

Policy for the use of VAS in Cumbria

Definitions:

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – road side signs activated by vehicles that are used throughout the County to provide information or warning.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) - VAS which detect and display real-time vehicle speeds upon approach.

Principle

There needs to be controls in place so that VAS are placed for legitimate reasons and when placed do not represent a safety hazard to anyone. The Highway Authority is responsible for all traffic signs within the Highway Boundary.

Policy

1. The CRSP will have available to them 7 lightweight temporary SIDs which the Police will place and several temporary VAS which Cumbria Highways will place, and are all post mounted.
2. The maintenance and replacement of the CRSP temporary SIDs shall be funded by CRASH and be arranged by the Police.
3. The CRSP would prefer for the Parish Councils to rely upon the process which the CRSP has in place to address speeding concerns, which may result in their use of temporary SIDs, but if a Parish Council owns a VAS and wish to place it temporarily they should for safety reasons **only be placed** in accordance with the guidance within this document and after permission is obtained from the following:

Cumbria County Council Divisions	Local Area Traffic Team contact
Carlisle and Eden	kevin.crawley@cumbria.gov.uk
Allerdale and Copeland	steph.davis-johnston@cumbria.gov.uk
Barrow and South Lakeland	mo.dooz@cumbria.gov.uk

4. A permanent VAS can only be placed if it has the approval of the local CRASH group.
5. A permanent or temporary VAS, placed after the date of this Policy by the Parish Councils without the permission of CRASH and the Local Area Traffic teams respectively, shall be removed and taken back to the local CCC Highways Depot.
6. The CRSP will not accept liability for any injuries sustained that arise from the placement of the Parish Council owned VAS. The Parish Councils are therefore encouraged to have in place adequate public liability insurance.
7. The guidance below on the mounting of VAS on road side posts must be followed.
8. The Traffic Team Leaders must always advise the appropriate Councillor when a VAS is to be erected.

Guidance

VAS signs are designed to be installed on existing street furniture by means of a tamper proof clamping system. It is generally accepted that once a site has been identified for a VAS that it will be fixed to the nearest available lighting column or sign post.

The installer should be aware that all of these types of furniture have structural limits and should check the site prior to installation to ensure the proposed mounting site for the VAS will be adequate and that the following requirements have been fully considered.

The requirements of the County Council as the Highways Authority for mounting any sign within the Highway are as follows and shown on the **Mounting Drawing** that forms an Appendix to this Policy.

In addition to meeting these requirements, the sign installer should take note of the following details

- 1) The presence of other signs on the post. In general where a post has a simple sign installation on it there will be adequate capacity in the structural sign design to allow the temporary installation of a VAS. A simple sign is defined as a circular or triangular sign with or without an additional plate not exceeding 750mm in size.
- 2) In the case of a lighting column a VAS should only be mounted where there are no other signs on the column
- 3) VAS should be mounted so that no point of the sign is less than 2100mm above a footway (Pavement) where one is present. This can be reduced to 1500mm where there is no footway.
- 4) VAS must be mounted with a minimum clearance space between the sign and the edge of the carriageway of 500mm
- 5) VAS should not be mounted on posts that are not in good condition.
- 6) VAS should be mounted to ensure that they are visible from a distance of 75m.
- 7) VAS should generally be mounted on the side of the road facing the approaching traffic, but where this is not possible they can be mounted on the opposite side but care should be taken to ensure that they are aligned correctly for both visibility and detection of approaching vehicles.

All of the above should enable the installer to determine whether a proposed mounting site is suitable however where the above cannot be met advice should be sought from the County Council's Local Area Traffic Team above regarding suitable mounting requirements.

To be effective temporary VAS signs need to be placed as per the following rules:

- Temporary VAS should remain at each site for no longer than three weeks.
- There should be a reasonable period before the temporary VAS is returned to a particular site so that drivers will have forgotten about the previous installation.

30th November 2018