

## Brompton Regis Parish Council meeting 6th December 2023, 'SIDs' (speed indicator devices).

SIDs can detect the speed of an approaching vehicles at 100m away and indicate the speed. They aim to inform drivers of their speed as a means of changing behaviour and encouraging driving within the speed limit. They may only be installed where there is a speed limit lower than the national speed limit, and usually in 30mph areas. They are usually installed where there is a concern and evidence of vehicles travelling above the speed limit. Evidence indicates that drivers respond to SIDs to travel at or below the speed limit but that the effect is short lived – speeds increase after the speed limit ends and after the SIDs are removed speeds go back to where they were before the SID was installed. Effectiveness is however found to be greater if the SID is not in constant use and so they are usually in use for 2 weeks at a time.

In Somerset SIDs may only be installed and used with approval of the Highways Authority (HA) and a memorandum of understanding agreed and adopted between Somerset Council and the owner of the SID.

Installation requires poles (usually on the Highways verge) and only approved contractors, or the HA, may install the poles. The HA makes a charge for installation (£250 in 2023-34 and increasing in 2024-25). A Parish or Town Council installing its own poles must apply to the HA for licences. There is some evidence that battery powered SIDs are not 100% reliable - mains power provision is difficult and so batteries need to be checked regularly.

SIDs are usually purchased, maintained and insured by parish or town councils at a purchase cost of around £3,000, a specific insurance premium and involving contractors or trained maintenance personnel. Road Safety grants toward costs may be available in 2024-25.

The Highways Authority has advised that within the 30mph limited area of Brompton Regis village, average speeds are all below 30mph. The straight road near Haddon Close showed the fastest speeds with an average of 20mph while the rest of the 30mph limit area showed speeds below 20mph. The question was therefore raised as to the value of a SID in this area. Many residents feel speeds are higher, and as the average is 20mph or below some vehicles will be travelling at faster speeds.

Issues to consider:

- Is a SID going to be useful in an area where the HA advise that on average traffic is travelling below the speed limit?
- Are there other traffic management steps to that may be introduced? A meeting with the HA could advise.
- Can BRPC afford a SID (purchase price, insurance, maintenance incl regular battery checks, installation)

- Sharing a SID could be investigated (Exford is the nearest parish with a SID) but installation posts are still required
- SID sights must be approved by the HA and must meet criteria for road safety: advance visibility, a safe place to take the device up/down and switch on/off, not causing any obstruction to visibility, not too close to speed limit or other signs, visual disturbance of flashing lights. The HA will visit to assess and identify sites.

Sarah Buchanan, Clerk.