

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Roads, Footpaths and Commons 21/09/2021

Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) and Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Agenda item 21/ 17 1: To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch programme and RESOLVE:

- a. the additional spend of £625.00 for the MiniSID.**
- b. to proceed with seeking WBC approval of appropriate sites for use with the MiniSID.**

Background

At the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting held on the 29th April 2021, the following was minuted:

4. ANPR/SID

a. To receive an update and consider and agree future actions.

Cllr. Wells reported that Westcotec Limited had offered an alternative device to meet new police specifications for use with Speedwatch and would refund £2,000 to the Parish Council for the original ANPR equipment that had been returned to Westcotec. The new Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) did not require a Speed Indicator Device (SID) system as it was intended to only monitor speeds for Speedwatch.

It was noted the licence signed with West Berkshire Council would need to be amended slightly to cover the change of the specification and in accordance with Thames Valley Police policies.

Cllr. Lewis proposed to proceed to purchase the ASWC subject to confirmation from Thames Valley Police that they will take the data.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

RESOLVED with one abstention.

Cllr. Lewis and the Clerk will write to West Berkshire Council to clarify new specifications of ASWC comply with the grant and licence. Post meeting note: it was subsequently decided to write to Thames Valley Police in advance of correspondence with WBC.

On the issue of the SID machine, Cllr. Lewis proposed we approach Westcotec to provide a stand-alone SID machine to comply with their original contract

requirements and if the cost comes to less than the £2,000 refund then the Clerk has the authority to place an order.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett.

RESOLVED by a majority with one abstention and one against.

b. To resolve the purchase of a computer for use with the ANPR/SID equipment up to a budget of £1,000.00.

Not required as laptop integrated with the ASWC.

Update Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Contact was made with Inspector Hawkett, Thames Valley Police (TVP), to establish how the alternative ASWC would integrate with police policies and procedures for CSW purposes. As a result of the email to Inspector Hawkett, PC Lee Turnham phoned, and regular call updates have been held with him.

Since April 2021, PC Turnham has been overseeing a CSW pilot study. Further to the success of the pilot study, which finished at the end of August, it has been confirmed that the new CSW platform will be rolled out in the Thames Valley area over the next 3 months, gradually bringing all interested parties on board. The ethos of the new platform is that Community Speedwatch is driven by the community for the community and consequently, TVP envisage members of the public being involved as well as parish councils.

Aspects of the new CSW platform are:

- TVP will provide some form of training with regards to GDPR and relevant policies. The training of operatives to use the equipment will be down to those that own it.
- Based on the training provided by TVP, operatives will identify potential CSW locations. These will be certified for use by PC Turnham.
- Once certified, Speedwatch sessions can be booked on the CSW system. At the end of a session, captured data will be uploaded to the system by the operative and where needed, letters will be sent out automatically. Relevant images are captured onto an SD card, negating the need for a separate laptop.
- An “CSW adhoc” option will also be available. If a certified location is unavailable for a booked session, e.g. roadworks at that location, then operatives will be able to move to an alternative certified spot.
- If the data proves a particular location to be a speeding hotspot, then the Neighbourhood Policing Team will be deployed to enforce speeding fines. If speeding continues to be an issue, the Road Policing Teams will be deployed. If the speeding issue remains unresolved, the evidence collected will be used to support further preventative measures to be taken in that area i.e. traffic calming.
- TVP will provide £50m public liability insurance, free of charge, for all Speedwatch operatives.

To be approved by TVP for CSW purposes, the Westcotec ASWC must be used on a tripod, manned by at least 2 operatives and must NOT be bright yellow in colour. TVP’s cameras are likely to be in dark green or black.

SID

From the previous meeting, it was agreed to obtain a stand-alone SID machine as per the original order placed with Westcotec. If the cost came to less than the £2,000 refund, the clerk was authorised to place the order.

The original order was for a portable MiniSID, which would have been integrated with the colour ANPR system. As per document 1.1 - Westcotec Quote SID, the cost of the Portable MiniSID is £2,625.00 + VAT. Therefore, an additional £625 is needed to purchase the MiniSID.

The total price of £2,625 + VAT includes 4 additional bracket sets. Lithium batteries are not included.

The current lead time for the ASWC and MiniSID is 6 – 8 weeks. However, this may change depending on the availability of components.

WBC Licence and Members' Bid

Any parish council using their own equipment to address speeding issues in their communities requires formal approval from WBC. This includes complying with Policy and Guidance on TME, obtaining approval for sites used and entering into a sealed Licence agreement with WBC.

The Policy and Guidance is part of WBC's Speed Management Framework consultation paper and is still in draft format. It is hoped that the Speed Management Framework will be finalised and approved by management by the end of the year.

At its meeting in April 2021, with regards to the original SMPC order for the integrated MiniSID and ANPR, Full Council resolved that a Licence be executed in accordance with Standing Order 23. a. This has not yet been done as it was not clear what the implications were with swapping the ANPR for the ASWC.

WBC have now confirmed that if SMPC are running CSW via the Police platform then the ASWC will be covered by TVP's protocols. The MiniSID will need to be covered by the sealed Licence and WBC will need to approve the sites used. Document 21-017 1.2 gives an example of an approved site.

WBC have also confirmed, with regards to the Members' Bid grant that was received towards the cost of the MiniSID/ANPR, that the Members' Community Bids Panel are happy to approve a variation to the original terms of the grant and for the faulty Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment to be swapped with the updated Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC).