
MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

Introduction

At its meeting of 22nd May the Amenities Committee considered the recent acquisition of the Vehicle Activated Sign and agreed to instructing a qualified contractor to manage its deployment. This would allow the Council to evaluate the equipment and assess its deployment in Cranbrook over a period of at least six months.

Members will recall that the deployment of the equipment required operators to work at height and in close proximity to the highway therefore a further recommendation was made to Council to approve and adopt two new Risk Assessments;

- a) Vehicle Activated Sign Risk Assessment
- b) Vehicle Activated Sign Battery Check

These form the basis of the operational requirements for the deployment and management of the sign. (Minutes A/23/18 and A/23/36 refer).

Updated Position

A suitably qualified contractor has been sought locally, PLG Services and the service would be provided to coincide with similar deployments for a neighbouring parish thereby reducing the fees. These are quoted as £50 per deployment or battery change, typically once a fortnight.

Considerations

The Contractor is suitably qualified (including the necessary Chapter 8 trained and certified operators) and would manage the deployment of the Vehicle Activated Sign and associated battery checks without the involvement of Councillors or Officers, placing no additional training requirements on the council.

As part of the management of the Vehicle Activated Sign the contractor would also download the data and provide this to the Council for analysis, subject to the Council providing a mobile telephone or similar device to enable the data capture.

Given the Contractor's experience, advice was sought on battery life and the most effective management of the sign. The Contractor made two recommendations:

- a) to purchase two additional brackets and tamtorque clamps to be fixed to the post at the second site, in Tillhouse Road, this is quoted as costing £111.50 (+VAT) and
- b) to replace the standard acid battery with a lithium battery that could be supplied by the manufacturer on the basis that this would be both lighter to operate as part of the deployment and was suggested that it would provide improved performance.

Whilst this was not an option made available at the time the equipment was supplied to the Town Council the suggestion was raised with the manufacturer who confirmed

that it would be lighter in weight but did not agree with the suggestion that it extended the performance. The cost of adapting the Vehicle Activated Sign and the supply of two lithium batteries is quoted as between £600-£700.

It is anticipated that over the next few months the Town Council will have the opportunity to gain data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and be better able to evaluate its benefit in Cranbrook. The signs are recognised as a worthy deterrent to excessive speeding and a reminder to passing motorists to remain within the speed limit.

Recommendation

1. To note the updated report.
2. To instruct PLG Services as a suitably qualified Contractor to manage and deploy the Vehicle Activated Sign on behalf of the Town Council at a rate of £50 per deployment.
3. To supply the contractor with a mobile telephone to enable data capture for analysis by the Town Council.
4. To purchase two additional brackets and tamtorque clamps costing £111.50 +VAT for use at the second speed monitoring site, Tillhouse Road and to retain the existing acid batterie.
5. To report back to a future meeting of the Amenities Committee with an evaluation of the project.