

Community Funded Traffic Measures

The County Council is looking to introduce a new initiative to provide an opportunity for Town and Parish Councils, along with local community groups, to be able to fund a range of traffic measures that fall outside the scope of County Council funding.

Ongoing reductions in highway funding have resulted in the County Council having to scale back some of the work previously delivered as part of the annual traffic management programmes. Limited budgets now mean Highway Authority funded traffic measures can only generally be considered at locations where accidents resulting in personal injury have occurred.

The County Council receives regular communication from Parish and Town Councils for measures that are not directly linked to safety. These may include measures aimed at lessening the impact of motorised traffic or changes intended to improve quality of place.

Measures such as village entry 'gates' or more decorative village place name signs can help visually enhance an entrance to a village. Informal 'courtesy crossings' for pedestrians can highlight the most suitable place at which to cross the road whilst traditional timber finger post signs can provide a more sympathetic choice to standard highway signage within rural villages. Works to de-clutter traffic signage, the installation of cast iron style decorative bollards, and small scale engineering measures to improve accessibility are further examples of the changes that may be suitable. More complex schemes such as alterations to speed limits, the implementation of lorry controls and other vehicle movement restrictions are not to be included within the scope of the Community Funded Initiative. Such measures can have wider implications on surrounding areas and would require the making of legal Traffic Orders, a lengthy process that is relatively costly, with current County Council policy limiting such changes to those that address a proven safety problem. Traffic calming schemes would also fall outside the scope of the initiative for similar reasons.

Community groups, including Town and Parish Councils, who are interested in funding traffic measures for their local area should make initial contact with the Traffic Management team via traffic.management@hants.gov.uk. Engineers will be able to provide advice on the suitability of measures along with an estimate of costs. The suitability of any measures requested through this initiative will be considered in line with the Traffic Management Policy - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/2014-traffic-management-policy.pdf>

The following are examples of the measures that could be considered as part of this initiative –

- Village entry 'Gate' features
- Enhanced speed limit 'Gateway' signs
- Traffic signs and road markings
- Informal pedestrian crossing points
- Enhanced village nameplates
- Sign rationalisation and de-clutter
- School advisory 20mph speed limit signs
- Bollards/posts to prevent footway/verge overrun
- Electronic Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) signs
- Traditional finger-post signs
- Safety slogan wheelie bin stickers