



Shakespeare Business Centre
245a Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8RR

info@roadpeace.org
www.roadpeace.org
Tel: 020 7733 1603

March 31 2011

The inevitable and welcome return of speed cameras

RoadPeace welcomes the inevitable return of speed cameras.

Evidence has won out over ideology. The Conservatives were the only mainstream political party to campaign in the run-up to the General Election on an anti-speed camera platform. Despite their commitment to localism, it is worth noting that we do not know of any local community, anywhere in the UK, that has asked for cameras to be turned off.

Oxfordshire's shrewd move to keep the cameras rolling has had a welcome outcome: data collected after the cameras were 'turned off', but still recording speeds, showed that drivers soon returned to their bad habits of breaking the speed limit without the deterrence of cameras.

That Oxfordshire is turning its speed cameras back on will be no surprise to those of us who know how effective they are in slowing down drivers. RoadPeace was one of many that thought they should never have been turned off in the first place.

This experience can now be added to the wealth of evidence of the effectiveness of speed cameras, including the Cochrane Collaboration review (November 2010).

If not cameras, then who or what is going to enforce slower speeds on our roads. Cameras were previously responsible for over 80% of speed enforcement. Traffic police were never going to be able to compensate for their loss, and especially not now as they face their own cuts.

Much in our culture promotes and glorifies speed. Speed awareness courses are needed to tackle this. Evaluation will show if they are effective, and if they do work the police will have more than earned their £20 participant fee.

On the day that we learn Avon and Somerset are turning their cameras off, we are calling on all other local authorities to follow the example of Oxfordshire, and keep the cameras rolling to record the evidence of the inevitable rise in speeding, even if they can not process the fines.

The Oxfordshire experience shows that the return of the speed camera is inevitable, and it is only a matter of time before others follow. But how many more people will be needlessly killed or seriously injured before this happens?

Background

For further information contact:

RoadPeace

Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director:

020 7733 1603 during office hours

07905 847917 outside office hours

Notes for journalists:

RoadPeace

RoadPeace is an independent national charity, providing emotional and practical support, and advocacy to those affected by road crashes; as well as campaigning for justice for road crash victims and for road danger reduction, with a focus on reducing the volume, speed and dominance of motorised traffic and promoting cycling and walking.

RoadPeace was a winner of the Guardian Charity Award in 2008:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/video/2008/dec/04/guardian-charity-awards-roadpeace>

Road danger reduction

RoadPeace was founded in 1993 on the principle of road danger reduction. (RDR) focuses on making the road environment less dangerous by tackling danger at source through reducing the speed, volume and dominance of motorised traffic. It also takes into account the other negative consequences of inappropriate and excessive motor vehicle use such as fear and intimidation, environmental impact and public health issues. RDR differs from traditional road safety in that it adopts a wider approach that considers not only the quantity of death and injury by crashes, but also the effects of excessive and inappropriate motor vehicle use on the quality of life and the environment. It places a greater duty of care on those that pose the greater threat and argues for danger to be controlled at source.