

Calne Without Parish Council

14th September 2020

Agenda Item 14

Project funding request – Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) Signs – Cllr Malpas

1 Proposal

Calne Without Parish Council is requested to initiate a project to rent up to 3 Vehicle Activated Speed signs to seek to address speeding issues in locations within the Parish that have been identified by residents.

2 Background

1. The Parish Council identified Road Safety as a key priority for expenditure within 2019/20 reflecting community concerns, as highlighted to the council. The council initiated a project to undertake a feasibility study aimed at identifying potential road safety improvement projects within the Parish that could be pursued by the Parish Council.
2. The aim of the feasibility study was to ensure cost effective investment of council funds, either from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or the precept, on a number of targeted projects aimed at improving road safety and the environment of the Parish. This project has stalled because of the coronavirus pandemic.
3. This proposal does not seek to replace the broader Road Safety project but provide a more immediate solution to a very real issue, speeding vehicles in specific locations, in the short term.
4. The installation of Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) and Speed Indication Signs (SIDs), are an effective tool to reduce traffic speeds, both on village entrances, school zones and community speed watch areas. A range of solutions are available from a traditional pole mounted sign to portable versions all of which are available for either purchase or hire. All versions are either mains or solar powered, Solar power can keep units operational all year round. Data collection can be added to all models to covertly collect evidence of the fastest speeds, average speeds, worst offender and traffic flow, including date and time.

3 Proposals

5. It is proposed that the council agree to seek costed proposals from at least 3 suppliers for the installation and rent of up to 3 VAS signs for deployment within the Parish for a period of up to 12 months. Ideally, and subject to cost, the council might seek to deploy these for different periods at various locations within the Parish to

collect data to support the Road Safety feasibility study, assuming this proceeds. The data collected can also be shared with the Highways Authority and as appropriate Police, to inform decisions about changes to highway speed limits.

4 Consultation

6. Erection and operation of VAR is likely to require approval of the Highways Authority and potentially Police. Dependent upon location there may also be a need to consult with landowners and utility companies – if existing utility poles are utilised. Therefore, as a minimum, we should seek to engage with the Highways Authority and Police in parallel with seeking information from potential suppliers; who may themselves have experience and knowledge of approvals that are required.

5 Funding

7. The Parish Council budget for 2020/21 made provision for road safety improvements. The budget for 2020/21 is £15000; the sum projected for the four-year plan period. In addition, there is CIL provision totalling more than £130,000 some of which might be utilised.
8. It is proposed that the cost of the proposed work is met from a combination of the Road Safety Budget for 20/21 and, if required, CIL; the CIL contribution being the proportion considered attributable to community growth.
9. The Parish Council has the power to undertake this project under the Local Government and Ratings Act 1997 s30 and the Highways Act 1980 s274A. Wiltshire Council no longer provide Vehicle Activated Signs.

6 Recommendation

That Calne Without Parish Council initiate a project to examine the feasibility and cost of hiring up to 3 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs for deployment at various locations within the Parish to highlight issues associated with speeding and to collect data to inform the Road Safety Study and the Wiltshire Council Highways Authority.

Alan Malpas