

The Annual Parish Meeting of Stainton & Streatlam Parish took place on Thursday 30th March in Stainton Village Hall

Present: J Rowlandson (JR); T Cooke (TC); J Brown (JB)
J Teasdale (JT); S Chapman (SC) Cllr D Kinch (Staindrop)
Mrs A Pettit (Resident) Mr D Williams (speed signs)

Mr Williams was in attendance to demonstrate and provide information about the speed awareness signage the Parish Council is considering purchasing.

The equipment supplied by Mr Williams company is powered by re-chargeable lithium batteries. It is possible to get solar powered models but the one we are considering runs on batteries. Mains powered models are also available but these can only be located in one position due to the need for them to be connected to the main electricity supply. Therefore it was decided to concentrate on the re-chargeable version.

The display panel itself can either be mounted on existing street furniture, i.e, a telephone pole or pole mounted signs – in either case permission would need to be obtained from the owner prior to any installation, (DCC or BT). If the signs can easily be re-located it would be possible to even hire it out if other local Parish Councils were experiencing similar issues.

The signs would ideally be sited at a height of between 2.1 – 2.4 metres. This gives the best visibility to drivers approaching it. The display is produced by LED lights and different messages can be displayed. The speed limit through the village is 30mph so a sign could be showing a 30 and if the vehicle was travelling faster than 30, a 'SLOW DOWN' message would flash up. If the vehicle was moving at 30 or below then the message would read 'THANK YOU'.

An alternative version displays the speed of approaching traffic with a frowning face if it's faster than the speed limit which will change to a smiley face when the traffic has slowed to 30 or below. The more active display will deplete the lithium batteries faster than the other model so one model will require the batteries charged at shorter intervals than the less power-hungry model.

Each type will record details of traffic and this information can be retrieved and downloaded onto a laptop or a mobile phone. From the information supplied and the associated software it will be possible to tell when the busiest period of day is; what the busiest day is and what percentage of the traffic caught by the sign was travelling above the relevant speed limit. The memory in the sign can hold up to several months worth of information.

Each sign costs £2,600 and additional batteries and fixing brackets bring the cost up to £3000.

The Chair thanked Mr Williams for his presentation and it was agreed that he would supply a speed sign for a trial period of a couple of weeks as had been done in other areas so the council could then make an informed decision about purchase.

The Parish Meeting was then declared closed.