

Greywell Parish Council Meeting - 21st May 2026
Discuss the purchase of solar panels for 2 existing speed indicator devices, agenda item 23

The 2 original Speed Indicator Devices (SID) have now been operational in the village since July 2024 with a 3rd solar panel operated SID introduced in December 2025.

The solar panel SID has not required any battery change and has worked continuously over the 4 months of the winter. The original SIDs need to have their batteries recharged every 2 weeks and currently the PC has agreed to reimburse the volunteers for the cost of recharge (£84 per SID) per year.

The 2 original SIDs can have solar panels added into their configuration at a cost of £645 each. Whilst this isn't a particularly attractive return on a financial basis, investing in 2 additional solar panels would avoid continuing to rely on the goodwill of volunteers and also ensure 100% continuity of recording - we do have gaps when the batteries are dead prior to replacing.

It is proposed the Parish Council should agree to fund new solar panels when funds allow.

It is proposed that the Parish Council explores the potential source of funds being:

1. Surplus from Greywell Road Safety Group (GRSG) fund raising - £117.35
2. Donation of the recharging reimbursement £168 - in November 2025 the Parish Council agreed that in April 2026 volunteers would be reimbursed for the 2025-2026 period. Volunteers have confirmed they are happy to gift their reimbursement for this period. (The November 2025 Parish Council decision can be re-visited as 6 months have passed)
3. Fund raising event - I have been speaking to James about a fund raising event involving a tour of Greywell Hill House and BBQ in the summer which he is very supportive of
4. Apply for a County Councillor Grant - maximum grant available is £1000
5. Use Greywell Parish Council Reserves - at the end of the last financial year these reserves had increased by £1235 to a total of £10,054.39. At some point the auditor will ask what this money is being saved for, so purchase of 2 solar panels could be a good plan.

As a side note, for the past 3 years the Parish Council has allocated a budget of £800 for repairs and maintenance, for various reasons the spending for this heading has been less:

- In 2025/26 repairs and maintenance budget was £800, only used £435
- In 2024/25 repairs and maintenance budget was £800, only used £435
- In 2023/24 repairs and maintenance budget was £800, only used £335

The total of these unused funds plus that remaining from the GRSG provides more than enough to purchase to solar panels.

Cllr Richard Cole