

Road Safety Working Group Update

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to update Council and make recommendations in respect of three issues:

- Issues arising from the recent completion of the Derry Hill Traffic Calming Scheme.
- Highway Improvement Request Form – white gates for the A4 westbound entering Studley.
- LHFIF Funding.

A separate paper is on the Agenda in respect of the Studley Traffic Calming Scheme (deferred from the July Parish Council meeting.)

2. Derry Hill Traffic Calming Scheme

2.1 Background

The scheme was originally developed as part of the Parish Council's Road Safety Feasibility Study and formally endorsed at the Parish Council meeting of 17th April 2023 for submission to Calne Area LHFIF and development by Wiltshire Highways. It comprised the following elements set out in the Feasibility Study Stage 2 Area 1 Report: https://derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/20220905-CWPC_Stage-2_Study-Area-1-V2.pdf. It comprised the following elements:

- DH3 Shop - contrasting material (muted buff coloured surface dressing) across the carriageway, augmented by string courses of granite setts highlighting the pedestrian crossing point. The purpose of this is to highlight the shop as a village feature, allowing it to spill out onto the street.
- DH5/6 Bus Stops and School – highlight the pedestrian crossing point at the bus stops in buff coloured surface dressing; highlight the presence of the school with posts shaped like pencils in primary colours.
- DH7/8 Church and Layby - introduce a new crossing point to the church, highlighted with buff coloured surface dressing.
- DH10 War Memorial - introduce concentric circles using the same muted buff surface treatment. This would provide further “spill out” onto the street and reinforce the nature of the village with drivers:
- DH11 Gateway – provide muted buff coloured surface treatment to highlight the existing crossing point and village gateway; provide planter with mounted 20mph signage at gateway.

The scheme was one of eight successful bids across Wiltshire approved for substantive highway scheme funding in 2025/26. It was completed by Wiltshire Council's contracts in August.

2.2 Complaints

The Parish Council has received complaints about noise from the residents of three properties adjacent to the war memorial site. The complaints all relate to noise and disturbance caused by vehicles crossing the raised strips of granite setts installed on either side of the war memorial.

Examples of comments received include:

“When the road re-opened surprise turned to horror when we heard vehicles passing over the humps and realised the noise they made, 4 bumps x 2 axles = 8 impacts every time a vehicle passes. This cattle grid like sound occurs even when vehicles do make the effort to slow down but the majority just continue over them without changing speed making the noise even more unbearable, the result is the complete opposite of the intention to create 'more of a village feel'.”

“We have no problem with the general scheme - the new hump by the church and the other measures by the village shop etc. However the rumble strips which are only about 10 metres from the end of our house are awful. There are 4 raised strips and as most vehicles have 4 axles every vehicle is making about 8 loud bump noises, though due to the speed of traffic it sort of merges into 2 loud thuds. It is horrendous. It doesn't even slow most traffic, and is unnecessary anyway as the bend slows traffic quite enough.”

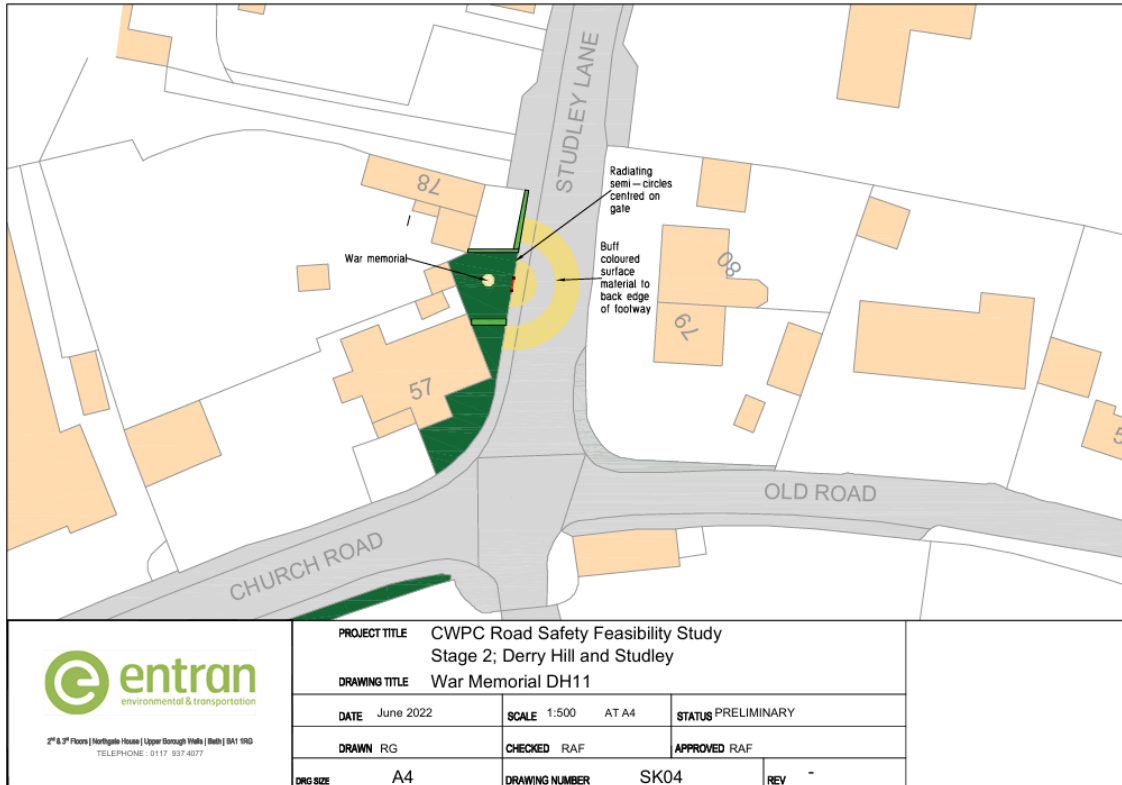
“During the day there is about one vehicle around every minute. We have a bedroom at that end of the house (my daughters are woken early by the noise) , and my office from where I work from home is at that end of the house (behind the bay window). It is extremely distressing to be trying to work and have this constant distraction . Every car that passes I sit here waiting in anticipation to hear the noise.”

