

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Driver who flashed headlights to warn fellow motorists of speed trap hauled to court and fined for 'obstructing police'

Daily Mail on 4th January 2011

A driver who flashed his headlights at oncoming motorists to warn them of a police speed trap has been left with a **£440 court bill for 'obstructing police'**.

Michael Thompson thought it was his 'civic duty' to warn other drivers coming in the opposite direction of the police speed trap - but magistrates took a very dim view of his actions.

The 64-year-old was charged and brought to court for wilfully obstructing a policeman in the course of his duty at taxpayers' expense.



Flash happy: Driver Michael Thompson, 64, thought it was his 'civic duty' to warn approaching drivers on the A46 in Grimsby that police traffic officers were ahead

Lawyers and police officers said it was 'ridiculous' bringing the case to court. One solicitor - who didn't want to be named - 'He should be given a medal.'

The trial, which took more than a morning of court time, cost the Crown Prosecution Service at least £250 to bring - and three police officers involved in the case were at court for much of that time, waiting to give evidence.

Even police officers at court privately questioned the decision to pursue the case to a prosecution - and admitted that members of the public overwhelmingly believed that valuable police time should be given to catching burglars and victims of more serious crime.

The trial heard that Thompson was driving through Grimsby heading westbound out of town on to the A46 dual carriageway when he spotted a police speed trap.

He flashed his headlights about seven times to warn oncoming drivers that traffic officers were lurking - but was pulled in by the police.

He claimed that, after he challenged the officers, one of them told him: *'I was going to let you off with a caution - but I'm not now.'*

Thompson told the Grimsby magistrates' court the officer told him he was 'perverting the course of justice' but he replied: *'I don't believe that's the case.'*

He branded the **policewoman** 'a Rambo character' and claimed he was acting like 'Judge Dredd' in using the law against him unnecessarily.

The defendant, from Grimsby, denied wilfully obstructing a policewoman in the execution of her duty on July 21 but was convicted after trial.

Thompson claimed he was not trying to warn vehicles that there was a speed trap but that he was anxious to avoid other vehicles having to brake sharply when they spotted the speed trap - potentially causing an accident.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1343959/Driver-flashed-headlights-warn-fellow-motorists-speed-trap-hauled-court-fined-obstructing-police.html#ixzz1A4jAUZ9S>

The PPP comments ... the magistrates, still representing the powerful against the weak and disadvantaged always side with the Police and CPS irrespective of the rights of the victim. In this case as the picture shows the Police have selected one of Brunstrom's infamous 'casualty reduction' sites. Where the only criteria is a clear view for the camera along a section of road that looks and is safe at a speed above the posted limit. Usually the limit has been tampered with to ensure this is so like 95% of the sites in North Wales. Their disingenuous and now less repeated claim that they only want to PREVENT speeding was abandoned in this case as revenue was falling.