

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Project

In July we posted a notice informing Parishioners that we were withdrawing from the Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Road Safety Fund scheme.

When we wrote to the Commissioner, detailing our reasons for withdrawal, we copied to senior figures in Gloucestershire County Council, both elected Cllrs and Executive Officers. Our letter prompted some frank and robust exchanges between senior managers in GCC and R&SPC Councillors. This led to compromises on both sides, to a point where we felt that the requirements, as expressed in our original bid would be met. We therefore agreed with Martin Surl, PCC that we would re-engage with the bidding process.

We are happy to report that the PCC has given his final approval of our bid and has agreed to contribute £11,116 towards the total cost of £12,318, leaving the Parish Council to fund the remaining £1,202.

Orders have been placed and we expect that the signs; at Soudley, (Church Road, beside the ponds), Ruspidge Road, (at the junction with Railway Road) and Buckshaft Road, (near No 7), will be operational before the end of October.

In addition as acting as a reminder to motorists, the signs will collect data – speed, direction, time etc. Once operational, we intend to provide statistics to the Forest Police, GCC Road Safety Partnership, GCC Highways, etc. We will also publish results on this website and in Viewpoint.

It's been a long and tortuous process but we are nearing the end! As expressed before, VAS will not solve the problem of inappropriate driving but we hope that, in a small way, they will contribute to making our roads safer for all – drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

We will publish further updates as the project progresses.



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