**Holford Parish Council**

**Policy for the use of Speed Indicator Devices.**

## Background

### Community Speed Watch (CSW)

Starting with the first trial in 2001, in the village of Ash in Somerset, there are now over 2000 Community Speed Watch Groups across the UK. Volunteers are trained to use police approved equipment to monitor speeding vehicles and pass the details to the police to follow up with warning letters and, if these are ignored, a visit from police officers. A few Speed Watch fixed automatic speed cameras have been installed as alternatives to the roadside hand-held devices but these have not been widely adopted.

The primary purpose of Speed Watch is education rather than enforcement and the information collected by Speed Watch groups cannot be used for issuing of penalty notices. Speed Watch groups are registered by the police at a county level and each county has its own policies and rules on how the scheme is operated. Identifying the owners of the vehicles and the issuing of warning letters is entirely the responsibility of the police and the amount of effort they put to this depends on budgets, staffing levels and current priorities. Historically the numbers of letters issued by the police for each Speed Watch group has varied greatly, including periods when activity stopped completely. But the numbers have always been small compared to the total number of speeding drivers.

**Holford has a Community Speed Watch operation that is operated separately to Holford Parish Council (HPC).**

### Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

#### Relevant legislation

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA) defines a traffic sign as “any object or device (whether fixed or portable) for conveying to traffic on roads or any specified class of traffic, warnings, information, requirements, restrictions or prohibitions of any description”. Their design must be as specified by regulations or authorised by the relevant national authority. In addition, VAS and SIDS must comply with other appropriate national legislation.

Traffic authorities have powers to ‘cause or permit’ traffic signs and other equipment to be placed on the highway as part of their duties to manage their road networks. Parish councils also have some powers to place traffic signs, provided they obtain prior consent from the traffic authority within their area. These often include signs and devices to remind drivers of the speed limit in place with a view to improving compliance and addressing local concerns about inappropriate speed.

Products which do not display regulated speed limit signs, but instead use other messages to remind drivers of their speed are not considered to be ‘traffic signs’ within the definition in RTRA and are known widely as Speed Indicator Devices (SID), and usually display the driver’s detected speed, a happy or sad face, along with a ‘your speed’ message.

### Effectiveness of Speed Indicator Devices

A Radar Speed Sign confronts motorists with their speed and has the effect of moderating driver behaviour.

The Evolis radar speed sign is equipped with what is known as a ‘Doppler’ radar antenna. It emits magnetic waves which bounce off the first moving vehicle. The measurement of the frequency of the returning wave allows the Evolis to determine the vehicle’s speed. As soon as this vehicle moves out of range, the radar will automatically start detecting the next moving vehicle, and so on.

If the recorded speed is below the local limit, it will appear in GREEN on the screen. Speeds above the limit appear in RED. A message will also be displayed and this will vary dependent on the vehicle’s speed (‘Thank you’, ‘Slow Down’ ‘Too Fast’).

A Radar Speed Sign is only effective if the quality of the display screen matches that of the radar technology inside the device. It has to be able to ‘see’ but it also has to be seen… THE LONGER THE TIME PERIOD THAT MOTORISTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THEIR SPEED, THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO MODIFY IT.

The Evolis Radar Speed Sign possesses:

• The very best radar antennas to ensure the LONGEST POSSIBLE DETECTION RANGE.

• A triple LED display that ensures a vivid, eye-catching display that is VISIBLE FROM LONG DISTANCE.

The EVOLIS is constructed around the latest ‘Doppler’ radar antenna. It is safely located inside the radar casing It is accurate to +/-1% It has a detection range of up to 300 yards It detects the speed of both oncoming and outgoing vehicles.

The outgoing vehicle speed is never displayed but IS recorded for subsequent analysis.

### Holford Village section of the A39

The major Trunk Road A39 goes through the village. The speed limit reduces to 30mph either side of the village as you enter, however, the road is relatively straight and wide and means that a number of vehicles do not respect the speed limit.

## Purchase

### Funding

In 2022 Holford Parish Council applied to Avon & Somerset Police Trust for a grant to cover the cost of purchasing 2 SIDs. The grant application was successful and a grant of £4853.83 was received in August 2022.

Permission was obtained from Somerset Council to install the SIDs on the A39 – during 2023.

Agreement was reached about where the SIDs would be located – during 2023.

Somerset Council (Highways) installed the posts in the agreed position - 2024.

A number of suppliers and SIDs were considered and 2 x Radar Speed Sign, Evolis Vision – Solar version have been purchased.

The SIDS will be installed in May 2024. The installers must have completed the relevant Chapter 8 training.

## Responsibilities

### Holford Parish Council

#### Ownership and Insurance

Holford Parish Council will remain as the property owner of the SIDs and as such, they will:

* Be insured by Holford Parish Council,
* Remain on the Asset register held by Holford Parish Council.
* Ongoing repairs and maintenance will also be covered by Holford Parish Council

#### Siting

Holford Parish Council is responsible for ensuring that the SIDs are not operated outside of the agreed positions.

#### Data

GDPR compliant data received from the CSW team will be made available to the community via the Parish Council Website. The clerk will post the relevant data and ensure that it complies with GDPR guidelines.

### Holford Community Speed Watch Team

#### Management & Operation of the SIDs

Day to day management and operation of the SIDs will be undertaken by Holford Community Speed Watch.

This will include, but not limited to:

* Ensuring that the SIDs are only operated at the agreed sites.
* Operation of the SIDs is compliant with any relevant legislation.
* Collect the data on a regular basis – ensuring that GDPR guidelines are adhered to at all times.
* Provide Holford Parish Council with data in a suitable format at regular intervals (to be agreed).
* Liaise with Avon & Somerset Police as appropriate.
* Manage the display parameters (within current legislation and guidelines).
* Ensure that at least 2 people are present when interacting with the device.
* Ensure that a mobile phone is also present in order to call emergency services if required.
* **Ensuring that at least one of the people present, when interacting with the device, has completed the relevant chapter 8 training.**
* **Ensure that the operatives are wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, suitable for the speed of the road. Specified by the Chapter 8 Training.**

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed after 3 months to ensure that it is suitable. Thereafter, it will be reviewed every 3 years.

## Agreement:

Signed on Behalf of Holford Parish Council –

Karen Scott, Clerk

Dated:

Minute Reference:

Signed on behalf of Holford Community Speed Watch

Name:

Dated:

Minute reference: