

WATCH OUT – SIDs ABOUT



Community Roadwatch (CRW) has been reliably informed by the Constabulary that, with immediate effect, Speedwatch Teams are permitted to use the readings from post-mounted Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs), as well as the traditional tripod mounted ones, at Speedwatch-approved locations, for educating drivers about their speed and reporting to the Police those who fail to respect the posted 20/30/40 limits for a letter or a visit with the letter. The photo shows how CRW monitors the speeds from a Bluetooth SID in real time using a 'Windows' tablet running special software and this can be from up to 50m away too!

BACKGROUND

The use of tripod mounted SIDs has been the only acceptable (to drivers and volunteers) method of operating Speedwatch and educating drivers to their speed in Cambridgeshire since before 2009. The use of SIDs is by far safer and less confrontational than having residents in hi-vis stood in harm's way at the side of the road with Speed Guns (Laser or Radar) where the driver never gets to see the speed they are accused of doing.

In 2014/15 when Speedwatch was being 'rolled out' as the 'panacea' to speeding rather than as just an element together with Police enforcement to meet the real needs of villages to combat speeding, a shortfall of constabulary 'pool' SIDs became evident. This forced villages to either share a SID with another village or buy their own dedicated Speedwatch SIDs at almost £3k a SID if anything was to be done to address speeding in their locales. Sharing proved not to be very practical and buying SIDs used up valuable village precepts.

So, in early 2017 Community Roadwatch pointed out to the Assistant Chief Constable and the Force Speedwatch Lead that SIDs on lampposts - that were being used by Community Roadwatch - had exactly the same electronics and detection / display specifications and the same effect to slow responsible drivers as the tripod mounted ones. However, in June 17, the Constabulary insisted that only tripod-mounted SIDs could be used for Speedwatch purposes even though post mounted ones had a 2-week battery life as opposed to a 10 hr one for the lighter Speedwatch ones that made them unsuitable for 24/7 post mounting. Also, post mounted SIDs avoided the footpaths from being blocked.

POST MOUNTED SIDS ARE NOW ACCEPTABLE

This recent helpful acceptance by the Constabulary of a Community Roadwatch 2017 logical idea – possibly prompted by recent press releases is most welcome. This policy change is also reportedly supported by East Cambs villages and members of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Road Safety Partnership. Consequently, we look forward to working with SID-less Parishes to allow them to enable Speedwatch using our 3 Westcotec SIDs. Finally, it is worth noting that the potential of combining Speedwatch and SIDs could be to make every post-mounted SID a deterrent because it could have a Speedwatch team associated with it.

So Watch Out .. SID's about!"

Remember SID data downloaded and collated by Community Roadwatch for Haddenham is at:

www.roadwatch.org.uk/cambs/haddenham



Community Roadwatch Director Colin Silvester instructing and supervising the Haddenham village husband and wife Team, Richard and Linda Powell, on how to install and change the batteries of their village's SID.