

## **Langton Green Speedwatch Coordinator – response to resident letter**

Our session was quite 'busy' on that Tuesday morning, with some 68 cars being recorded as speeding on the approach to All Saints' Church out of a total of 261 over a period of about one hour and 40 minutes (so 26.1% of all vehicles). Out of these 68 cars, 24 registered owners would have received a letter from Kent Police due to either being a speeding 'second offender' or a 'fast offender' – someone doing at least 50% over the speed limit (i.e 45 mph or more), or both. Looking at the results in more detail, there were 24 cars recorded as doing 40 mph or more, with the fastest offender in this session driving at 53 mph.

At the time we were operating, the grass and weeds at the edge of the Green by the white fence were a bit long, although they only came up to mostly our knees or in some places our thighs. However, this grass wasn't tall or thick enough for any adult to "hide behind." In addition, both adults had fluorescent high-viz jackets on, as is required by Kent Police. This makes it impossible, of course, for us not to stand out.

As regards not being on the pavement, the place where we stand on the Green is the official Police approved and designated spot, so that's why we position ourselves there. This is also safer for us as we can move further onto the Green without hindrance if we have to quickly move, for whatever reason. Standing on the pavement just before the bus stop would not be allowed as the pavement is not wide enough to host a large tripod and two to three adults. Pedestrians would virtually be forced into the road when passing us by, which is not safe - especially when you consider the speed of some of the cars driving past, as the stats above clearly show.

Lastly, to answer the point about drivers being forced to brake abruptly on spotting the Speedwatch team: there is no need to brake hard when seeing Speedwatch volunteers if you are not speeding through the village in the first place. The 30mph road signs are clear, along with the white gateways, at each end of the village. Also, Speedwatch signs were added in various places throughout the village by Kent Police several months ago.