

# St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

## Report #02.4

### Provision Toad Crossing Signs

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To invite Council to consider the introduction of 6 Toad Crossing Signs, 4 for the Bridleway and Common Road, Corston and 2 in Milbourne.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Toads, which are a protected species, come out of hibernation at this time of the year and migrate, usually at night, to ponds where they were born for the purpose of mating. Many are, unfortunately, run over by vehicles as they attempt to cross roads on their way to these ponds.
- 2.2 Local residents, in Milbourne have hitherto formed small nighttime working parties to catch the toads as they attempt to cross the roads in order to protect them. The toads are then carried to safety and placed in ditches on the other side of road to assist them on their journey; thereby reducing the numbers likely to be run over. If appropriate signs were supplied, local residents in each location would be willing to store the signs when not in use.
- 2.3 Sites that are selected for these signs have to be registered with Froglife and approved by Wiltshire Highways. The Milbourne site already has its registration and Highways' approval. The Council's Manager LNR has recently obtained the registration of the two sites in Corston. Highway permission is presently being sought from Wiltshire Highways.

#### 3. Environmental considerations

- 3.1 Given that toads have protected status, the proposed placing of signs should help to reduce fatalities and thus improve and sustain the natural environment.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The signs cost £43.50 each, plus optional ownership stickers @ £8.67, plus delivery £30, all excluding VAT, producing a total cost, excluding VAT, of £343.02, which would be charged to CIL.

#### 5. Options

- 5.1 To consider the proposal unnecessary and poor value for money.
- 5.2 To support the proposal.

#### 6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Council is recommended to support Option 5.2 in respect of the Milbourne site and, subject to Wiltshire Highways' approval, the Corston sites.