



Planning & Highways Committee

Tuesday 4 August 2020

Update on Signage Projects

Agenda Item 22

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on signage projects, i.e. heritage signs and repairs to the driver feedback sign located on Slade Road.

2. Recommendations

Committee is recommended to note the progress outlined in the report.

3. Heritage signs

There are four aspects to the current Heritage sign work:

1. Produce technical drawings and specifications for the current '3D' style of sign plus two-faced (i.e. triangular) and 'flat' variants, and also the sub-sign and any fittings described in 4. below.
2. Manufacture and installation of a new heritage sign at Streetly Lane (to include the Bloom sub-sign).
3. Retrofit reverse side messaging to three older heritage signs. (The signs were originally produced as a single-sided design but the more recent ones have a reverse-side message too.)
4. To celebrate Sutton Coldfield achieving a gold award in Britain in Bloom in 2019, a small 'sub-sign' (underneath the main heritage signs and removeable if necessary) to acknowledge is needed for nine of the ten existing Heritage signs together with the new sign to be installed at Streetly Lane

Three companies were approached towards the end of 2019 to tender for the work but the response was delayed because one of the companies (on the BCC framework) invited to quote was tied up with pre and post-Christmas lighting work. One of the three declined to quote but by mid-February two quotes had been received, one from the supplier already on the BCC Framework and a more competitive quote from a new, alternative supplier, identified by the Town Council. At that stage it was expected that this work would be completed by the end of spring:

- In February, BCC advised that using its existing supplier would be the easiest route to getting the work done in terms of not requiring additional permissions.

- With regard to any other suppliers carrying out the work, BCC has not yet set out precisely the permissions that are required for the work to be carried out.
- At present, there isn't a supplier which is permitted to undertake the work; the BCC supplier that was permitted to carry out works of this nature, folded during the coronavirus crisis.
- The alternative supplier, identified by the Town Council, has been requested by BCC to provide a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) since the work would be undertaken on the highway.

Officers are continuing to liaise with BCC officers to identify suitable contractors to carry out the work to install a new heritage sign at Streetly Lane, install Bloom signs and to complete the messaging on existing signs soon as possible.

4. Driver Feedback Sign (Slade Road)

- As per the above, installation of the driver feedback sign on Slade Road was completed by BCC's supplier in November 2019.
- By January 2020, the sign was reported as not showing speeds. While the sign was functioning, it was in 'covert mode'.
- On 28 January 2020, BCC Local Engineers attended the sign and found there was a radar fault rendering the sign inoperable. BCC's supplier was requested to attend to review but this has not happened and the company has since folded.
- Officers have followed up with BCC to find alternative suppliers either directly by the Town Council or via BCC's Framework. To date, it has been made clear that a former member of previous BCC supplier company intends to honour work placed with it before folding, including the driver feedback sign, although momentum has slowed.

5. Recommendations

Committee is recommended to note the progress outlined in the report.

Mark Dixon
Programme Delivery Manager, Neighbourhoods