

Highway Improvement Request Forms Chilvester Hill

1. Introduction

The Parish Council has received three Highway Improvement Request Forms from residents on Chilvester Hill, on the A4 approach into Calne. These are included at the end of the paper.

The forms all raise the issue of speeding, with two of them also highlighting the additional hazard arising from the new access from the Alexandra Gate development of 28 homes, currently under construction on the south side of the road.

The forms have variously requested the following improvements:

- Reduction in Speed Limit from 40mph (to either 20 or 30mph).
- Prohibition of right-turn entry into the new estate for vehicles travelling from the direction of Chippenham.
- Traffic calming measures.
- Installation of speed cameras.

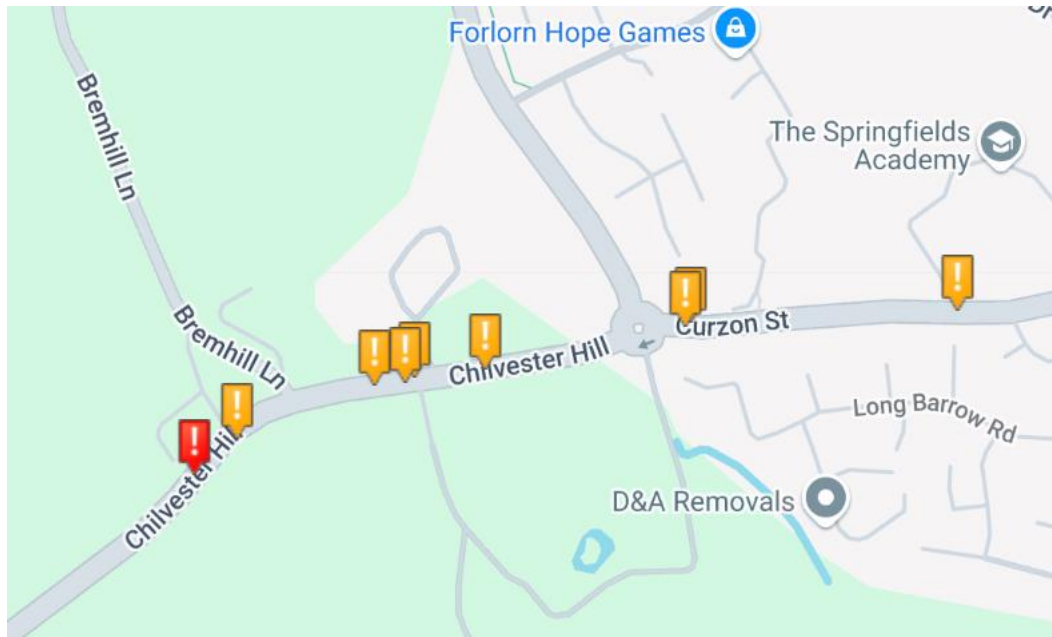
2. Background

The location is currently covered by a 40mph speed limit which starts outside New Cottages on Chilvester Hill, together with “Calne” gateway-type signs. The 40mph limit continues through the roundabout, becoming 30mph heading into Calne just before the entrance to the Springfield Academy:



This section of highway has previously had a rural nature to it but will acquire more of a semi-urban feel with the completion of the new housing estate.

Checking on CrashMap for the previous ten years (2013-2022), there have been one serious and eight slight accidents over the section covered by the 40mph speed limit:



The new development of Alexandra Gate will comprise 28 homes. Planning permission for this was granted on appeal in November 2021.

Calne Without Parish Council had objected to the planning application in September 2020 for a number of reasons, including access:

“The access proposed is the minimum acceptable level in highways terms and local knowledge indicates that this would be likely to lead to accidents and injury. The Council believe that the access should be taken off the roundabout, if that is proven not to be achievable then consideration should be given to alternative designs for the access including consideration of a reduction in speed limit and use of islands, turning lanes and carriageway realignment. The Council has serious concerns over the impact of the proposed access on the safety of traffic in the area including the impact on the A4 /A3102 roundabout, the turning to Ratford and the access for the surrounding properties.”

At the same time, Wiltshire Council’s Highways Department had commented that:

“The proposed access point has been demonstrated showing that the visibility splays for the access can be achieved in line with DMRB standards and commensurate with the speeds on the road, achieving a 2.4m x 120m splay in both directions and ATC data has been provided which show that the splays fully account for recorded 85th percentile speeds on Chilvester Hill.”

