

# CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



## Full Council Meeting 3 September 2020

### FC063            To consider and approve purchasing a second Speed Indicator Device (SID)

#### 1. Background

Since March 2017, we have been monitoring and recording traffic movements through the village with a Speed Indicator Device (SID). The equipment is manufactured by Westcotec Ltd. from Dereham, Norfolk and records speed and volume data of vehicles travelling through the village. This data can be represented in several ways: a) as a summary report; b) in RAW data or c) in various graphical formats. SID cannot differentiate between types of vehicle and does not have number plate recognition capability. It has become apparent that a second device of this sort would be beneficial for a number of reasons.

#### 2. Why do we need a second device?

The acquisition of a second device would enable us to do the following:

- a. Capture vehicle data in both directions concurrently, rather than sequentially. Currently if we are monitoring a particular road we can only get data for one direction at a time – having a second SID would allow us to discover **all** traffic movements during a given period rather than, say, northbound one week and southbound the next;
- b. Monitor two different locations simultaneously. So, if we wanted to measure the number of vehicles travelling west on both London Lane **and** Broad Street, we could do so;
- c. Reduce the average speed of **all** vehicles on a given road. Currently the device is visible to drivers travelling in one direction only, so those travelling in the opposite direction will potentially carry on speeding;
- d. Grow the database twice as fast. With a second device we will be able to capture twice the amount of data.

#### 3. Should we get the same device or consider a newer model?

I propose that we should purchase a device which is identical to the one that we have now. This would mean that all accessories (e.g. batteries, brackets, jubilee clips) would be interchangeable. We borrowed a slightly different model from Ansty and Staplefield PC recently and discovered that its battery was larger, and it also needed a larger bracket to install it.

#### 4. Timing

There is no specific timeframe for this acquisition – although the sooner we have it, the sooner we would be benefitting from it.

#### 5. Cost

I spoke with the Sales department at Westcotec on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August to get the current price of the device and was told that the price would be the same as we paid for our original one, which was **£2,625 + VAT**. For information, the version that Ansty and Staplefield PC owns (which displays an angry red face if someone is speeding or a smiling green face if they are within the limit) is priced at **£2,900 + VAT**.

#### 6. Optional Extra

Westcotec now offer a Bluetooth option to download data from the device. Currently the device must be taken down, brought back to the office and attached to a laptop with a serial cable to obtain the data; once connected the data can take up to 30 minutes to download. The Bluetooth facility would enable us to download the data 'on the fly' directly from the device to a tablet or smart phone without having to take it down. At £350 this added extra is not cheap, but I thought it worth mentioning for possible future consideration.

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020