

Community Speed Awareness Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Many communities are concerned about the speed of traffic in their local area and in some cases this has a significant effect on their quality of life. The Road Safety Promotion Unit, through publicity and education, endeavour to help tackle this problem as part of the overall aim to reduce road casualties across the city.

Does SID work?

Primarily, SID is a device which provides members of the local community with the opportunity to address anti social behaviour and influence motorists' style of driving through education.

SID is particularly beneficial when tackling the casual speeder who may not have realised that they are driving too fast or breaking the speed limit. SID notifies them of their speed and helps to make them more aware of potential hazards in the area and the appropriate speed at which they should be travelling.

A year long evaluation in Dorset showed that speed reduction was achieved where S.I.D.s were activated. Speeds of more than 325,000 vehicles were recorded following 70 deployments at 35 sites and results revealed that the average speed decrease was 5.26mph when compared with average speeds before deployment. A similar, but smaller scale survey carried out in Leeds at two locations during 2005 backs up this evidence, showing that where SIDs were deployed there was a noticeable reduction in the speed of traffic.

Why do I have to be a member of a 'Community Group'?

We ask that volunteers represent a group such as a tenants and residents association or Parish Council in order that the broader feelings of the community can be represented, rather than the feelings of one individual. It also means that there will be more volunteers on hand to operate the SID when deployed at the selected survey sights.

Why can't we have a permanently fixed SID sign?

SIDs relative portability is often an advantage, meaning that it can be used at a number of different locations throughout the community and set to work on roads with different speed limits. The very fact that the machines are located on a temporary basis means that road users notice their presence and respond accordingly.

Fixed installations may be seen as a target for vandalism and drivers may develop 'sign blindness' to SIDs that are placed in fixed locations, particularly once they realise that the machines are not a camera and will not be used for prosecution.

Why doesn't SID record data or number plates?

SID has not been designed to automatically collect data for you, the idea of the machine is to educate drivers about the speed at which they should be travelling and to raise motorists' awareness in a positive way.

Can we record our own data?

Yes, you may find it beneficial to record your own data. This can be used for your own information, or in certain cases be passed on to the local police or Road Safety Unit.

We would not recommend taking down number plates or even individual speeds except in exceptional circumstances. Data tends to be most useful when recorded in tally or tick form on a simple chart.

Why does SID have an upper speed threshold?

SID has an upper threshold limit set 15mph above the official speed limit of the road where it is being used. This is in order to minimise the chance that a minority of individuals may see the device as a target to see how fast they can travel though the area, using the roads as a race track.

How do we know that the machine is accurate?

Smiley SIDs rely on radar technology and are regularly calibrated by the Road Safety Promotion Team. This means that the machines remain fully accurate when placed at the roadside.



**Road Safety Promotion
Unit
Tel:**