

Date: 01 October 2020

Title: Report Item 10 – Traffic Monitoring

By: Cllr P Seeley (Vice Chair)

Purpose: To provide an update on progress and seek approval for the next steps

Recommendations: a) To note the report
b) To approve the inclusion of £500 for purchase of Speedwatch equipment in the council budget for 2021/22
c) To approve the inclusion of £1,950 for traffic monitoring by ESCC in the council budget for 2021/22

Further to meetings held in July 2020 and reported at the August Parish Council meeting this paper sets out the work that has been undertaken since that time and seeks approval for the next steps.

The next steps are to:

1. Advertise Operation Crackdown and promote it in the village.
2. Set up a Speedwatch Group.
3. Set up speed and traffic volume monitoring on key roads within the village.

It has become evident that there is a need for data to justify any highway changes in speed, highway design and road use. The data can be used to promote changes in behaviour as well as physical change.

Operation Crackdown

Operation Crackdown enables and encourages residents to report careless, reckless and dangerous driving to the Police. This facility enables the Police and highway authorities to take steps to either address individuals driving or review speed limits and highway design via the data collected. The Parish Council will be receiving posters promoting Operation Crackdown for wider circulation and publication on the PC and Village web sites and inclusion in the Parish Magazine.

Speedwatch Group

Cllr Hill, Seeley and D.Picknell, Admin Officer, held a virtual meeting with Steve O’Connell who is the Community Speedwatch Officer (CSO) for our area on Monday 21st September.

Speedwatch in East and West Sussex operates in over 175 groups, of which 114 are Parish Councils. There are over 2,500 volunteers who participate in roadside groups. The scheme can be operated in 40mph, 30mph and 20 mph zones. This means that it can be implemented on the A259 through the village as well as the stretch of Gilberts Drive before it becomes the national speed limit.

Training is via a virtual online course and the CSO will assist on site, agreeing locations and use of the equipment etc. Equipment is provided free of charge for six months and can then be purchased for a one off charge of £500.

The CSO will also provide and install permanent highway signage regarding speeding and speed detection in the area.

We were advised that approximately 10% of drivers who receive a caution go on to reoffend having received a written warning from the Police. All communication with offenders is via the Police and the system operated in Sussex is also linked to Surrey and Kent forces and reported nationwide. A second and final warning would be issued to reoffenders and in the event of a third offence the Police visit the owner, check the vehicle and if necessary issue the individual with a public order offence and / or seize the vehicle via a Section 59 notice.

It is recommended that the Parish Council adopt and promote a Speedwatch Group. The PC needs to advertise for volunteers and promote the scheme. It is also recommended that financial provision is made in 2021/22 accounts for the purchase of the equipment at £500.

Speed and Traffic Monitoring

The Parish Council has been in contact with the Transport Monitoring Team of ESCC and they can install speed and traffic equipment and facilitate the collection of data. It is proposed that data be collected on the A259, Gilberts Drive and Beachy Head Road. It would be beneficial to collect data across two periods with at least one at a known high volume period such as a Bank Holiday weekend. Costs for the installation by ESCC of four monitoring sites would be £1,300 of which they will contribute 50% for one period. It is recommended that the Parish Council implement this initiative in 2021 and that financial provision is made of £650 (first installation) and £1,300 (second installation) giving a total of £1,950. The PC should consider an approach to Eastbourne BC to see if they wish to participate and whether partial funding might be sought from them with a sharing of the data.

Recommendation

Several villagers have shown an interest in joining a group to look at the issue of speeding, traffic noise and pollution and it is proposed that these individuals be contacted and agreement reached on what their input to the process is going forward.

Operation Crackdown be promoted across the village.

A Speedwatch Group be set up and implemented with a financial provision made for purchase of equipment in 2021

Agreement reached with ESCC for traffic and speed monitoring at four locations across two periods in 2021 at a total cost of £1,950.