malcolm Collis, manager of Roads Policing Specialist Units, said: "Cameras are put in places where speed has caused serious collisions. This particular spot in High Wycombe has been proved to be dangerous and many children and pedestrians use the road to get to Wycombe General Hospital, Wycombe Abbey School or the bus stop, a main collecting point for school children. Drivers who choose to break the speed limit risk killing or injuring other road-users or pedestrians. We will do everything we can to get the speed message through to drivers that speed limits are there for a reason. We will also continue to be vigilant targeting other offences that jeopardise lives such as not wearing seatbelts and driving while using a hand-held mobile phone"

Speed fine money goes direct to the government. Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership then bids for funding to pay for the costs of enforcement e.g the officer, the camera van, the film and the processing costs. No profit is made.

Further details from:

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Thames Valley Safety Partnership members :-

Thames Valley Police : Oxfordshire County Council : Buckinghamshire County Council : Milton Keynes Council : Slough Borough Council : Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead : Bracknell Forest Borough Council : Wokingham District Council : Reading Borough Council : West Berkshire Council : Thames Valley Magistrates Courts Services : Crown Prosecution Service :
The Highways Agency

Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership is determined to reduce the numbers of people who are killed or injured by speeding drivers. This includes educating drivers about the dangers of speed. For instance some drivers caught speeding are offered a speed awareness course as an alternative to a fine and points on their licences. This is run in partnership with DriveTech UK.

The option for speeders caught just over the speed limit is a three-hour interactive course that costs £71. The alternative is a £60 fixed penalty fine and three points on your licence.

Mr Collis, said: "It is clear from the feedback from people who have been on the course that the speed awareness scheme is changing the attitude and behaviour of drivers towards speed, especially in urban areas where the most serious collisions occur."

Speed is the single biggest cause of road deaths. In 2003 more than 1,365 people were killed or seriously injured in Thames Valley and although in 2004 that number dropped to 1,260, some of these deaths and serious injuries could have been prevented if drivers were not speeding.

Nearly 90 per cent of motorists caught speeding and given the option to go on a speed awareness course are taking up the opportunity.

Notes to Editors:

For further information contact Dan Campsall or Becky Thornton at the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership on 01295 731810.

The number of offences in High Wycombe were recorded between August 2004 & July 2005.

The number of collisions in High Wycombe occurred during calendar years 2002, 03 & 04.

Information about qualifying for the Speed Awareness Scheme

- The option for speeders caught just over the speed limit is a three-hour interactive course that costs £71 including VAT. The alternative is a £60 fixed penalty fine and three points on your licence.
- People caught at higher speeds may also have the option a fixed penalty fine of £60, three penalty points added to their driving licence and a five-hour interactive course. This includes a two hour on-the-road session with a trainer and costs £91 including VAT. The alternative is the possibility of a court summons, a fine of up to £1,000, six penalty points and depending on the speed, a driving ban.
- There is no guarantee that drivers will be given the option of attending the courses. There are criteria that the driver needs to meet, for example, the driver cannot have attended a course within the last three years. In extreme cases of excessive speed motorists will be given no alternative, they will be sent to court.

DriveTech (UK) can be contacted at enquiries@drivetech.co.uk, telephone 01344 467881 or via its website at www.drivetech.co.uk

For further information contact:
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