

Highway Improvement Request Form Calstone A4 Junction

1. Background

The attached Highway Improvement Request Form has been received by the Parish Council.

The issue raised is that vehicles turning onto the A4 from Calstone have very poor visibility with regard to traffic approaching from the direction of Cherhill due to the presence of a large hedge close to the road. Residents are concerned about safety in pulling out onto the A4, which is under the national speed limit at this location.

The photograph below was taken on 15th July and illustrates the issue.



2. Discussion

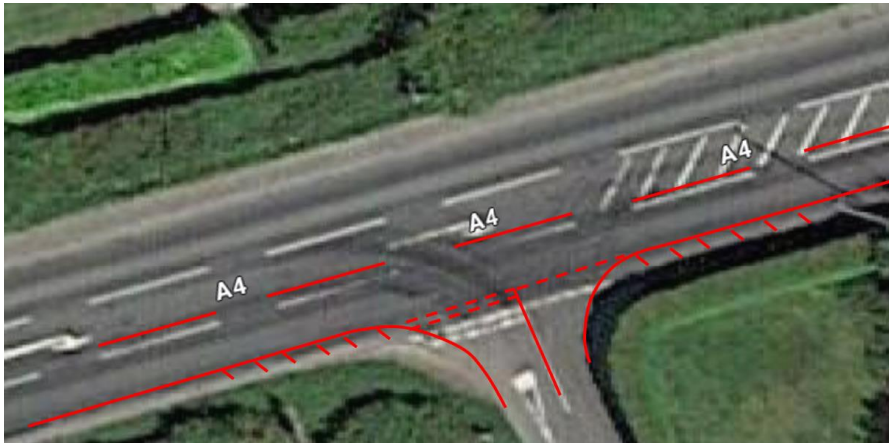
According to publicly available data, there have been no recorded accidents at this location in the last 10 years. There was a fatal accident in October 2001 and serious accident involving three vehicles in February 1999. Nevertheless, the visibility for turning onto this fast road is extremely poor and therefore hazardous. Many local residents are understood to avoid using this junction for this reason.

The options put forward on the Highway Improvement Request Form are to either have the hedge removed or cut well back, or to install a mirror on the other side of the A4.

The hedge is on the boundary of the property and is privately owned. Nevertheless, it could be cut back where it impinges on the highway boundary, or alternatively, the Highway Authority could require it to be cut back or removed under Section 79 of the Highways Act 1980.

The installation of a mirror is unlikely to be considered as an acceptable solution by the Highway Authority.

A further option might be to slightly narrow the width of the right turn lane to allow the Give Way lines to be pushed forward, by approximately 0.5m, to improve the line of sight. The alignment for westbound traffic on the A4 would need careful consideration.



3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council endorse the Highways Improvement Request Form and submit it to the Calne Area LHFIF (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group) with the suggestions above recommended for consideration.

Cllr John Barnes
Highways, Transport & Road Safety Working Group

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact details

Name: *** redacted ***

Address: *** redacted ***

Date: July 16th 2024

Telephone No.: *** redacted ***

Email address: *** redacted ***

Issue Details

Location of Issue: Junction of Calstone road with A4

Community Area: Calne

Parish or Town Council: Calne Without

Nature of Issue: The turning on to the A4 from Calstone has very poor visibility with regard to traffic approaching from the right which is hidden by a large hedge close to the road . It is only possible to see if the road is clear by pulling out into the A4 and thus risking a collision .

How long as it been an issue?
For some years .

What would you like done to resolve this issue?
Either have the hedge removed or cut well,back or perhaps by installation of a mirror on the other side of the A4.

Have you been in touch with your local Councillor? Yes/No
Yes

This form needs to be completed and e-mailed or sent to your local town or parish council (link provided below)

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