

Dear Resident

LOCAL CONSULTATION FOR A PROPOSED SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) IN Brenchley and Matfield PARISH

Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council is planning to invest in a moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID), which will be periodically installed at four fixed locations within the Parish.

The SID's purpose is to give approaching vehicles an accurate visual indication of their speed, in order to educate them and encourage drivers to remain within the speed limit.

The SID is not a speed camera or a number plate recognition system but will provide valuable data to the Parish such as traffic volumes, average speeds, maximum speeds, etc, which can potentially be passed to Kent Police for comment.

The Scheme

The scheme involves the permanent installation of galvanised steel posts complete with mounting brackets at each of the four locations. The brackets will enable the SID to face in either direction, which provides a total of six SID positions. At 8 weekly intervals, the SID will be moved to a new position. This may be carried out by rotating the SID to face in the opposite direction, or by relocating the SID to another post. These operations will be carried out by volunteers, as will periodic battery replacement when required.

Proposed Locations

SIDs are only suitable for use on roads with a 30 mph speed limit. The four locations selected for the fixed posts are at locations where it is known that a relatively high proportion of vehicles exceed the speed limit. By periodically positioning the SID at these locations, it is hoped that this will help to educate drivers and encourage them to observe the speed limit. The four proposed locations are:

1. Brenchley Road. Opposite the Brenchley Memorial Hall. ONE WAY ONLY. Oncoming traffic from Brenchley Village Centre.
2. Brenchley Road. Market Heath by the Footpath TWO WAY .
3. Brenchley Road. On footway between Southolme and Sarum ONE WAY ONLY. Oncoming traffic from the Matfield Crossroads.
4. Matfield. Nearly Opposite Matfield Village Hall. TWO WAY.

The photographs below show the approximate locations, although the exact locations will be determined on site by Kent County Council to avoid underground services and to comply with highway regulations.



Position 1.



Position 2.



Position 3.



Position 4.

Types of SID

The “mini” SID displays the speed of approaching vehicles. It is relatively compact and easily portable, weighing 8kg plus a 4kg battery. This is the Parish Council’s preferred option.



The “advanced” SID displays the speed of approaching vehicles and displays a “Slow Down” message to vehicles exceeding the speed limit. This is slightly larger but is much heavier, weighing 12kg plus a 12kg battery. The battery life is also significantly reduced.



Cost

The cost of supplying and installing the mini SID, complete with spare battery, data collection facility, and four posts with brackets installed by KCC, will be £8756.12 excl VAT.

The cost of supplying and installing the advanced SID, complete with spare battery, data collection facility, and four posts with brackets installed by KCC, will be £9005.93 excl VAT.

There will be ongoing costs for insurance, maintenance, battery replacement, etc, which would need to be budgeted for in our annual precept.

How to Respond

As a resident of Brenchley and Matfield, the Parish Council would like to take your views into consideration before making a final decision. You can let us know your views by writing to us at christine.churchill@pc.brenchleyandmatfield.co.uk.

If you wish to participate in this consultation or let us know your views, please respond by 1/10/21.

The proposal will be included on the agenda at the 4th October Parish Council Meeting. Residents are welcome to attend.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Lynne Butler

Chair of Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council