

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning & Environment Committee

LED Lighting at Hay Lane as requested by Cllr Philpot

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the installation of new lighting at Hay Lane to Tregoze Primary School, Cllr Trish Philpot passed resident concerns about the impact of the change to Swindon Borough Council Highways. A response was provided, see **Appendix A:**

2. Options-

- 2.1 The Highways recommendation to allow the vegetation along the side of the road to grow slightly higher in order to produce an adequate obstruction to any light pollution is a reasonable suggestion however there are a number of issues that we need to highlight:

- The Parish Council has a legal agreement with Swindon Borough Council to maintain all hedgerows with at least one annual cut.
- We receive complaints about this hedgerow getting overgrown throughout the year and make a number of cuts to the front and back to allow pedestrian access and visibility on both sides
- The vegetation grows no more than 50 cm to one metre in a full growing season. It is unlikely that if left uncut it could reach a height that would have an impact on these taller columns partly as it is too thin and unstable/narrow to physically support a significant growth in height.



- 2.2 It is important to balance maintenance alongside practicality. A thin metal shield barrier behind the light itself would potentially be a better solution as it would be less likely to restrict pedestrian visibility and would be able to provide cover all year round.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Councillors should note the recommendation from Swindon Borough Council Highways and determine a response from the Parish Council.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager

APPENDIX A

From: Stephanie Biggs <SBiggs@swindon.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:07:51 PM
Subject: FW: LED lighting on Hay Lane Crossing

Good afternoon

Apologies for the delay in my response.

I have now had the opportunity to revisit the site after daylight hours to assess the issue and see how many properties are likely to be affected. I was delighted to see how much more visible and effective the Zebrites are when approaching the crossing from both directions, and I really hope that this will reduce the risk to any pedestrians using the crossing.

I noted that there only appeared to be one property that would be directly affected by these lights and so hopefully the impact on the community will be minimal.

We have made enquiries with the supplier of the Zebrites and unfortunately there is no option for shields to be added as we had with the previous Belisha Beacons. The only similar thing available would be baffles, which are large and cumbersome, and I would not recommend these being used in a rural location such as Hay Lane as they are more appropriate for urban areas. We do have the option to dim the brightness of the LEDs, but I would be reluctant to do this given that the aim was to increase the visibility of the crossing. I think that the best thing to do in this situation would be to allow the vegetation along the side of the road to grow slightly higher in order to produce an adequate obstruction to any light pollution.

In relation to your enquiries about the remaining works, the signs have been order and we have been in contact with Westcotec. However, they are yet to confirm an exact date for the works due to being short on staff following new Covid restrictions.

I hope that this answers your questions and please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Stephanie Biggs
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