

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC GUIDANCE NOTES

NO. HAT 63/1/10
SUBJECT REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF HIGHWAY PLANTING
EFFECTIVE FROM June 2010
AUTHOR Area Highways Manager (Boston)
DISTRIBUTION Distribution List

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This HAT sets out the approved policy for the provision of planting within the highway. The policy was approved by the Environment Committee on 24 January 1996.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy only applies to requests for the provision of planting on the highway by other Councils, Community Groups and Commercial Sponsors. The policy is designed to encourage planting in suitable locations to enhance the visual environment. Borough/District/City Councils also have an interest in many planting schemes and as Planning Authorities may need to approve any associated signing in addition to approval by the Highway Authority.

3. Policy

3.1 Borough/District/City Councils

- 3.1.1 Where a Borough/District/City Council wishes to carry out planting or already does so, the Highway Authority's role will be confined to approving the planting scheme and any associated signing on highway safety grounds and issuing a licence to plant in the highway. If the Borough/District/City Council wished to enter into an agreement with a commercial sponsor this will be permitted and it will be left to that Council to determine the design of any signs and consider whether Planning permission is required.

- 3.1.2 Generally such schemes will be confined to the main towns. Existing schemes will be regularised by the Highway Authority licensing the use of highway land.

3.2 Community Groups and Parish Councils

- 3.2.1 The Highway Authority's role will be to approve the planting scheme on highway safety grounds and to licence the use of highway land. Generally, such schemes do not include any signing.

3.2.2 If the sponsor wishes to provide signing, two different approvals will be required:

- (a) the Highway Authority for traffic safety
- (b) the Planning Authority for planning permission

A simple solution might be to agree a standard form of sign with all the local Planning Authorities thereby removing the need to approve individual signs. This could include standard wording as in Appendix A.

3.3 Commercial Organisations

3.3.1 Where a commercial organisation agrees to carry out or sponsor a planting scheme which is not already undertaken by a Borough/District/City Council this will be encouraged. In some towns it will, subject to the agreement of the other Council, be treated as a Borough/District/City Council scheme as in paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.

3.3.2 Elsewhere it will be dealt with direct by the Highway Authority as in paragraphs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 except that the standard sign would read as in Appendix A.

3.3.3 Some sponsors may wish to have a sign design which is more in line with their corporate livery or logo. In such cases it will be the sponsor's responsibility to obtain the approval of the local Planning Authority. Also the sign should also retain the LINCOLNSHIRE GREEN reference and be approved by the Highway Authority.

3.4 General

3.4.1 All planting schemes will require licences to ensure they are approved on highway safety grounds but no charge will be levied.

3.4.2 There will be a general presumption that the sponsor bears the full cost of all planting schemes, including maintenance and associated signing and returning the highway to its original condition on termination of any licence. Cost sharing will be considered on an exception basis where one of the following conditions is met:

- (a) there is a significant cost saving to the Highway Authority
- (b) the site and scheme are particularly noteworthy in contributing to an improved roadside environment

Such exceptions would need the approval of the Divisional Highways Manager after consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Regulation Committee.

3.4.3 Anyone undertaking planting in the highway will be required to have public liability insurance to an indemnity level of £5 million and to agree safe methods of working with the Highway Authority.

3.4.4 The standard letters and application form for use in granting the relevant licence are attached as Appendix B.

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