

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE	16 th September 2014	
TITLE	Ford Signage De-Cluttering - Stowey	
WARD	Chew Valley South	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Corporate Risk Assessment – Ford Signing		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Traffic Signs and General Directions (TSRG) recommends ford signage adjacent the site on each approach and advises of advanced signing at appropriate locations in order for approaching vehicles to change direction in advance and avoid the hazard. Where the ford has a constant flow of water a staff is required to ensure the road user is aware of the depth of water. These measures were implemented once investigation of all fords in the BANES area had been carried out. Unfortunately the Ward member or the relevant Parish Council's/ residents were not notified in advance of these signs being implemented. This is an area that needs to improve.
- 1.2 At the Planning, Transport & Environment PD&S Panel meeting on 19th May 2014 Councillor Pritchard requested the removal of the recently erected ford signs. These signs were erected following a Coroner Report of a fatality in Chew Stoke in which a motorist lost his life during a flooding incident at a ford in Pilgrim's Way. The report recommended a review of all ford sites throughout the County.
- 1.3 Following the issue being raised at the May Scrutiny Panel by Councillor Pritchard a site meeting took place to discuss the locations of signing within his Ward. Given the Coroners recommendation and TSRG advice it is not recommended to remove the ford signing adjacent each ford. However given the rural nature and objection to sign clutter it is recommended that advanced signing is removed where a road is not deemed to be strategically important, a rat run or has significant volumes of traffic. These recommendations have been applied to each individual site in the attached schedule.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that, the identified advanced ford signage is removed as per the attached schedule.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 A funding source will be required and identified given that there are no funds to implement these remedial works. A De-Cluttering project is currently identified in the 2014/2015 capital budget of £15,000, which is reviewing a number of locations along the A37. It is recommended that £2,000 of this budget is allocated to this request for officer time and works costs.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 An informal consultation has been carried out with Councillor Pritchard who would like all the ford signage within his Ward removed. There is no formal statutory consultation process required for ford signage or a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) necessary to implement the proposals.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Steve Blackmore, Traffic Management Manager (01225 39 5899)</i>
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	