

Funding Proposal Bids – Community Partnership meeting, January 2022.

Following workshops and discussions at Community Partnership meetings, Parish Councils and community groups were invited to propose projects that would take practical action against our Road and Traffic Safety priority. Criteria included discussing the proposal before submission, considering partnership working and match funding where possible, and ensuring that projects had a practical impact on the priority.

Four submissions were received and have been summarised below.

If all four projects are approved, the Partnership will have a remaining £2,970 in the 21/22 budget. This funding cannot be carried over to the next financial year. Consideration should be given to how the remaining budget can be allocated to further benefit the local community in line with our priorities.

Bid 1 – Hi Visibility Vests for Primary School children

The project will see participating primary schools in the CP area receive enough hi-vis vests for every pupil in their school. This will increase visibility and improve road safety for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Following discussion with County Councillors in the rural areas of the CP, it was clear that some students and families have to walk on public roads where there is no footpath, or opportunity to create one.

Speed and accident data showed there are road safety concerns across the entire CP area – both in village settings and the more urban areas as well. These relate to speed of vehicles, their frequency and dangerous road layouts.

Whilst there are methods to tackle those issues separately, there is an opportunity to increase visibility of school students on the way to and from school.

During the scoping for this project, all schools were invited to express an interest in participating. Six schools reported interest in participation, most of which are within the Kesgrave, Martlesham and Bealings area. Further exploration of the need identified that a similar activity was provided to Carlford and Fynn Valley schools in the past and was well received, hence their lack of interest in participating at the moment.

Following an expression of interest exercise that has been completed already, six schools will receive enough hi-vis vests for the entire school population. They will be provided with a mixture of sizes to complement the school roll. In total, 2000 hi vis jackets will be purchased.

Schools will distribute the hi-vis vests at the beginning of term and collect them in at the end of the summer term. This will ensure that the vests are reused each year for the long term. Schools will also allow students to exchange sizes as they grow, ensuring there is always provision for them to wear them at all times, not just during the 'school run'.

The vests will be provided without any print/logo attached to them. It was considered inappropriate to include designs that either identify particular schools or funding sources. We

will however ask that the funding source is promoted through the schools ParentMail systems and newsletters. Broader media coverage will also be arranged at a Partnership area level.

The schools that have expressed an interest are:

- Bealings Primary
- Cedarwood Primary
- Birchwood Primary
- Gorseland Primary
- Heath Primary
- Martlesham Academy

Item	Costs
Hi vis vests in 3 child sizes to cover primary school age children.	£3000
Total	£3000

There is no match funding at this time.

The expenditure is for items that can be reused for years to come, improving the value for money element of the request. School capacities have been taken in to consideration and none of the schools are expected to significantly expand in coming years.

If further items are required in the future, we would approach other grant giving organisations in the local area to draw interest and request funding.

Bid 2 – Purchase of a Speed Indicator Device for use in Rushmere St Andrew.

The application is for funding to acquire a Speed Indicator Device (SID) with the aim to reduce speeding in the parish. Five roads have been identified in the parish where speeding is an issue including: Foxhall Road, Playford Road, Arundel Way, Rushmere Street and Woodbridge Road. Particular locations along these roads have been identified that would be suitable for a SID.

Need for this project was identified by Community Speedwatch, data from Police speed checks, communications/complaints from local residents, Neighbourhood Plan (Community Aspiration 10).

Speeding was identified as an issue in the parish during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Community Aspiration 10 in the draft Neighbourhood Plan identifies SIDs as one way to reduce speeding in the parish. This approach was supported during the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan which finished beginning of November 2021. Speeding data from the Community Speedwatch team and Police supports the need to reduce speeding in the parish. SIDs have proved successful elsewhere in the country in reducing speeding hence the application for a mobile SID.

Locations for a SID in the parish have been identified and forms to submit SID application have been completed. These applications will be submitted to SCC in due course. The money from ESC will be utilised to purchase a SID for use in the Rushmere St Andrew parish and will be moved between the various locations specified earlier in the application form. This will reduce speeding across the parish. Three quotes will be sourced and compared and advice from SCC regarding SIDs will be obtained before the SID device is purchased.

Item	Costs
Portable SID	£2800
Lithium batteries	£580
Data collection point	£350
Total	£3730

If there is any shortfall the Parish Council will fund the rest of the project. It is likely that the Parish Council may acquire another SID device and more brackets will be needed.

It is expected that this purchase will reduce speeding in the parish. All of the residents in the parish would benefit from this. The intention is to purchase a SID that will collect data that can be analysed to show whether speeding in the parish is reducing or not.

Bid 3 – Purchase of a Speed Indicator Device

Our aim is to be able to purchase an additional SID to improve and benefit our communities from more frequent SID presence in the Carlford/Fynn Valley villages. The SID collects vehicle speed data and this can be used to measure where the speeding hot spots are and also to measure the effects of other initiatives which villages might deploy.

