

Black Cat device

Update for Parish Council 21st October 2021



The decision was made at a previous Parish Council meeting to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the purchase and installation of the device.

I have clarified a few of the details with Keith Robinson at Catsfield, before we can go ahead with the purchase the locations for the device to be sited need to be agreed with Highways and the licence obtained. We are awaiting contact with the Highways Steward to arrange a time to assess possible locations and agree those that are usable.

When we have the sites agreed we can contact Tagmaster to arrange the purchase, delivery usually takes about three weeks, Ralph Bates at Tagmaster will deliver the device and carry out the initial instruction and training for the device and software.

We need to decide if a tablet computer is to be purchased specifically for the Black Cat, I recommend having a tablet because there are two pieces of software to be installed. Having a dedicated tablet for the Black Cat avoids the need to install the software on other computers if more than one person is accessing the data, and makes it easier to transfer the operation of the device to another person, also it keeps all the data in one easy to access location.

Previous reports with all the initial findings and research can be viewed on the Parish Council website, links below.

<https://etchinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Black-Cat-PC-Aug-2021.pdf>

<https://etchinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Black-Cat-PC-Sep-2021.pdf>

<https://etchinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Black-Cat-share-comparison.pdf>

Updated summary of potential costs.

Item	Cost	Notes
Device purchase	£2500	
Device hire	£450 pw	More than 5 hirings, better to buy.
Solar Panel Kit	Approx £800	Also quite bulky.
Fixing brackets	£20 each	One needed for each location. (x3?)
Highways licence	£57 pa	Covers multiple sites in the village.
“Collect” Software (collects the data from the device)	FREE	Needs to be installed on a laptop or tablet, recommend purchasing a tablet just for Black Cat (see below)
“VDA-Lite” Software (analyses the data collected from device)	FREE	Needs to be installed on a laptop or tablet, recommend purchasing a tablet just for Black Cat (see below)
Tablet computer to store and analyse the data collected. I would recommend this, see note.	£120 - £180	If a dedicated tablet was supplied and the person operating the device changes there would not be a need to install the two software packages on another tablet or laptop each time, also all historical records would be stored in one place.
Ongoing costs		Will be checking with supplier, but not aware of any costs at this stage.
Annual Calibration		Will be checking with supplier, but not aware of any costs at this stage.
Additional fixing posts, if required		Cost not yet known, if no suitable are already on the roadside, Highways will install at the current cost.
Post installed on private property		Cost to be established and agreed with property owner. Location would need to be agreed with Highways to ensure the collected data is suitable for their purposes

My recommendations if a device is purchased;

- 1) A tablet specifically for Black Cat. I would recommend this as it keeps all the historical data in one location, also if the person operating the device changes they would not need to load the two software packages to their own computer.
- 2) Recommend up to three locations spaced throughout the village to start with, one near the west end of the village, one east and one in the middle, more locations could be added later if required.

Things still to be checked;

Can the device be attached to a suitable post on private property, for instance the front garden of a house on the High Street, if all the sites in the village were on private property is permission and licence still required from Highways.

Who to contact, and what the procedures are for using a telegraph pole.

Are there any ongoing costs with the device, such as an annual re-calibration. *[none known at this stage, but still checking]*

If there is any aspect of the device use that Councillors would like more information on, let me know, so I can investigate.

Cllr. Colin Boylett