

Area Board Project

1. What is the project?

Tidworth Signage Project

The project is to supply new and replacement road signs in and on the approaches to Tidworth. The idea is to harmonise the military and civilian signs and make them more relevant within the town on the A338 and give more notice to people approaching the town from Salisbury, Amesbury, Andover, etc. Signs will be updated to reflect the changes and improvements made in the town over the past 15 years. The signs are owned and managed by various agencies including the Highways Agency, Wiltshire Council, the MoD and Aspire Defence. Improvement is also needed on the approaches of and through Perham Down to alert drivers to the settlement and highlight the speed limit.

2. Where is the project taking place?

In and on the approaches to Tidworth approaching and through the settlement of Perham Down.

3. When will the project take place?

The project will take place when funding is available. Wiltshire Council officers have undertaken work following site visits, etc. to design new/replacement signs and have produced a rough costing. More detailed costings are now being prepared and these should be ready for the Tidworth Area Board meeting on 17th January 2011. Details of costings so far have been attached to this report.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/desired outcomes?

1. The need for better signage in and approaching Tidworth was identified in the Communications Strategy April 2004. Recommendations were to:- Remove all out of date signs; Agree a consistent recognised civilian style for all non-military signs; Agree a consistent style for essential military signs: Establish a clear policy, procedures, authority and approval process for the introduction of any new signs.
3. This will benefit the community by removing duplication and confusion of the current signing and reduce the amount of military signs, some of which are seen by civilians to barr them from certain areas.
4. New signage to key areas such as the shopping area and Leisure Centre will benefit the local and visiting public.

5. Who will manage/be responsible for this project?

Tidworth Community Area Partnership (TCAP) has been leading on this project, initially through its Communications Working Group and latterly through its Transport Working Group. TCAP commissioned the Communications Strategy as part of the work to deliver needs identified in the Community Area Plan through consultation with the community and organisations operating within the community area. The project was brought forward to the attention of the pilot area board for the Tidworth Community Area. Work has been carried out in collaboration with Wiltshire Council, TCAP, the MoD and local people representing the Tidworth Town Council and other local organisations. The Transport Working Group are working closely with Wiltshire Council, whose officers will deliver the project on the ground.

6. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

The cost of replacing and putting in new signs in and on the approaches to Tidworth is £approximately 10K. It is possible that part of this could be funded by Wiltshire Council with the other 50% funded through the Tidworth Area Board.

The cost of 'Gateway' signing at the approaches to Perham Down are approximately £6K - £7K and the cost of repeater signs for the speed limit is between £2K - £3K.

More detailed costs are hoped to be available by the time of the Area Board on 17th January 2011.

7. Additional information

By bringing this forward as a councillors project and working with Wiltshire Council to share the costs, it should be possible that most, if not all, of the work could be accomplished in one go. This would make an impact in Tidworth which would benefit both the community and organisations and investors looking to improve or relocate to Tidworth. This would improve the economy and be beneficial to all.