SAVID's member villages aim to work co-operatively to encourage safer driving and observance of speed limits within joint localities. We share resources to achieve these aims and since 2019 have shared a SID (Speed indicator device) a recognised way of educating drivers about speeds being travelled and with a data box to record vehicle speeds and volume. It has been recognised that now 4 villages (Little Bealings, Grundisburgh, Playford and Tuddenham) are sharing one device the impact and benefit is limited by each village only having the device for a month 3 times in a year and as the device may be located in 2 or 3 sites the impact is more limited. Regular review of the impact of the SID at meetings and feedback from residents has led a proposal that this is increased by purchasing an additional SID, a proposal agreed at our last meeting on 25/11/2021.

Through our activities we have enabled other member villages to participate in activities which raise awareness about speeding concerns and encourage those volunteering to establish other speed education activities such as Community Speedwatch and more recently involvement in Road Safety week.

Drivers will be reminded of speed limits and encouraged to observe these and contribute to their own safer driving practice and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. SID data show that in excess of 4000 vehicle are driving through some of our villages each day.

SAVID members are volunteers, usually but not exclusively Parish Council members. We have a constitution and Treasurer and the SID ownership is managed by Grundisburgh Parish council. Each village has volunteers who manage the safe location and recharging of the SID . . We will continue to work with- SCC, the Police, CSW, and the SNT, aiming for a more co-ordinated approach to speeding issues.

Item	Costs
Portable SID	£2900
Data collection point	£350
Total	£3250

SAVID through it's current established systems will continue to manage the appropriate use and maintenance of the SID. Publicity through local media will ensure the benefits of the SID project are reported and SAVID will review with Partner agencies such as East Suffolk Partnership, SCC, the Police, CSW, and the SNT ,the most effective ways of ensuring speed reduction methods are sustained.

Bid 4 – Practical Improvements to Gibraltar Crossroads to reduce the number of near misses and accidents previously reported at the site.

The short section (760m) of national speed limit between the two 40mph speed limits is changed to 40mph to provide continuity for road users and thereby making the crossroads junction safer. Also SCC Highways to provide engineering works to encourage drivers' compliance which may include signage, hazard warnings and warning lines on the carriageway.

The project was identified following concerns raised by members of the public and local Parish Councils about the dangers of the Gibraltar Crossroads, near misses and accidents at this junction to the Parish Council. Reference to speed surveys, FOI requests for collision data and a SCC Highways Report also help identify the need.

Traffic surveys were undertaken. Below are tables summarising the speeds and volumes of traffic reported:

	Jan East Bound			Jan West Bound		
	Volume	85 th percentile	Mean	Volume	85 th percentile	Mean
5-day Average	2773	52	46	2822	51	44
7-day Average	2442	53	46	2474	52	45

	Jul East Bound			Jul West Bound		
	Volume	85 th percentile	Mean	Volume	85 th percentile	Mean
5-day Average	2287	55	48	2317	55	47
7-day Average	2911	54	47	2674	53	46

As expected, the mean speeds are higher as this section is at the national speed limit. However, there is a chance that if there was a consistent speed limit of 40mph along this whole length that speeds would be lower especially if the signs were more visible to drivers.

Police Comments:

There would be a strong need to include some engineering measures to achieve compliance. Again, without these measures SC would not support this application.

Otley PC

This section of road has given Councillors huge concern over recent years and Otley Parish Council have expressed concern about the hidden dip and the crossroads that is within close proximity. Therefore, Otley Parish Council are in full support of this initiative and hope the 40mph can be extended.

Ashbocking PC

I am the Clerk for Ashbocking Parish Council and the council fully support the extension of the speed limit on the B1078. We campaigned for many years to get a speed limit at the crossroads with the B1077, but we were disappointed that the whole stretch to Otley College was not restricted to 40mph. The crossroads at Gibraltar have had a number of accidents so this will help improve the safety here.

Swilland and Witnesham GPC wishes to safeguard both parishioner and other road users at the Gibraltar Road Crossroads by advocating change from a national 60mph to a lesser 40mph limit, it believes action by SCC to implement such, will improve standards of road safety and decrease the risk of serious injury or even further fatality at this apparently innocuous but dangerous junction. The 40mph limit introduced to the west of the junction some years ago was to reduce the risk of serious collisions at Ashbocking Crossroads. This proposal is a natural extension of that limit with the similar reasoning.

It is expected that the beneficiaries of this project would be road users and parishioners in approx. 5400 vehicles per week day and those that approach the B1078 via the Gibraltar Crossroads from Swilland or Otley.

Total Project costs:	£9,500
Total confirmed match-funding (if applicable):	£7,000; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,500 PC Reserves • £4,500 SCC Elaine Bryce Highways Budget
Total amount of Community Partnership budget required:	£2,500
What will happen after the Community Partnership funding is spent? Please detail project sustainability and planned next steps:	There are no expected next steps as the project would complete once paid for and maintained by SCC Highways.

Summary of bids received

Bid Description	Total requested
Hi vis vests for primary school children	£3,000
Rushmere St Andrew SID Device	£3,730
SAVID SID Device for use over 4 parishes	£3,250
Gibraltar Crossing safety improvements	£2,500, with £7,000 match funding
Total	£12,480

This leaves a remainder of **£2,970** for the financial year. This funding is not able to be carried over in to 22/23 and therefore must be allocated.