

Parish Speed Indicator Device Scheme

SID

Parish Councils are often keen to address speed related issues in their local area. Therefore, we have created a scheme now used across Kent by many parishes; the Speed Indicator Device (SID) – a flexible alternative to the static electronic signs.

This arrangement is for a single SID to be used at multiple sites on fixed poles within existing 30mph zones only. It is a driver education tool but not suitable for use in 20mph areas due to the sensitivity of the radar unit. The equipment is an education tool, not suitable for enforcement action and not safety critical.



For clarity, this scheme is not affiliated with SpeedWatch which is similar but serves a different role and purpose. Active SpeedWatch sites are not necessarily suitable for the SID and each location will be assessed on an individual basis.

All SID apparatus must be procured through KCC using this agreed process, the approved sign supplier and contractor. Whilst there are several manufacturers of similar equipment, these are not authorised for use on the Kent highway network and will be removed.

Sign equipment

Each SID is battery powered and can be moved by a single person, although this may not be practicable. The sign is supplied with a spare battery and charger to allow it to be swapped when necessary. There is the option to include a data collection facility for an additional cost. Delivery time will be approximately 12 weeks from the order being placed.

Two versions are available; the Mini or the Advanced type. Battery life is dependent on traffic volume but about four weeks for the Mini SID and about one week for the Advanced version. The Mini SID is relatively lightweight with an electronic display to show actual vehicle speed above 25mph. It flashes for those above the 30mph limit and blanks at 40mph to discourage “high scores”. The Advanced sign has an identical speed display and includes a ‘SLOW DOWN’ legend beneath but is significantly heavier.

Either SID is easily transferable between locations with the correct training, although the Mini SID is recommended as a more lightweight device. There is no option for a solar powered system as this creates additional risks when moving the sign near the highway.

Each sign can be supplied with a data collection facility and appropriate download software, although this information will be indicative only and no substitute for a formal survey.

Poles and brackets

Fixed 4m posts will be installed at all locations agreed during the site visit but will leave empty poles around the parish when not in use. Each site will be assessed on an individual basis and will be at our professional discretion. There are no defined criteria, but each site should be within the highway boundary, 150m inside 30mph speed limit zones and away from existing signs, junctions or bus stops.

A minimum of three posts is required per SID, with a bracket for each, to a limit of five sites per sign in order to comply with movement requirements and retain effectiveness. For maximum effectiveness, the locations should be well distributed and not on a single corridor.

A local consultation exercise must be undertaken by the Parish Council to ensure that residents have an opportunity to comment on the scheme. Evidence of this will be required before ordering the equipment and any objections will need to be considered and the scheme re-evaluated.

Traffic management and site safety

Some post locations may require traffic management during their installation, but this must not be required for relocating the SID and will be an assessment consideration. Basic traffic management using cones/barriers is included in the price, but any extra safety measures will require a further site visit and increase the scheme cost, e.g. temporary traffic signals.

Sign relocation

In order to comply with traffic signs regulations, the sign must not remain in one location for more than two months and therefore requires regular relocation. A group of volunteers need to be responsible for the SID movement and battery charging. No lifting equipment will be needed as the poles will be in place and the SID will simply attach to the bracket.

Initial training will be given on the device setup and mounting. The use of hi-visibility vests and PPE are essential during the relocation process and the Parish Council must carry out a risk assessment for the movement of the signs including parking/access for each location.

A Memorandum of Understanding must be signed by the Parish which defines the roles and responsibilities of each party.

Maintenance

The sign has a 12-month warranty from the manufacturer, who will deal with any technical issues directly with the Parish Council. However, any initial problems can be discussed with the KCC Traffic & Network Solutions team.

Replacement batteries, new brackets or extra poles are available but should be procured via KCC to ensure compatibility. It is strongly advised that the SID is covered by Parish Council insurance, as in the event of theft or damage we are unable to provide a replacement.

Finance

Below are two examples of SID packages, although each scheme will be quoted individually based on the specific requirements – please do not use these prices for budgetary purposes:

This package includes:

- One electronic sign with a data collection facility
- Two batteries and a charger
- Galvanised poles with mounting brackets
- Post installation with minor traffic management
- Two padlocks and keys
- Site visit, land ownership check and utility surveys
- Delivery and training

Mini SID + 3 posts (recommended)



8kg SID + 4kg battery

£7,000 (excl. VAT)

Advanced SID + 5 posts



12kg SID + 12kg battery

£9,000 (excl. VAT)