

Highclere Parish Council SID Purchase for the Highclere volunteer Speedwatch team.

Review Conducted by Cllr. J. Easton, April 2019.

As the new councillor with designated responsibility for Speed Reduction in the Parish of Highclere, Cllr. Easton was tasked, at the meeting of the Council on 9 April 2019, with a full review of the proposed purchase of a device to support the Highclere Speedwatch Team.

The Review

Cllr. Easton considered all the quotes from the various organisations which Cllr. Allen had collated and spoke with various suppliers to clarify the technical specifications of the devices that they supply as she wanted to establish that they had quoted for similar devices. The quotations received varied in specification.

From the correspondence reviewed, Cllr. Easton identified that Speedwatch wanted a lightweight, easily portable device and from her observations, all the units that contain a number plate recognition device (ANPR) require larger and heavier batteries to support them.

Cllr. Easton spoke to Mac Holmes of 'The Smart Group' and he has confirmed that the device quoted for does not contain an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera. Hence the unit they can provide is relatively lightweight and more portable. Mac Holmes has confirmed that the device would be supplied with a two-year warranty, and additionally as the device is manufactured 'in house' they could potentially carry out repairs if problems occur beyond the warranty period.

Cllr. Easton contacted Highclere Speedwatch who confirmed via email (30/4/19) that it was never their intention to include ANPR in any of the quotes from the various manufacturers and suppliers of SIDs. As SID signs are always carrying out developments, they may be able to retrofit an ANPR in their SIDs. The Speedwatch coordinator confirmed that the Parish Council should proceed with the purchase of a replacement SID from SID signs (Smart Group) on the assumption that the specification and features which met the CSW requirements, and as previously described by Mac Holmes of SID signs to the Parish Council, are to be provided.

This means that Speedwatch will continue to manually record number plates along with other vehicle details.

The Speedwatch coordinator had previously confirmed via email (11/4/19) that *the Highclere CSW team have confirmed their commitment to continue with Speedwatch. There are nine committed registered members of which six regularly turn out and the others when they can.*

The coordinator has agreed to continue in the co-ordinating role until this is taken up by someone else.

The Recommendation to Council

As the SID Signs device, supplied by Smart Group, is still the Speedwatch preferred choice, Cllr. Easton recommends that the Council proceed with the purchase of this unit. Following Cllr. Easton's review and her subsequent contact with SID Signs (including the provision of further information, such as contact details and, Technical Specification sheet), she is now satisfied that this supplier meets due diligence requirements.

Action: Payment to be approved at the Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2019