

Q - What is the ANPR trial ?

A - The ANPR trial is being carried out to test whether automatic number plate recognition in conjunction with speed detection can be used to identify speeding vehicles. Spexhall have been using Speed Indicator Devices for many months but these have not been able to identify vehicles.

Q - What is the purpose of the trial ?

A - The purpose of the trial is to establish the effectiveness of the system over a 3 month period which will be long enough to gather sufficient data and knowledge before deciding on any longer term use within Suffolk. Key measures include the traffic speed reduction required by Spexhall residents and a full understanding of the costs involved - especially in police time.

Q - What does it involve ?

A - The system operates along similar lines to the well established Community Speed Watch scheme which has operated here in Suffolk since 2009. However, this system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and uses high definition cameras to monitor road traffic. As vehicles pass by, the speed and number plate are recorded along with the date and time. Captured data is periodically collected for processing to identify repeat offenders. A list of the worst repeat offenders are passed to the local Police SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) for them to issue warning letters highlighting the need for a change in driving behaviour. After two warning letters (or sooner), drivers can expect to be visited by the police. If further speeding takes place then the vehicle driver will be referred to the police Speed Enforcement team for action.

Q - Who is involved ?

A - The trial is a joint project between Spexhall Parish Council and the Local Police team in Halesworth. The project was approved by the Suffolk Road Safety Board and has the full backing of the Suffolk Chief Constable and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

Q - What happens if I am exceeding the speed limit, is it an automatic fine ?

A - No. The system is operating in partnership with Suffolk Constabulary and is in use to identify vehicles which repeatedly exceed the speed limit. The data is used by the police to communicate directly with drivers and promote a change in driving behaviour.

Q - What happens at the end of the trial period ?

A - Spexhall Parish Council are committed to making our roads as safe as possible for both vehicle drivers and village residents alike. We have seen through our use of speed indicator devices that they are only effective if in continuous use. The same would apply to ANPR cameras, so we shall be planning for their continuous use to monitor the speed of traffic and for repeat offenders to continue to be reported to the local police.

Q - What data is collected ?

A - The cameras collect images, average speed, date, time and vehicle registration number.

Q- What is the frequency of data being passed to the police ?

A- During the trial period, processed data is passed to the police on a weekly basis.

Q - How long is captured data retained ?

Processed data is retained for a maximum of 2 years. Images are retained for 28 days. The system is operating in accordance with guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). This applies the Protection of Freedoms Act (FOFA) and the wider obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).

Q - Does the system identify vehicle owner/driver ?

A - No. The system has no means of identifying the vehicle owner/driver . This will always remain a police function.

Q - Can I obtain my data ?

A - Yes. You are allowed under section 7 of the DPA to have access to your personal data. The mechanism used is called a Subject Access Request (SAR). A small charge will be made for each request.