

Colne town boundary sign proposals

Response of Senior Engineer – Traffic and Safety, Lancashire County Council Highways

I have reviewed the proposed signs against the current legislation (Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016) and have the following comments to offer.

Any messages or graphics must clearly display a significant geographical or historical link or approved tourism symbol. Locally used phrases or other messaging, whilst they may be locally known, are not permitted.

In relation to the specific sign designs put forward I would make the following observations:-

Sign 1A – This sign appears to be compliant with the current regulations and therefore I have no objection to this design.

Sign 1B – The theatre masks symbol would need to be changed to an appropriate symbol in the permitted tourism signs, which would be represented on the sign by a white symbol on a brown patch. However, this must be supported by existing tourism directional signs (white on brown background) to the theatre, or this may appear misleading and inconsistent to visitors. The message "East Lancashire Theatre Land" is not permitted.

Sign 2A – The use of the coat of arms as well as the townscape silhouette are not technically permitted to be used together. The coat of arms, "Welcome To" and "Colne" text should ideally be stacked to give visual confirmation that "Colne" is the main focus of the sign. The message "Bonnie Colne Upon The Hill" is not permitted.

Sign 2B – The message "We're Jammin'" and music notes symbol are not permitted.

Sign 3A – The message "Where The Band Plays On" and violin symbol are not permitted.

Sign 3B – The message "A Town On The Edge" is not permitted.

Given the current sign designs, we can advise that sign 1A is the only sign which meets the current regulations. We may consider a sign design which features the message from 1A in the townscape silhouette of sign 2A, however if this graphic is to be used the coat of arms should be removed. Whilst we are happy to support unique signs featuring Colne's interesting community and heritage, they must not be overly distracting and must meet the current regulations for boundary signs.

Once a compliant design has been agreed, I will also require details of exactly how and where any new signs are proposed to be located. This includes mounting at a height of 2100mm above footways (2300mm above shared use footway/cycleways), minimum clearance of 450mm between any part of the sign and post assembly and the edge of the adjoining carriageway, final assembly designs indicating post dimensions and evidence they meet wind loading capacity.