

1. **Feedback on Hay Lane:**

1.1 Following the February 2021 meeting of this Committee, the Parish Council has received a response from Swindon Borough Council Highways.

Mon 22/02/2021 15:33

I would like to confirm that a Shied is also known as a Baffle, I think there has been some misunderstanding in some of the email chains as. These can be obtained and are mainly used to cover the beacons that are within urban areas, (built up areas) where more than one property would be effected by possible light pollution. The baffles are designed minimise the visibility of the lights. These are more suited were the zebra can been seen clearly on the approach from both directions . Baffles/Shields cannot be placed just on one beacon they must be installed on both sides of the road. Below is a picture of Baffles /Shields installed on our Wellington Road crossing. And as you can see from the picture they cover the beacon.



Hay Lanes layout has vast vegetation on both approaches giving this road a more rural look with no properties fronting Hay Lane. Before the works were undertaken as you approach from Grange Park Roundabout you could not see the Zebra, once you got at least 20m from the roundabout junction you could just about see one of the black and white poles before, once past this point and the bend on the straight approach both poles of the Zebra could be seen. As you approached from the entrance to Lydiard House one of the Zebra poles was just about visible from the giveaway at the shared cycleway , once passed this point and around the bend on the straight both poles could be seen.

With the new zebrite beacons installed not only can you see the poles but can now see the beacons flashing which clearly identifies this as a Zebra which drivers recognise and promotes them to adjust their approach speeds before the bends on both approaches. If baffles/Shields were installed the visibility would again be impacted and the visibility would be as it was or if not worse than before as you need to be on a straight sections which approach the zebra see the beacons when they have Baffles/Shields installed. It is not recommended that baffles or shields are in installed. The objective is to highlight this as a zebra and provide plenty of advance warning to the drivers of their approach to the Zebra.

In regards to fencing we would not be opposed to the residents placing any additional fencing on their private land, this is not something that we are in the position to undertake or fund and we do not recommend fencing is placed on public highway.

Kind Regards
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Traffic & TRO Technician

Traffic Management & Road Safety



2. Planning Committee Considerations:

- 2.1 It is the Highways Department view that any obstruction or shielding of the beacon will be detrimental to the effectiveness of the scheme although shields/baffles are available.
- 2.2 The Highways Department does not recommend any fencing behind the beacon to shield from the property behind. The resident could install their own barrier/fence on their property. It may be possible to consider a barrier behind the shrubbery on the side of the footpath however it is likely that this would create some degree of obstruction to annual maintenance.
- 2.3 There are no permissions in place for the installation of any form of barrier or fencing at the current time. Investigation into any permissions that would be required would need to be undertaken.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 A key consideration for the Parish Council is whether or not any action to in response to a resident's complaint on a highways matter may create a precedent and future obligations.
- 3.2 A barrier or narrow fencing may initially cost in the region of £300 for purchase and installation however there may be maintenance and replacement costs in the long term. This could be funded from the Parish Council's fencing budget.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That this Committee considers the response from the Highways Department and identifies any further actions from the Parish Council.