

Proposal to Purchase an Autospeed Camera

Background

There has been community concern at the speed of vehicles in certain locations in SSM

The three areas of concern are:

- Coalpit Lane
- Fosse Road/Top of Stoke Hill
- Mendip Road

All of these are within the village 30mph limit and are the three main routes in and out of the village.

Based on previous experience, we are not convinced a Community Speedwatch Group will last over time.

Requirement

Although there is a general perception that speeding is an issue, the Parish Council has no recent accurate data on the true nature and scale of the problem.

This makes it difficult to determine the appropriate response and agree a course of action with external partners such as the Highways Authority and local Police.

This in turn prevents the Parish Council from being able to reassure local residents that it understands and is looking for permanent solutions.

Therefore, we need to generate accurate data on speeding in the village (ideally at a number of key locations) and then analyse this to gain an understanding of the situation.

Proposed solution

- The Parish Council purchases two Auto Speedwatch devices.
- Three sites have been identified where cameras can be mounted on existing poles.
- This will generate the data needed, identify the true nature of the problem and demonstrate to parishioners that we are moving forward with a solution.
- It also eliminates the need for Community Speedwatch volunteers to gather data in person by the roadside.
- The devices can be fitted by members of the council and data is accessed through a web portal.
- If we can persuade the Police to also monitor our data, they can identify offenders who also speed through other local villages.
- Signage can be mounted at the entrances to the village. These may provide some deterrent to speeding.
- The signage also ensures compliance with [BSCC/ICO guidelines](#)
- The PC can use social media to raise awareness in the area.

No training is required apparently.

A few points to consider:

- This is the first step in identifying the problem.
- It is not recommended to move cameras around so if we start with two we will need to agree the preferred sites.
- Signs are not highways compliant so we may need Somerset Highways permission to mount them on the village entrance signs
- Data will be collected but this will not lead directly to prosecutions or any other direct action.
- We will need a monitor rota and declared roles to ensure the data is collected legally.
- The cameras and solar panels on top may need cleaning from time to time.
- A mobile signal is needed at the installation site (any network).
- The cameras only work in daylight and in low-light times may need to take a break to recharge.
- The cameras only record in one direction (looking at the back of cars).
- GDPR - the system is GDPR compliant. The device records the rear of vehicles to avoid faces, and people are not identified. The Police can access the keeper details of a particular vehicle if necessary and that information is not passed back to the Parish Council.

Costs

2 x Autospeedwatch Cameras V2 (has anti-tamper device) @ £580 = £1160

4 x Signs @ £32.50 = £130

2 x Large fixing bands @ £11.20 = £22.40

Total: £1312.40

Next Steps

Subject to any approvals, the Parish Council purchase two version 2 devices and enough signs to cover all major routes into SSM.

A coordinator and a number of validators are identified to access the portal and draw down the data.

Quarterly reports are then submitted to the Parish Council by the coordinator for discussion and agreement on the next steps to be taken to reduce speeding in the village and reassure the community.