

Research on Vehicle Activated Signs – Jan 2023

Summary

- We have to get permission from Buckinghamshire Council to install a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and there is an application fee of £445 for them to check if the proposed site is suitable. In addition, we need to pay for them to act as principal designer and supervisor of the installation and potentially pay them to gather speed data.
- There are Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) and Speed Indicator Device (SID) signs available. The sign on Station Road is an SLR. I have only researched SIDs because they display the actual speed and record the data in a way that can be downloaded and I think that is what we need to aid in future traffic calming discussions.
- SIDs cost £2200 - £4500 plus installation.
- The cheapest and simplest option is an SID powered by rechargeable batteries with the SID installed by ourselves on an existing lamp post. We avoid installation charges but the disadvantage is we would have to change the battery regularly (dependent on how often the VAS is triggered).
- Solar powered models are available which are maintenance free but the solar panels are large and we may not be allowed to fit them on an existing lamp post due to weight and the effect of wind on the panel. We might need a dedicated pole which would need a Buckinghamshire Council ground survey and installation works.
- Mains powered options are available, like the one on Station Road, but that will be most expensive to install.
- A wide range of SID design is available from a simple speed display through speed plus fixed messages/smiley face to fully configurable messages and graphics.
- All models have data download capability.

Location

- Note that each location requires a separate application fee to Buckinghamshire Council. We could potentially have 2 sites that are both approved for Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs and swap a single rechargeable battery powered single sign between them but we would be required to move them every 4-6 weeks.
- If we want to fit the SID to an existing lamp post we are limited by where we have lamp posts.
 - On Lower Road, approaching the village from the hospital there are just 2 lamp posts on the left hand side of the road. One just before and one just after the Bell pub. The only other one is near Weston Way.
 - On Risborough Road approaching the village, lamp posts are also limited.
 - On Wendover Road approaching from the Wendover direction, there are several lamp posts available but they may be set back too from the road. The fact there are 2 lanes and it is a 40 mph limit may also be factors to take into account.
 - On Wendover Road between Station Road and the SEALR only the west side of the road is in the parish although there are several lamp posts. It is also a 40 mph limit.

Examples of SID Drawn to Scale



Company	model	Total cost of battery version incl brackets/ charger	Total cost of solar version incl. panel and brackets	SID size	SID weight (excl battery)	solar panel size
StartSafety	M-SID from Morelock - vario model	£3,133	£3,565	63 x 54 x 18 cm	4kg	
Elan	EVOLIS solar-mobile and ultra-mobile	£2,200	£2,250	72 x 72 cm	8.5kg	80 x 95 cm
Truvelo	TruSign 30CR	£3,649	£4,229	62 x 62	4kg	
Traffic Technology	SID GEN5-Pro	£2,800	£3,470	86 x 53 cm	7.5kg	
Traffic Technology	SID GEN5-Smart	£2,564	£3,234	86 x 53 cm	6kg	
Message Maker		No response from company	No response from company	66 x 43 x 15	8kg	
Swarco	BX-16R088-ST-DH	No response from company	No response from company	65 x 45 x 12.5		
Westcotec	miniSID		£4,104	45 x 40 x 5	7.5 kg	73 x 53 x 4 (15.5 kg)
Westcotec	SID (with slow Down)		£4,314	67 x 43 x 5	12kg	73 x 53 x 4 (15.5 kg)
Westcotec	SID with smiley/angry face		£4,424	69 x 43 x 5	13kg	73 x 53 x 4 (15.5 kg)
Westcotec	SID plus speed roundel		£4,524	69 x 43 x 5	13 kg	73 x 53 x 4 (15.5 kg)
Westcotec	SID plus slow down/thank you		4340	69 x 54 x 5	16 kg	73 x 53 x 4 (15.5 kg)

