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Briefing Note

Road Closure and Diversion Signs

For Community Engagement Committee 12th September 2024

Background

At the 13th June 2024 Community Engagement Committee, the Santa Sunday grant application included a request for funds to purchase portable road closure and diversion signs which could be easily transported in a standard vehicle, and re-used each year.

As there were insufficient funds to cover all the grant applications made, it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would investigate the Parish Council's current stocks of road signs, as well as those held by other community groups, and whether these could be easily shared.

Costs were also to be obtained for a set of the lighter portable signs that would be owned by the Parish Council and could be used both for our own Remembrance Sunday event, and for other community events in the Parish.

Parish Council Owned Signs Used for Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council currently has a set of eight "Road Ahead Closed" signs which are cable tied to large orange plastic barriers and placed at eight locations on Remembrance Sunday (as shown below). Each location is staffed by volunteer members of the Sussex 4x4 Response Team and their large 4x4 vehicles also act as an obvious road block.



These signs are still sufficient for the Remembrance Sunday event. While the signs themselves are easily transportable in a small vehicle, the large orange plastic barriers would only fit in larger vehicles, so may not be suitable for loaning out. There are also no traffic diversion signs as verbal instructions are given by the marshals as required.

St Lawrence Fair and Hust Festival

Contact was made with the St Lawrence Fair, who have some road closure and diversion signs they are happy to share but these are the large metal ones which require a van to move and are heavy to lift. The size and weight of these were problematic for the Santa Sunday organisers last time they used them.

Contact was also made with the Hurst Festival who say that as they are no longer closing the High Street for their Super Sunday event, they will not have any road closed signs to share.

Costs of Lighter Portable Signs

The original Santa Sunday grant application was for 9 portable Road Closure and Diversion Signs at a cost of £359.91. Further clarification with the organisers indicate they require 2 Road Closed signs, 2 Road Ahead Closed signs, 2 Diversion (left arrow), 2 Diversion (right arrow) and 2 Diversion (ahead arrow) signs, so a total of 10 signs.

It was agreed at the June 2024 Community Engagement Committee that costs would be sought for a set of the lighter portable signs that would be owned by the Parish Council and could be used both for our own Remembrance Sunday event, and for other community events in the Parish.

These are the type of plastic “QSigns” requested by Santa Sunday, which are more portable and come with a stand:



The cost per sign from <https://streetsolutionsuk.co.uk/>, would be £33.33 exclusive of VAT, or £39.99 including VAT. The price for a set of 10 would therefore be £333.30 exclusive of VAT and £399.90 including VAT.

If these signs were purchased by the Parish Council consideration would also need to be given to the logistics and storage of them, as well as the additional office staff workload in respect of hiring them out to other groups, including the arrangement of collection and return. Such signs are not required for Remembrance Sunday as explained above.

Conclusion

The conclusion is that the Parish Council does not require any further signage and recommends the Santa Sunday organisers find alternative funding sources to purchase the signs they require such as the Hurst Community Charity.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to NOTE that additional road closure or diversion signs are not required by the Parish Council.
