

THE PRESS COMMENT

Right to keep an eye on speed

A CERTAIN kind of motorist likes to grumble that speed cameras amount to little more than another tax on motorists, and a handy source of revenue for the police. Officers would be better off chasing real criminals than persecuting ordinary citizens, goes the argument.

The reality is that speeding kills. Far from it being a waste of their time, the police have a duty to ensure motorists abide by the laws of the road, and drive safely.

We have never been really convinced by fixed speed cameras - and we still aren't. One of the problems with fixed cameras is that motorists quickly get to know where they are. So they amend their behaviour as they pass the camera - then go their merry, speeding way afterwards.

That doesn't happen with mobile cameras, however. Would-be speedsters can never be sure where they are.

So we welcome the fact that police in North Yorkshire are now trialling a mobile camera van.

They say it will enable them to target more than 100 identified speeding hotspots - and are confident the van will help drive down deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

If it can do that, we should all be grateful.