

# KPC Speed Sensor proposal

Ref: KPC Meeting 13 May 2020 Appendix 13

## MOVEABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED 'YOUR SPEED' SIGN

### Background

Kingston residents have, for many years, been very concerned about the dangers posed by both the speed and the number of vehicles passing through the village via Wellgreen Lane and Ashcombe Lane. In an attempt to control the speed of vehicles speed bumps and road narrowings have been installed but they have not been totally successful and complaints have continued. Restricting the number of vehicles passing through the village is clearly beyond the capabilities of Kingston Parish Council (KPC). KPC is aware that vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs have been effective in reducing speeds through a number of neighbouring villages. It is understood that the effectiveness of fixed signs reduces with time as drivers become over familiar with their presence and cease to 'see' them but this can be mitigated by use of moveable signs.

In spite of numerous requests ESCC has not been in favour of licensing VAS signage in Kingston as recent surveys showed the average speed of the traffic through the village did not satisfy its in-house operational criteria. It is noted that not all highway authorities use the same operational criteria and some are agreeable for such signage to be installed. It is the view of KPC that the average speed is not the correct criterion upon which to judge the matter as it is the excessive speed of some drivers that causes greatest concern to residents and that further efforts are needed in order to try to reduce it. As ESCC has recently changed its operational criteria and has agreed to license VAS signs in the village, subject to some conditions KPC has obtained quotations for the provision of a moveable sign.

### Costs

In the absence of an available mains power supply along Ashcombe Lane and Wellgreen Lane, detailed quotations for the provision of a moveable battery operated VAS and associated equipment from the specialist supplier SWARCO Traffic Ltd are attached (VM15943 V2). Costs are summarised below:

1. Provision of mobile VAS, including 2 x 22Ah lithium ion batteries	£2650.00
2. Post installation kits 4 No ( 2 per sign)	£ 92.00
3. Post fixing kit 1 No.	£ 32.00
4. Onsite training, inc travel from SWARCO depot	£ 337.50
5. Delivery	£ 100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3211.50 *</b>

### Optional additional items

Spare Batteries – Short-life Specification (1 week) 2 No. 14Ah Li ion	£ 370.00*
Spare Batteries – Standard-life Specification (2 week) 2 No 22 Ah Li ion	£ 500.00*

\*All prices exclusive of VAT

## **Unknowns**

1. Availability of fixing posts – Unfortunately fixing to telegraph poles (of which there are many along this route) is not allowed. Additionally, there are very few existing traffic sign posts on either Ashcombe Lane or Wellgreen Lane. A site survey between KPC and ESCC Highways will be required in order to agree the availability/suitability of posts at suitable locations. There is also likely to be a requirement for a site survey by SWARCO for them to agree proposed sites are suitable for their equipment. The required SWARCO criteria are :
  - a) Minimum height to underside of MVAS sign is 2.1m (2.4m over cycle lane)
  - b) No obstructive traffic signs between MVAS and centre of road 60-90m away
2. SWARCO Traffic Ltd can supply and install suitable posts – Quotation requested but not available until week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May.
3. It is understood that a laptop is required adjacent to MVAS for downloading readings from MVAS – I have enquired about the use of an iPhone/iPad or similar.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

Solar battery charging is available at extra cost but this will require the use of lead/acid batteries and adds significantly to the weight of the box (increases to around 20kg). This would make moving and mounting the sign difficult without several people present and is likely to require the use of a platform rather than a ladder. I would suggest this is not a practical option.

Standard batteries have around a 2 week operational time between charges. The sign will not operate whilst the batteries are removed for charging. Charging takes around 12 hours. Options are to purchase spare batteries or accept no operation for the period while batteries are recharging.

## **Decisions to be made**

- 1 Does KPC want to pursue the purchase of this equipment?
- 2 If so which display is preferred – please see Quotation VM15943 V2 for details of options.  
In brief these are  
B-16A088-SF-DH - Amber numbers. Amber Smile Face. Amber Frown Face  
B-16R088-SF-DH – Green/ Red Numbers. Green Smile Face. Red Frown Face  
B-16A088-ST-DH – Amber numbers. Green THANK YOU. Amber SLOW DOWN  
B-16R088-ST-DH - Green/ Red Numbers. Green THANK YOU. Amber SLOW DOWN

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For Kingston Parish Council

5/5/2020