

## Highway Improvement Request Form Junction of A4 and A342 east of Chippenham

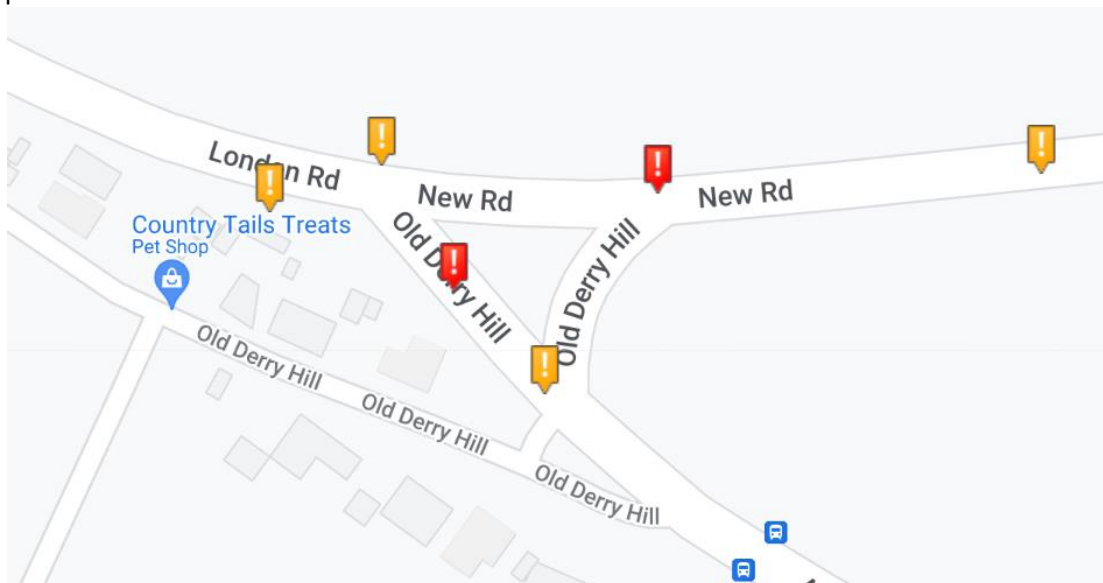
### 1. Background

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Council received a Highway Improvement Request Form, from a local resident, relating to safety concerns with the junction of the A4 and A342 at the bottom of Old Derry Hill. This follows representations made by a local resident at the September Council Meeting.

The Highway Improvement Request Form (with personal information redacted) is included as Appendix A.

### 2. Discussion

Publicly-available accident data indicates two serious and four slight accidents at this location over the period 2012 to 2021:



#### A4 Westbound

The first issue raised on the form is the issue of traffic not slowing quickly enough from the National Speed Limit (NSL) of 60mph heading downhill from Studley Crossroads and into the 40mph speed limit which covers the junction.

This problem is exacerbated by the following:

- The short distance between the start of the 40mph zone and the start of the junction. This is just 48m, compared to a stopping distance at 60mph of 73m.
- The further impact on downhill momentum on braking distance (estimated at 10-20%).
- Reliance on faded surface treatment and a single pair of 40mph signs (one of which is obscured by overgrowth starting 40m in advance of it), as illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 – view of junction from first set of surface treatment, approaching from the direction of Studley Crossroads

It is considered that this may be addressed by a combination of:

- Reviewing the terminal point of the 40mph speed limit (possibly in conjunction with current plans to revise the speed limits and terminal points through Studley Crossroads as far as Norley Lane).
- Reinforcing the existing signage and refurbishing and/or reinforcing existing surface treatment.
- Cutting back overgrowth on the approach to improve lines of sight.

#### Egress from Old Derry Hill

The second issue raised is that, in less congested periods of the day, traffic turning right off the A4 and up the A342 often treat the turn as a bend in the road and continue at high speeds. Vehicles emerging from the “old road” section of Old Derry Hill and heading towards Calne have to cross both carriageways of the A342 at this point. Because of poor lines-of-sight, these vehicles have little warning of cars turning right to head up the A342.

This issue is illustrated in figures 2 and 3 below:





Figure 2: layout and view of right-hand filter heading up Old Derry Hill



Figure 3: view towards the A4 from the "blind" exit from Old Derry Hill old road.

It is considered that this may be addressed by a combination of:

- Providing additional signage, road markings and/or surface treatment to alert drivers turning right up the A342 of the presence of a hidden exit.
- Cutting back overgrowth to improve lines of sight.

### **3. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Council endorse the Highways Improvement Request Form and submit it to the Calne Area LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group) with a request for improvements to mitigate the risk of road traffic accidents.

Cllr John Barnes  
Highways, Transport & Road Safety Working Group

# Highways Improvement Request Form

## Contact Details

<b>Name:</b>	*** redacted ***	<b>Date:</b>	14/09/2023
<b>Address:</b>	*** redacted ***		
<b>Telephone No:</b>	*** redacted ***		
<b>Email Address:</b>	*** redacted ***		

## Issue Details

<b>Location of Issue:</b>	Junction of A4 and A342 east of Chippenham
<b>Community Area:</b>	Calne
<b>Parish or Town Council:</b>	Calne Without Parish Council
<b>Nature of Issue: Traffic calming measures</b>	
<p>1. Traffic is not slowing quickly enough from NSL (60mph) to 40 mph at the bottom of the A4 hill approaching the junction thus entering the 40mph section far too quickly. This endangers traffic joining the A4 road from the A342 Devizes road.</p> <p>2. Traffic turning right on to the A342 Devizes road off the A4, which is not at right angles, allows drivers to take this junction as if it were a bend in the road, therefore, at speed. Immediately inside this junction is a turning off into Old Derry Hill 'old road' which drivers are not aware of and residents waiting to make this turn or leaving the 'old road' to either turn right towards Devizes or straight across to join the A4 have a blind corner and little time to make exit the junction safely.</p>	
<b>How long has it been an issue?</b>	Since I moved to this site 10 years ago but becoming increasingly more dangerous because of the increase in local traffic.
<b>What would you like done to resolve this issue?</b>	
<p>Road markings are in place but more signage and additional road markings required to warn drivers of the (1) sudden reduction in speed and (2) that there is a blind junction immediately after the A4/A342 junction for residents.</p> <p>There have been serious accidents at this junction in the past and many residents have had near misses entering and exiting to and from the Old Derry Hill 'old road'.</p>	
<b>Have you been in touch with your local Wiltshire Councillor? (Yes/No)</b>	No

***This form needs to be completed and e-mailed or sent to your local Town or Parish Council.***

***Town and Parish contact details are available via the link below:***

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx>