

Item 23 Traffic and Highways Report – 29 May 2024

Traffic Steering Group update – May 2024

The Traffic Steering Group (TSG) has the following objectives:

- i. Reduce the volume and
- ii. Reduce the speed of traffic passing through the village, and
- iii. Create a safer and healthier environment for residents, pedestrians and cyclists, encourage more active travel and make Kingston a better place to live.

Members of the TSG met together with representatives from the Highways Authority (East Sussex County Council) on 9th April to discuss what evidence the Authority would require for it to consider measures to address the objectives referred above.

The Highways Authority representatives suggested evidence from a traffic survey (probably in the form of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera survey) would be able to quantify whether through-traffic, and especially over-weight and over-sized vehicles utilising Ashcombe Hollow, was of a significant level to justify intervention.

The ANPR camera survey

The TSG produced a consultants brief to conduct the ANPR camera survey as suggested based on a similar study that had been conducted in the town of Lewes 3 years ago. The brief is attached as an appendix to this report.

In short the brief is looking for the placement of 3 ANPR cameras – at or near the A27 / C324 northerly entrance to the village; at the junction of the C324 / The Ridge; and at the junction of the C324 / C7 eastern entrance to the village. The cameras will record vehicles travelling in both directions at these 3 locations and thus enable us to quantify the overall amount of traffic travelling through the village without stopping (between cameras 1 and 3 or the reverse) as well as the amount of over-weight and over-sized vehicles utilising Ashcombe Hollow in contravention of the traffic restrictions there (between cameras 1 and 2 or the reverse).

The brief was issued to 6 specialist consultancies (see next paragraph) as advised by Phil Jones Associates who are advising both the Safer C7 project group and the Lewes Town Council Movement Strategy Project Board on similar issues.

The brief was issued on 10th May with a deadline for responses on 20th May. 4 responses were received, from Intelligent Data; TRACSIS; IDASO and Transport Survey Partners. MHC stated they were unable to bid at this time. Street Systems did not respond.

Bids received

All 4 bidders quoted to provide a survey for both 2 days and for 5 days. We have decided that quotes for 5 days should be considered. All 4 bidders identified general locations for the cameras though these will be subject to further consideration once a consultancy is appointed. It is probable that the County Council will apply a small fee (c.£60 per camera) related to permission to utilise Council street furniture for camera placements.

All bidders indicated that, subject to Parish Council approval, the survey can be undertaken in late June / early July (ie, before the school holidays) with the results delivered approximately 2 – 3 weeks after that.

The quote from Intelligent Data (2,200.00 + VAT) was significantly less than the other 3, with the quote from TRACSIS being the largest by a long way (£12,650.00 + VAT - see spreadsheet attached).

It is relevant to note that Intelligent Data are commonly used by East Sussex County Council to undertake similar work across the County, and that they were also the consultancy appointed to undertake the similar ANPR camera survey in Lewes 3 years ago.

Recommendation and Funding Approval Sought

Accordingly, the Transport Steering Group recommend that Intelligent Data be commissioned to undertake the survey.

Approval is requested to allocate a sum of up to £3,000 (to allow for County Council fees and VAT) of the Traffic Calming allocation from the Saxondown Easement Fund for this purpose.

Kingston Parish Council

ANPR camera traffic survey

Specification

Project Background

Kingston is a parish that lies just to the south-west of Lewes in East Sussex

The Parish Council has established a 'Transport Steering Group' to consider the issues of traffic volumes, speed and impact in the village with the aim of identifying solutions to address these. The objectives of the Steering Group are to:

- Reduce the volume of traffic passing through the village
- Reduce the speed of this traffic
- Create a safer and healthier environment for residents, pedestrians and cyclists, encourage more active travel and make Kingston a better place to live, and
- Restore the rural appearance of the 'C324' road to one that primarily meets the needs of the immediate residents.

Members of the Steering Group have met with officers from the Highway Authority (East Sussex County Council), and the latter agreed that if evidence on unacceptable levels of oversized and overweight vehicles could be shown to be using the 'restricted' Ashcombe Hollow northerly entrance to the village, they would consider physical and further enforcement measures to address this.

The use of an ANPR camera traffic survey was agreed for this purpose. The Parish Council would also like to utilise such a survey to quantify the level of through traffic traversing the village roads with a view to securing support for the adoption of measures to address this.

There are several sub-tasks within the brief that need to be captured.

This brief outlines the requirements of the survey.

Camera Survey Brief

The objective for this study is to:

1. Quantify the volume and type of vehicles trips passing entirely through the village (between cameras one and three (both directions))* see Google Plan below)
2. Quantify the volume of and type of vehicles trips entering/exiting Kingston using the same point (i.e. entry/exit via camera one, or entry/exit via camera three (both directions))* see Google Plan below)
3. NB: we believe Points One and Two would be best summarised in an origin-destination matrix which would illustrate the entry/exit points of all through-traffic trips
4. Record the length of stay of all through-traffic trips (KPC to confirm lengths needed)
5. Quantify the proportion of oversized/overweight vehicular traffic which is ignoring the Ashcombe Hollow width and weight restriction (between cameras one-camera two)

We are looking for data for a Tuesday and a Saturday from the hours of 6.00am to 10.00pm on each day during a week to be agreed. The survey would need to be taken during school term time.

Bidders should provide an itemised cost proposal for each of these individual days together with a separate cost proposal for 5 continuous days from the chosen Tuesday until the selected Saturday.

It is our understanding that the cameras utilised tend to be positioned on existing street lamp standards. We don't have many in Kingston. There is one at the C7 junction (camera 3, see Google Plan below), and certainly a lot around the A27 roundabout (camera 1). There is not a street lamp standard at the top of Ashcombe Hollow (camera 2). Bidders should clarify what their proposal would be to take account of this situation.

The Cordon

For the purposes of this study, we have prepared a Google Plan identifying the recommended camera locations:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=14ld1lejBtfVSCyh-r3pmSmqGaETVV1c&usp=sharing>

The Report

Data should be collected for the days / dates to be agreed.

The data should be set out in an Excel spreadsheet (or compatible format), with an accompanying explanatory note in terms of our objectives and requirements listed above, and show for each direction, for each hour for each day (16 hour period as referred above):

- Vehicle entering the A324 at the points as specified above (between cameras one and three)
- Vehicles exiting the A324 at the points as specified above (between cameras one and three)
- Trip Length breakdown for all recorded through-trips (KPC to advise on trip length) (between cameras one and three)
- Number of overweight and or oversized vehicles using the Ashcombe Hollow section of the A324 (between cameras one and two)

Contacts

Kingston Parish Council Transport Steering Group contact

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East Sussex Highways

The licencing and enforcement team at East Sussex Highways can be contacted on 0345 60 80 193 and the application forms for a licence to fix equipment to street furniture can be found at <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/application-forms>

East Sussex County Council contact

Andrew Keer, Local Transport Schemes Manager, Infrastructure Planning & Place Team, Communities, Economy & Transport, 01273 336682 | 07876 878370, Andrew.Keer@eastsussex.gov.uk

