



# Paper 10 – Vehicle Activated Signs

Thurston Parish Council

**Paper:** Paper 10 – Agenda Item 10j

**Reason:** To consider the request to replace the Vehicle Activated Sign on Barton Road with a solar powered speed sign

**Period covered:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027

**Presented to Council:** Full Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

**Date:** 29.06.26

**Author:** Parish Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

## Summary

The Council currently has two speed indicator signs that are located on Beyton Road and Barton Road. Both of which are run off batteries which are manually swapped over on a weekly basis.

## Current situation

The devices rely on batteries to function effectively as to ensure consistent power for accurate speed detection and display. Batteries not only power the radar and LED systems but also ensure uninterrupted performance during adverse weather or power outages.

In addition to powering the system, batteries also support energy-efficient operation. The vehicle speed feedback signs incorporate energy-saving features, such as dimming displays during low traffic periods. The current batteries are expected to store the energy required to sustain these features, ensuring the signs remain operational around the clock.

## Reasoning

The batteries used to power the speed indicator signs are located in the parish council office and change over is dependent upon the office being opened and the volunteer Councillor being available.

Whilst replacement lead-acid batteries are readily available and affordable, the demand placed on the battery to support continuous operation means that their durability is not as efficient as newer models. They are also large and heavy, which increases the overall weight of the system. This does complicate installation and transportation.

Their lifespan is relatively short, typically requiring replacement every three - five years. This limited longevity will also lead to higher maintenance costs over time.

Data is downloaded to an old Samsung phone which is now experiencing connectivity issues with both devices with the data often becoming corrupted once downloaded.

Neither of the devices are capable of being retro fitted with solar battery systems.

## Options

Council is being asked to consider installing a replacement vehicle activated solar powered speed indicator sign on Barton Road in place of the current model.

The advantage of a solar powered system with remote connectivity for the collection of data is that the signs will harness solar energy thereby minimizing CO2 emissions, will be energy efficient as they will consume less energy compared to traditional signs and will align with council's efforts to reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainable practices.

Quotes have been obtained from Elan City (market leaders) for a solar powered speed indicator signs that will display the legal speed limit in a green font and red when exceeded. The dual display system will also allow for a warning message to appear below the speed display which can be customised to match the council's priorities: THANK YOU when speed is within the legal limit; SLOW DOWN when exceeded and TOO FAST when well in excess of the limit.

Quotes have also been sourced for a Connect Box which allows the speed sign to become fully connected with an integrated 4G SIM card to enable data to be monitored and collected remotely.

Once the Connect Box is installed, the traffic data is automatically transmitted to the council's secure EVOWEB online platform, with access to the data being obtained and monitored by Council's staff.

Both of these additions will alleviate the need to regularly visit the site for downloads or to change batteries.

Recommendation:

Council to approve the purchase of the following from Elan City:

1. solar version Radar Speed Sign, details as above in the sum of £2,500.00 ex VAT.
2. G4 option (including 2 year's subscription) for remote traffic data collection in the sum of £500.00

**Signed as approved by the Chair to the Council:.....**

**at the meeting of: 1st July 2026**