

Old Derry Hill/Pewsham – Request for Village Gates and Nameplate

1. Introduction

In November 2024, the Council received a Highway Improvement Request Form for Old Derry Hill, requesting the provision of white gates on either side of the settlement, with the aim of both moderating driver behaviour through the settlement and providing recognition to the settlement's identity.

A copy of the Form is provided as Appendix A.

The request was considered at the Council's meeting of 9th December 2024, which unanimously resolved that:

The Council endorses the Highway Improvement Request Form and submits it to LHFIG with a request for white gates and "Old Derry Hill" settlement signage on the A342 Old Derry Hill, and for white gates to be installed on the A4 London Road to reinforce the existing "Pewsham" settlement gateways and 40mph terminal points.

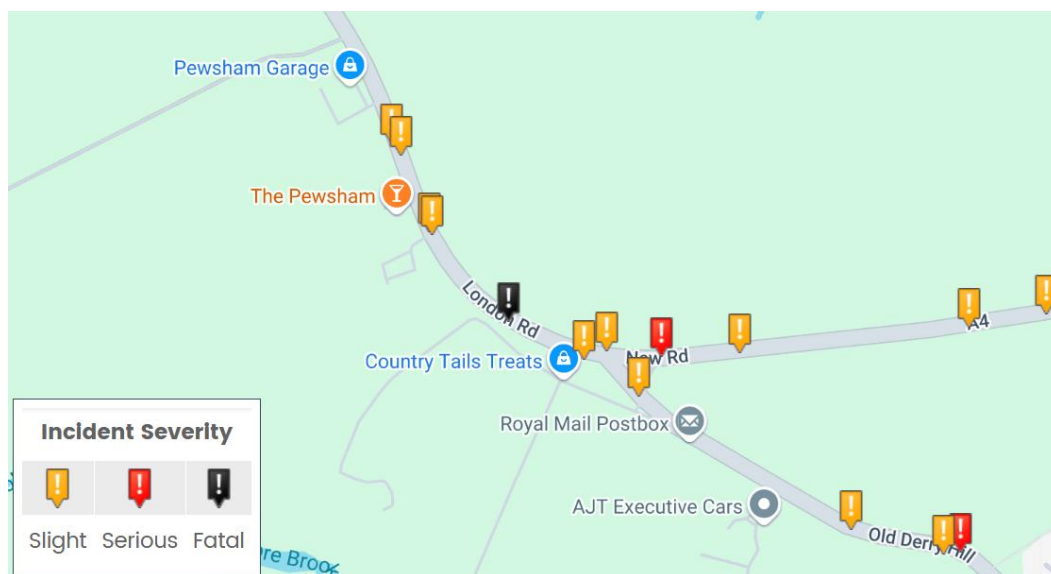
A copy of the paper from December 2024 can be found here: <https://derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Old-Derry-Hill-Highway-Improvement-Form-09Dec24.pdf>.

2. Background

Old Derry Hill is located on the A342, closed to the junction with the A4. The settlement has a distinct identity, which isn't formally recognised by settlement signage.

Old Derry Hill is currently covered by a 40mph zone. Residents report issues with speeding vehicles and white gates could help to mitigate this by alerting drivers that they are entering an area with residential properties and multiple entrances.

White gates may also help slow traffic speeds heading downhill approaching the hazardous uncontrolled junction with the A4, which has recorded multiple accidents over the period 2013 to 2022 as indicated below.



The optimum location for white gates approaching Old Derry Hill from the direction of Devizes, would be just before the turning to Derry Hill Farm.

Finding a location in the opposite direction is more problematic, as Old Derry Hill morphs into Pewsham without a clear break.

There are, however, two existing village “gateways” on the A4, coinciding with the 40mph terminal points, and with existing “Pewsham” signage. These are located at Forest Gate (from the direction of Chippenham) and immediately prior to the A342 junction (from the direction of Calne).



From the direction of Chippenham



From the direction of Calne

It would make sense to reinforce these two existing settlement “gateways” with white gates to reinforce the reduction in speed limit through Pewsham.

3. Proposed Scheme

The request was submitted to Calne Area LHFIG and a scheme has been developed by Wiltshire’s Highways Department comprising:

- A pair of village gates on Old Derry Hill with nameplates. (We are given options of single nameplate or a pair of them.)
- A pair of village gates on the A4 London Road at Forest Gate, coinciding with the existing 40mph/Pewsham signs.
- A single village gate on the A4 approaching the turning to Old Derry Hill, coinciding with the existing 40mph/Pewsham sign. (There is insufficient room on the side of the road with the footway.)

These proposals are detailed on the attached drawings.

The estimated cost of the scheme is £7,107.63, including traffic management, uplift for restrictive hours working and a 20% contingency. The Parish Contribution of 30% would equate to £2,132.29.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council endorses the designed scheme for the provision of village gates and nameplates for Old Derry Hill and Pewsham and authorises the Parish’s contribution of £2,132.29.

Cllr John Barnes
Chair, Highways, Transport & Road Safety Working Group

Appendix A – Highway Improvement Request Form

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

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>