

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Arrive Alive enforces 30 limit on 40 mph limited section of the B4391 at Bala

Press Release issued on behalf of **Superintendent Simon Shaw**, North Wales Police: 5/09/09

On 1st March 2009 Arrive Alive commenced targeted speed enforcement operations on a short stretch of the B4391 at Bala which had been identified as a **Community Concern Site** (Arrive Alive, renamed GoSafe/GanBwyll, is now part of the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership as of 1st April this year).

At that time it was believed that the speed limit in force was 30mph following a revision by Gwynedd County Council in 1993 of the Traffic order which had previously designated that stretch of the B4391 as a 40mph limit. The stretch of road in question is from the junction of the A494 to some 830 metres south just after the junction of a side road to the Industrial Estate.

Following an inquiry by a member of the public, Gwynedd County Council carried out a review of the relevant road traffic order and discovered that the original road traffic order had not been revoked. Consequently, despite a system of street lighting properly reflecting a 30mph speed limit the section of the road was still in fact the subject of a 40mph speed restriction.

In August 2009 Gwynedd County Council passed on its concerns to the North Wales Police and the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership (Arrive Alive) and speed enforcement was immediately suspended in the area.

Approximately 300 drivers were captured on camera by the Arrive Alive unit, on that stretch of road, travelling in excess of 30mph between 1st March and 31st July 2009. Given that the original order had not been revoked by the Council there was no basis to proceed with the enforcement of any traffic offences.

Accordingly North Wales Police have today written to the drivers involved in order to rectify the situation.

North Wales Police are also investigating the legality of a very small number of other alleged speeding offences on this stretch of road where drivers were stopped and dealt with by Roads Policing officers in the last 5 years.

Gwynedd County Council have been advised of the Partnership decision and are taking steps to rectify the situation.

The individuals concerned will be contacted further in writing in the near future advising them of any action which may be necessary.

North Wales Police have requested that members of the public refrain from contacting them on the general telephone line. Those affected will be advised of the relevant contact details.

The PPP comments ... we compliment Supt. Shaw on his 'prompt' and correct response to a not uncommon error by the zealous operatives in Arrive Alive (or what ever grandiose title they have adopted). Many of the 300 plus drivers will have been decent law abiding citizens and will have been traumatised by the fine and points or even lost their licences or worse. Previously Arrive Alive in similar circumstances would have avoided, by any means, recompensing drivers. Queensferry roadworks, Clynog Fawr and Llandygai Bangor being typical incidents involving the abuse of 1000s of drivers.

Did the inquiry by the individual involve them risking going to court and receiving the usual threats from Arrive Alive about massive fines etc.

What we are always concerned about is the laissez faire attitude towards speed limit changes & enforcement which all the participants/partners in the unholy alliance know will cause such incidents. Most drivers, familiar with their local roads, tend to drive at the speed they deem to be reasonable and safe for the section and conditions. Driver behaviour cannot be controlled minutely by safer roads officers dabbling with limits and speed traps and littering the road's surfaces and verges with a myriad signs.

The BBC covers the story at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8344840.stm>