

Area West Committee – 16th January 2008

8. Grant Request for Ilminster Community Speedwatch (Executive Decision)

Head of Service: Andrew Gillespie, Head of Area Development (West)
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Purpose of the Report

To request funding support for Ilminster Community Speedwatch enabling them to buy a deployable Radar Speed Indication Display sign "Smiley SID".

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (1) members assign £3,498.10 from the £7,500 allocated to Community Speed Watch, to Ilminster Community Speedwatch;
- (2) the remaining £4,001.90 is returned to the Area uncommitted reserve.

Background

At the Area West Committee on 21st November 2007 a decision regarding the reallocation of the uncommitted balance of £7,500 for Community Speedwatch to the Area reserve was deferred to give a final opportunity for an application from South Somerset Community Speedwatch Co-ordinators Group.

South Somerset Community Speedwatch Co-ordinators Group have informed us that they have no current equipment needs but that they support the following Ilminster Community Speedwatch application.

Ilminster Community Speedwatch was established in 2005 when the Ilminster Community Plan identified the issue of speeding as a concern for people living in Ilminster.

As part of the co-ordinated South Somerset Community Speedwatch group, Ilminster Community Speedwatch has conducted 77 speed watch sessions in over nine sites across Ilminster in the past 12 months. Since Ilminster Speedwatch started operating there has been a decrease in speeding throughout the town.

There are nine volunteers involved in delivering Community Speedwatch in Ilminster, and the local Beat Officer supports them.

Report

Ilminster Community Speedwatch would like to purchase a Radar Speed Indication Display (Smiley SID) to complement their work in and around Ilminster. Smiley SID has been developed to alert drivers and the community of excess speeds by providing positive feedback in the forms of messages and symbols.

The display screen when in 'Smiley SID' mode reacts to the speed of an approaching vehicle by displaying either a 'happy' or 'sad' face, relative to the speed at which the vehicle is travelling. The display can be seen clearly by the driver and any other people

within the vicinity at the time. This system provides a friendly way of policing speed in a community by communicating road safety information to drivers in an instant.

As 'Smiley SID' is deployable it means the screen can be used in a flexible manner in a number of parishes in the Ilminster area. Smiley SID can also be deployed to sites that are unsuitable for Community Speedwatch Teams. By purchasing a Smiley SID, Ilminster Community Speedwatch can increase the number of locations currently covered by their community safety activities.

Ilminster Community Speedwatch is requesting £3,498.10, which is 100% of the cost of the project. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the costs of the project.

Table 1 – Breakdown of Costs

ITEM	Amount
Radar speed indication display 'Smiley SID'	2,995.00
Black aluminium tripod and T-bar	150.00
DSD sign board and post bracket	50.00
DSD sign associated fixings	54.10
Palm V x PDA	199.00
Delivery charge	50.00
TOTAL	3498.10

Costs associated with running the scheme are minimal and relate to transporting the equipment to and from sites in Area West. These costs will initially be met by volunteers and hopefully with contributions from parish councils benefiting from the scheme.

This application has been scored using the Community Grants scoring system. Table 2 shows the grant scoring for Ilminster Community Speedwatch.

Table 2

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Yes	
B Target Groups	2	6
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial Need	3	5
F Innovation	3	3
TOTAL	23	34

The project exceeds the minimum score (20) required for funding to be considered.

Members should note that this project does not specifically target any particular group of the community; therefore it does not score very highly in Category B – Target groups. However, Community Speedwatch benefits all members of the community as it encourages drivers to reduce their speed helping to make the area a safer place to live and work for everybody.

Financial Implications

The £3,498.10 would be awarded from the £7,500 of the Area West Reserve that has been ring fenced for Community Speedwatch.

It is recommended that the remaining balance of £4,001.90 be returned to the Area uncommitted reserve.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The project meets the following corporate aims:

- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

The project also meets the following corporate objectives

- *Fourteen: maintain above 90 per cent the people who generally feel safe in their communities*
- *Sixteen: maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live.*

Background Papers: *Grant application.*
