

WHPC Meeting: Extraordinary Meeting 14 April 2025

Agenda Item: 25/162 Village Hall Footpath

Title: Moving Electric Road Signs

Purpose:

To advise the Council of discussions with National Grid about the costs of moving the electric road signs required as part of the construction of the Village Hall footpath and to consider the optimum timing for the work.

Background:

As part of the required Highways works for the construction of the Village Hall footpath it is necessary to move one of the orange flashing lights warning oncoming traffic of the proximity of a school entrance. The sign opposite Ashley Brake is to be moved to the other side of the road near to the entrance to Warren Park.

The physical relocation of the signpost and sign can be carried out by Devon Tarmasters but the power supply must be disconnected and reconnected by National Grid. At an on-site meeting with National Grid they quoted the cost of the electrical work at £1354.12 plus VAT (which we can reclaim) and the work could be started around 12 weeks from receipt of the order. This has been confirmed in a written quote. They could also, if required, carry out the relocation of the signpost but this would require a different team from National Grid to be involved as well as the electrical team. The move of the sign post is part of the works quoted for by Devon Tarmasters.

We are still awaiting notification of the outcome of the consultation about the Road Traffic Order so the S 278 agreement can be finalised. We currently have no indication about when this may be resolved so we cannot currently plan when the highways works may be started. The move of the flashing light is not dependent on any other highways works and it could be argued that the move is actually a safety enhancement. The sign in its current location is not easily visible to cars on West Hill Road due to the curvature of the road whereas in its new location the sign will be clearly visible to approaching traffic. The relocation of the sign could therefore safely be carried out independently of the other highways works if required.

If the relocation of the sign is carried out at the same time as the other highway work we will need to co-ordinate the timing of National Grid with the major works by Devon Tarmasters. If the move of the sign is carried out separately then it just requires a small input from Devon Tarmasters to be co-ordinated with the availability of the National Grid team.

For Consideration and Decision:

The Council is invited to consider:-

1. Whether to accept the quote from National Grid for the electrical disconnection and reconnection of the sign.
2. Whether to carry out the work as soon as possible or to wait until all the highways works can be carried out at the same time.

Next Steps:

Depending on the decision by Council, a formal order may be placed with National Grid and Devon Tarmasters to relocate the electric signs.