Although the planning application was refused by Wiltshire Council, the access arrangement to the estate was not cited as a reason for refusal.

Following implementation of the Community Governance Review in May 2025, this section of the A4 will lie on the boundary between Calne Town Council (incorporating the new estate to the south) and Bremhill Parish Council (incorporating the older properties on Chilvester Hill).

3. Discussion

The forms have been considered by the Council's Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group, who recognised that the new estate entrance will introduce additional hazards to this section of highway, particularly given its location not far beyond the brow of a hill.

Addressing the requests made in the Highway Improvement Request Forms, the following observations are made:

Reduction in Speed Limit

This section of highway had been included in the A4 Speed Limit Review, undertaken by Wiltshire Council in 2023. This found that "*The assessed speed limit and existing speed limit at both 40mph. This is the recommended speed limit.*" It is considered unlikely that a further Speed Limit Review would recommend a reduction in Speed Limit. Nevertheless, as the highway conditions have been changed by the construction of the new estate, becoming more semi-urban and more hazardous, a Review could be requested.

Right Turn Prohibition

One of the principal hazards would be eastbound traffic backing up behind stationary vehicles seeking to turn right into the new estate. It is unlikely that the road layout could accommodate a right-hand filter lane, so a no-right-turn prohibition could provide mitigation, with vehicles being required to continue a short distance further to the roundabout before doubling back.

Traffic Calming Measures

Available measures may be limited given the nature of the A4. Nevertheless, there may be options available, such as reinforcement of the "gateway" at the start of the 40mph speed limit. This is currently highlighted by yellow bars followed by red tarmac and a 40mph roundel. These could be refreshed and potentially reinforced by white gates.

Installation of Speed Cameras

Speed cameras are not deployed and operated by Wiltshire Council. It may be possible to request police enforcement in response to the introduction of a new limit, or if data was available to meet Wiltshire Police's threshold for enforcement action.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council:

- Considers the issues raised by the Highway Improvement Request Forms.
- Submits them to the Calne Area LHFIFG with the Council's endorsement and a request that LHFIFG considers measures to mitigate the road safety hazards introduced by the entrance to the new Alexandra Gate housing development.
- Seeks confirmation from the successor councils of Calne Town Council and Bremhill Parish Council that they will continue to progress implementation of any mitigating measures after May 2025.

Cllr John Barnes
Highways, Transport & Road Safety Working Group

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact details

Name:

Address:

Norborne Manor, Chilvester Hill Calne, SN11 0LP

Date:

11 Aug 2024

Telephone No.:

Email address:

Issue Details

Location of Issue:

A34

Community Area:

Calne

Parish or Town Council:

Calne

Nature of Issue:

Reduce Speed limit and put in place traffic calming measures.

How long as it been an issue?

10 plus years

What would you like done to resolve this issue?

put in place speed calming measures

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>

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact details	
Name:	XXXXXXXXXX
Address:	Chilvester Lodge Cottage
Date:	4th September 2024
Telephone No.:	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Email address:	XXXXXXXXXXXX

Issue Details	
Location of Issue:	Chilvester Hill, SN11 0LP vicinity
Community Area:	Calne
Parish or Town Council:	Calne Without
Nature of Issue:	The development of around 30 houses on Chilvester Hill adjacent to the A4 is going to increase traffic volumes and will lead to injuries and deaths on what is already a dangerous stretch of road unless well-enforced traffic calming measures are put in place
How long as it been an issue?	<small>Your planning permission was irregularly granted for the development in the face of opposition from local residents and all local authority councils - planning permission that was granted for reasons that one can only speculate about and with no explanation or justification offered to local residents.</small>
What would you like done to resolve this issue?	Reduce the speed limit to 30 (from 40) and install speed cameras at the approach to the new 30 limit. Prohibit right-turn entry into the new estate for vehicles arriving from Chippenham direction on the A4
Have you been in touch with your local Councillor? Yes/No	No

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

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Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact details

Name:

Address:

Date:

Telephone No.:

Email address:

Issue Details

Location of Issue:

Community Area:

Parish or Town Council:

Nature of Issue:

How long as it been an issue?

What would you like done to resolve this issue?

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

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