

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

Somerset Traffic Management were contacted with the possible locations for the SID's within the village, they will have a look and update me on whether the sites are approved or not.

They also suggested speaking to Baltonsborough Parish Council as they have recently gone through the process, below are my notes from a conversation with the Parish Councillor who helped organise their SID.

I assumed Somerset County Council Informed Parish Councils on the type and style of the SID but they are actually quite flexible, although they do prefer the one 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 and extension piece can be purchased for about £75.00.

Baltonsborough have eight locations and eight posts, although all posts need to be installed before the SID can start going up, they are still waiting for one to be installed so their SID is currently in storage.

Westbury Sub Mendip can possibly have four locations, although only two locations were put forward, each side of the road can be used with the SID pointing in different directions. Baltonsborough have set theirs up like this so giving eight locations so more flexibility and the SID spending less time in storage. Unclassified roads can be included as all the roads within Baltonsborough are unclassified

At the moment there is a 10-week lead time on producing SIDS as they are produced to order.

There are different options, prices and companies that produce SIDS, although they obtained quotes from Westcotex, T W M Traffic Control, they decided to purchase one from Swarco for about £2,500.00. The deciding factor was within one of the functions was a free blue tooth data download, this showed when the problems were occurring, days of the week, hours, etc.

He also recommended setting up a community speed watch team so it could tie in with all the data collected.

They paid extra for an extra battery, so one could be in use whilst another one was charging and extra clips.

Baltonsborough are sharing their SID with Butleigh and recommended sharing one with neighbouring parish councils as they can only be one location for a period of 14 days before being moved. They drew up an agreement which I have been sent a copy of, this is quite informal and it clarifies how it would operate in the future.

Baltonsborough applied for funding from the Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust, they issue grants quarterly and applications are made online. They applied in May and received the money in August this year. The Police Community Trust quite liked the idea that the SID would be shared and rotated around the area. 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. He suggested speaking to carnival members as several of them have it and maybe setting up an agreement where a donation is given to the Carnival club. Volunteers in the village could obtain it but the 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, they need pre-warning about the course as a lot of it will not be needed. The course itself is quite easy, the questions are multiple choice and the answers are fairly obvious.

They are currently trying to find out if the qualification is valid for five years (as it used to be) or only six months with the course being run in two parts. This needs to be clarified before booking the course.

Baltonsborough have taken delivery of their SID but are waiting for posts to be installed and volunteers to carry out the Chapter 8 training.

The whole process has taken about a year and it is still ongoing.