

Notes on the Process for obtaining speed indicator devices (SID's) within the Parish

This is an amended report that was first presented to the Parish Council in July 2022

Somerset County Council used to inform Parish Councils on the type and style of the SID but they are quite flexible, although they do prefer the ones that indicate speed.

Locations do need to be approved first. It was recommended to download the app "What Three Words" and send the three words to Traffic Management as it gives a much better accurate location.

The SID requires a suitable post, existing posts can be used but they tend to be quite short. If there are no suitable posts, one has to be installed at a cost of about £190 per post. If there are existing posts, extension pieces can be purchased for about £75.00

Ashwick Parish Council would need to look at possible locations, each side of the road can be used with the SID pointing in different directions, this gives more flexibility and the SID spending less time in storage.

There are various options, prices and companies that produce SID's – this would need to be looked into if the Parish Council decided to go down this route. Prices are about £2,500.00

A Community Speed Watch Team is also recommended so it could tie in with all the data collected.

SID's can be shared with neighbouring Parish Council as SID's can only be in one location for 14 days before being moved. Informal agreements can be drawn up.

Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust provide grants for SID's, grants are issued quarterly and are applied for online. All costs can be applied for.

The difficult part is obtaining Chapter 8 Training as this is a must for people who are moving the SID from location to location. Volunteers can move the SID (not necessarily Councillors) but training is required. Chapter 8 does cover all aspects of work on the Highways but the volunteers would only be replacing the battery and hanging the SID on the post. I have been warned that a lot of the course is not required, it is quite easy, the questions are multiple choice and the answers are fairly obvious. The cost is about £300 per person, it would be advisable having a couple of people with the qualification.

An agreement also needs to be signed with Somerset County Council; copy attached.

Information from Somerset Council Website concerning Vehicle activated warning signs

Speed warning signs, or vehicle activated signs, are signs with an electronic display. They show speed or an approaching hazard and may have an accompanying message.

There are two types of vehicles activated warning signs:

- signs that warn of an approaching hazard, such as bends or junctions, designed to encourage drivers to approach at a safe speed
- signs that encourage drivers to comply with the speed limits through villages and urban areas. This type of vehicle activated sign is normally called a speed indicator device, and can either be temporary or permanent.

The display on speed warning signs is activated when a vehicle has been detected travelling at more than the speed limit set within the sign. They can be used to address problems of inappropriate speed where conventional signing has proved to be ineffective.

It is important that traffic is controlled and managed in a consistent and defensible way that also promotes the very best guidance and good practice around road safety. We identify vehicle activated sign's locations by using information about the history of speed related injury accidents and inappropriate speed.

Permanent vehicle activated signs will only be considered and funded as part of a road safety scheme where there is evidence of an injury collision problem associated with inappropriate speed that has not been resolved by standard signing, lining, or other appropriate action.

Portable temporary speed indicator devices are used at sites that do not meet the requirements for a permanent vehicle activated signs, but where there is evidence of personal injury collision or an inappropriate speed problem.

Parish or town councils that wish to be considered for speed indicator device sites should contact us. We will work with the councils to assess whether a speed indicator device would be appropriate and help them plan for buying one.

Acceptance depends on the location meeting our policy criteria around speeds and collisions. It must be in a 20mph, 30mph or 40mph speed limit. Contact us for more information about the latest speed indicator device guidance.