



# **VEHICLE ACTUATED SIGNS (VAS)**

## **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

**26 MARCH 2007**

### **KEY ISSUE:**

To remind Members of the existing locations and inform on the programme of locations where Vehicle Actuated Signs (VAS's) are due to be erected.

### **ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER:**

All Divisions and Members

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is asked to note the various locations where VAS's are due to be installed.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. Members are reminded that in March last year the annual Capital LTP expenditure and Local Capital Allocation was presented for approval. This year's list of schemes for approval will be presented to the July Committee following the Member's workshop programmed for the 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- 1.2. Traditionally the bulk of the Local Allocation has been used for transportation studies and environmental highway works. It was agreed to continue this theme for the projects aimed for construction during this financial year but with greater emphasis on Traffic Management and modern electronics supported by our speed Management Campaign that this Committee have given support to over recent years
- 1.3. One area in which we have made a significant road safety impact on during recent years has been the introduction of Vehicle Actuated Signs (VAS). This was the subject of a previous Accident Working Group report brought to this Committee highlighting the positive effects these signs can have on vehicular speeds, driver behaviour, and personal injury accidents.
- 1.4. To date the Elmbridge Local Transportation Service have successfully funded and erected 9 such devices throughout the area funded predominantly by the Accident Working Group. These low cost remedial measures are aimed at reducing personal injury accidents at sites where traditional engineering methods had been exhausted. However more recently funding has been by way of either Local Committee Members Capital allocation or individual Member funding such as the signs recently funded for Mrs Hicks in Hersham, Mr Bennison in Claygate, and the sign due to be erected shortly for Mr Oliver in Esher.

## **2 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

- 2.1 All the sites selected have records of problems with speeding traffic, whether by way of incidences of actual personal injury accidents or perceived speed related issues which residents require some form of reassurance. They have also received the support of Surrey Police.
- 2.2 To reduce the plethora of additional street furniture all the VAS's are to be located on existing street lighting columns, which will also ensure that the erection and installation costs are kept low.
- 2.3 Varitext, who have recently become Dorman Varitext, has supplied all the existing VAS's erected in Elmbridge over recent years. They are by far the cheapest supplier of these units and have now been included on the Surrey County Council framework list of approved contractors. This ensures that we have standardisation of equipment, software and maintenance.
- 2.4 All the units erected also include a data-logging feature, which will allow for easier monitoring of vehicular speeds and volumes.
- 2.5 Signs funded by Accident Working Group

2.5.1 VAS already erected

Location	Ward	No	Legend	Speed limit
Esher Road	Hersham	2	40 mph	40 mph Dual Carriageway
Heath Road	Weybridge	1	Bend right	30 mph
Fairmile Lane	Cobham	2	Crossroads ahead	30 mph
Byfleet Road	Weybridge	1	Bend right	30 mph

2.5.2 VAS awaiting erection

Location	Ward	No	Legend	Speed limit
Fairoak Lane	Oxshott	1	Bend left	60 mph <i>Solar powered</i>
Downside Bridge Road	Cobham	2	Bend right	40 mph
Hare Lane	Claygate	1	Bend left	30 mph

2.6 Signs funded by Committee Members Allocation

2.6.1 VAS already erected

Location	Ward	No	Legend	Speed limit
Burwood Road	Hersham	2	40 mph	40 mph
Oaken Lane	Claygate	1	Children crossing	30 mph

2.6.2 VAS awaiting erection

Location	Ward	No	Legend	Speed limit
Copsem Lane	Esher	1	30 mph camera site	30 mph

2.7 Signs funded by Local Transport Plan & Local Capital Allocation

2.7.1 VAS signs to be erected

Location	Ward	No	Legend	Speed limit
Hurst Road	Molesey	1	Children crossing & RH bend	30 mph
Hurst Road	Molesey	1	Children crossing & junction ahead	30 mph
Oatlands Drive	Weybridge	2	Junction ahead	30 mph
Brooklands Road	Weybridge	1	Bend right	30 mph
Walton Road	Molesey	2	Crossroads ahead	30 mph
Walton Road	Molesey	2	30 mph	30 mph
Oaken Lane	Claygate	1	30 mph	30 mph
Kingston Bypass	Hinchley Wood	1	40 mph	40 mph
Sugden Road	Long Ditton	2	30 mph	30 mph
Ember Lane	Esher	4	30 mph	30 mph
Ashley Road	Walton	2	30 mph	30 mph
Stoke Road	Cobham	2	40 mph	40 mph
Brooklands Road	Weybridge	2	30 mph	30 mph
Terrace Road	Walton	2	Children crossing & 30 mph	30 mph
Milbourne Lane	Esher	2	Children crossing & 30 mph	30 mph

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Although the cost of each Vehicle Actuated Sign varies dependent upon sign face legend, site conditions and other factors, sign costs average just over £2000 each.

### **4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The VAS signs are intrusive however they are popular and the majority of drivers do react to them due to the nature of the message they convey.

### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

### **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This type of traffic management technique is very popular with motorists and residents. VAS's do have a proven speed reduction influence on drivers and it has been shown that the introduction of these signs can not only have a positive influence on driver behaviour but more importantly an effect on casualty reduction.