

Black Cat device

Buy independently or share with other Parishes

If a Black Cat was obtained there are three options, rent a device when required, buy just for Etchingham use or share with one or more other Parish.

Renting; This would cost approx.. **£450 per week** and would depend on the availability of a device at the time required. This option would be OK if we only wanted to use it a couple of times. Hiring more than five times makes it cheaper to buy.

Buying just for Etchingham use; This is obviously the most expensive option, but would give full flexibility regarding usage times. We would have control over when it is deployed and how often.

Sharing with other Parishes; A cheaper option, less flexibility on usage times (depending on the number of Parishes sharing) and less available time for using the device. Also, one of the parishes would hold the device and probably be responsible for allocating the shared use, so someone from the other parish(es) would need to go and pick the device up and return it each time they use it. We would still need the licence from Highways for the agreed locations.

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Number of deployments in a year; A lot depends on how often we would want to deploy the device, for how long, and what the data is to be used for, regular deployment over the year would give a better picture of traffic flow at different times of the year, 7 or 14 days at a time would give direct comparison week for week.

Comparisons.

Deployment period	Number of uses annually available to each Parish				Notes
	2 sharing	3 sharing	4 sharing	Sole use	
7 Days	15	10	8	29	For comparison purposes 7 days is probably best usage.
10 Days	12	8	6	23	For engineering studies etc. 10 days is probably better.
14 Days	9	6	5	18	

Calculations allow for 4-5 days between deployments for time to offload data and recharge battery.

A fully charged battery should last between 10 and 15 days, depending on the number of passing vehicles triggering the device, so 14 days would be the maximum deployment time using the device with battery.