

Parish Council Report

Subject: Speed Indicator Device

Date: 3rd August 2021

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1. Background

In 2019 the Parish Council agreed to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be shared with Redlynch Parish Council with the support of a grant from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board. The approved device, an Evolis Radar Speed Sign, is supplied by ElanCity and the device is operated either by batteries supplied or by an electrical connection. <https://www.elancity.co.uk/evolis-radar-speed-sign/>

The delay to the purchase has been as a result of new poles needing to be installed by Wiltshire Highways at agreed sites on The Ridge in Woodfalls and an extension to the pole on the Maypole Green in The Borough. The third site is the pole adjacent to the Doctors Surgery in Moot Lane.

As 2 of the 3 poles being used to erect the SID in Downton and Redlynch do not have a connection to electricity, it was originally decided that these would be operated using batteries only. The Maypole Green pole will be connected to the existing electricity supply used to power the flashing lights for the school crossing patrol which are no longer used.

2. Battery Life & Solar Panel

Neighbouring parishes with the same devices at Alderbury and Godshill have found that the two charged batteries used in each unit operate effectively for approximately 8 days, but this is dependent on traffic flow, before they become discharged. Two further batteries are supplied to replace those discharged. However, a set of batteries would need to be changed every week while the unit was in operation with the other set needing to be re-charged.

Following discussions with Redlynch Parish Council, an alternative solution is proposed which would substantially extend the life of the batteries and this is to purchase and install a solar panel to the pole by the Doctors Surgery and the pole on The Ridge at the cost of £400 per parish (as shown by the photo below).

3. Training

When both Councils resolved to purchase the SID, the plan was to enter into a contract with an approved contractor to install and relocate the SID on a regular basis at a cost of approximately £40 per installation (as at that time Wiltshire Council regulations were that only trained operators could install/remove signs on the highway).

Since that agreement, the Redlynch Parish Clerk has found out that Wiltshire Council can now provide training for volunteers to put up SIDs which would accredit them to work on the highway for the purpose of installing SIDs. The training takes around 50 minutes, and can be completed at volunteers' own convenience.

The Redlynch Parish Clerk has also checked with their Council's insurance company that volunteers would be covered for public liability once this training has been completed, subject to the Council keeping a record of the training and the volunteers being provided with a risk assessment. So by carrying out training, the need to pay for the SID to be installed and relocated would be removed.

4. Recommendations

To consider and agree that:-

- a) The Council should purchase a solar panel for the pole at the Doctors Surgery at a cost of £400
- b) The agreement to contract the cost of installation to a qualified contractor be reconsidered and that volunteers be identified to undertake training on the installation of the SID.
- c) To recognise that volunteers will be required to be trained on SID installation and be able to charge the spare set of batteries.

Bev Cornish
Parish Clerk

