HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

# Community Speed Watch: Results, September–October 2026

Report to the Parish Council meeting of 28 October 2026 | Lead Councillor: Cllr Billie Minshall

## 1. Purpose

This report summarises the results of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions held in Helmdon between 21 September and 14 October 2026. Volunteers, co-ordinated by Cllr Billie Minshall, carried out eight one-hour sessions at three locations within the village's 30 mph limit.

| 8 | 158 | 1 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| one-hour sessions | vehicles counted | over 30 mph (31–34 mph) | at 35 mph or more |

## 2. Sessions held

Each session lasted one hour. Traffic in both directions was monitored at Church Street (No. 52) and Shortlands Close; at Opp. Bell Close one direction only (South) was monitored. The chart shows how many vehicles were counted at each session, grouped by location.

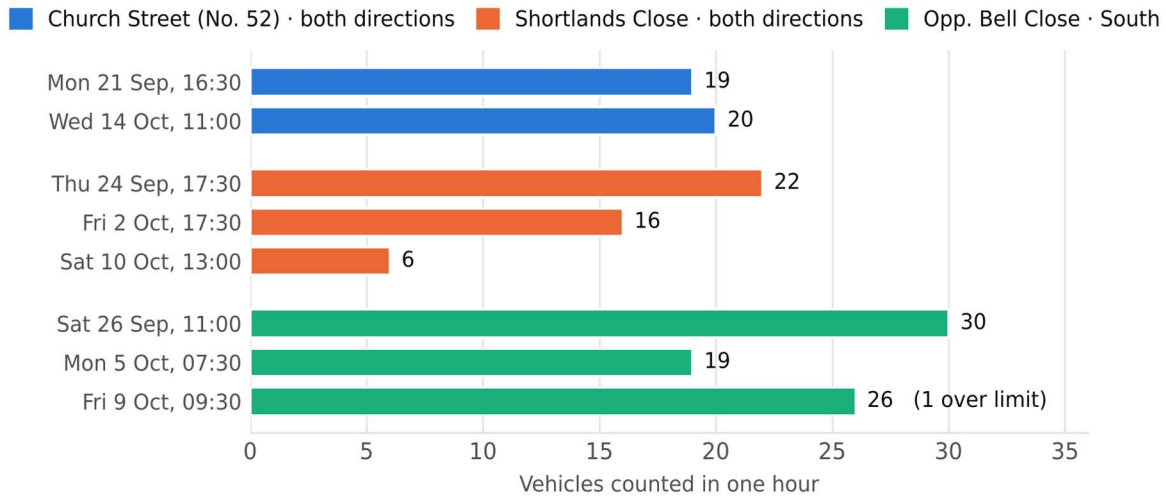



*Figure 1: Vehicles counted per one-hour session, by location and start time.*

## 3. Results by location

| Location | Direction | Sessions | Vehicles | Average per hour | 31–34 mph | 35 mph + |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Church Street (No. 52) | Both | 2 | 39 | 19.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Shortlands Close | Both | 3 | 44 | 14.7 | 0 | 0 |
| Opp. Bell Close | South | 3 | 75 | 25.0 | 1 | 0 |
| **All sites** | | **8** | **158** | **19.8** | **1** | **0** |




*157 of 158 within the limit*

- **Very high compliance.** 157 of the 158 vehicles checked (99.4%) were travelling at or below the 30 mph limit.
- **One vehicle over the limit.** A single vehicle was recorded at 31–34 mph, opp. Bell Close on Friday 9 October (09:30–10:30). No vehicle at any site reached 35 mph or more.
- **Traffic is light.** 6 to 30 vehicles an hour. Opp. Bell Close was busiest (average 25 an hour, one direction only); Shortlands Close was quietest.
- **No speeding hotspot** is evident from these sessions.

## 4. Points to bear in mind

- The results cover eight hours of daytime monitoring (07:30–18:30), so they give a snapshot rather than a full picture; late-evening and night-time traffic was not monitored.
- Drivers who notice a visible Speed Watch team often slow down, so the results show how traffic behaves while being watched. That deterrent effect is itself one of the aims of CSW.
- Church Street and Shortlands Close figures include traffic in both directions, whereas Opp. Bell Close counted one direction only, so vehicle numbers are not directly comparable between sites.

## 5. Recommendations

The Council is asked to:

a) note the results of the Community Speed Watch sessions;

b) record its thanks to Cllr Billie Minshall for organising the sessions and to the volunteers who gave their time; and

c) consider whether to continue CSW sessions, including at busier times (such as the school run and evening commute) and at any further locations where residents have raised concerns.

**Data note:** Figures are taken from the CSW recording sheet. Percentages are of vehicles counted.