

Ashendon Speedwatch

Annual Report to Ashendon PC 17/04/23

Ten months ago, A Speed Indication Device- now known as SiD was installed on Main Street in the village. Initially viewed as a speed warning sign, it soon became apparent this device was capable of sophisticated traffic analysis and offered updatable feedback in response to all passing vehicles. Furthermore it also, can be used as part of the already existing, though much lacking in volunteers, Community Speedwatch Program.

A steep learning curve ensued and a team of volunteers, consisting of Peter Johnson, Chris Pulin and Richard Phillips set about making SiD's presence felt at three different sites throughout the village. They also began analysing and making sense of the copious data SiD provides.

Regrettably, early evidence of times when almost a fifth of vehicles were speeding, with some extreme excesses, put the team to task, seeing how best to manage this problem.

In order to establish just how SiD can affect motorists' behaviour, it was decided to open up a further ability of our SiD -that of silently surveying traffic. Once a base line is established, then it is possible to see exactly what effect SiD's employment has.

Regrettably, due to a broken circuit board, SiD had to be returned to Traffic Technology in Silverstone, thence to Germany for repair work, which took over three months.

Only recently returned, and having been updated with new traffic survey software, SiD was firstly put through a series of tests and tasked to survey Pollicott Traffic. Grappling with the data that has just been obtained is not proving an easy task and the team is in touch with Traffic Technology to iron out the problems, as further temporary survey sites are brought into use, in addition to SiD's regular permanent monitoring posts.

The planned regular monthly reports of SiD's traffic monitoring on the new Ashendon Website is in hand and the fruits of the team's labours will hopefully be published there imminently.

In summary, we have only had effectively six months of experience in deploying our SiD, and but scratched the surface of using SiD to favourably affect the quality of village life. Work is very much in progress.

The team thanks The Parish Council for their support in operating this asset, which we hope will prove it's worth in years to come.

Any questions or queries or suggestions are gratefully received via the team lead, Richard Phillips, 1 Forge Close, Ashendon. 07939662040.