“The rumble strips installed near the war memorial appear to do little to reduce vehicle speeds on entry to or exit from the village. However, they have significantly increased the level of noise experienced by nearby residents. Every vehicle passing over the strips produces a loud rattling sound, similar to crossing a cattle grid, and the disturbance is particularly pronounced when vehicles are towing trailers or carrying loose equipment.”

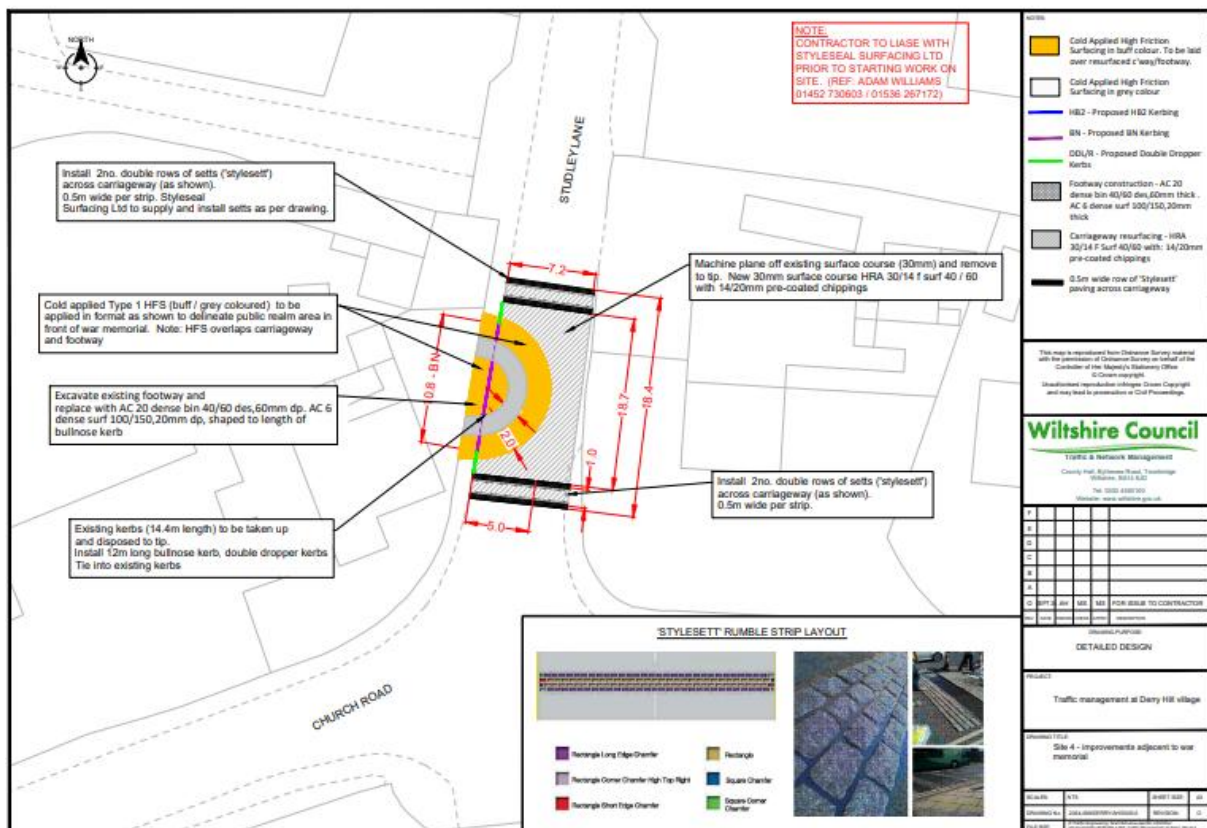
“I work from home, and the increased noise is having a noticeable impact on my working day. The strips are located directly outside my office window, and the sound is so frequent and intrusive that Microsoft Teams regularly activates its noise-suppression function during calls as vehicles pass. Rather than reducing disruption, the scheme has introduced a new and ongoing source of disturbance.”

2.3 Discussion

The granite setts were not included in the original proposal put forward by the Parish Council:



They are a feature that was added during the design stage by Wiltshire Council. They were, however, included in the detailed design drawings that were reviewed on site in August 2025 (by Wiltshire Council officers and representatives of the Parish Council) and were endorsed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 8th September 2025:



The strips are sitting prouder of the underlying road surface than might have been anticipated: the installation of setts as thresholds into estate roads is fairly commonplace without creating an issue.

Nevertheless, the height and layout of these strips do result in an unacceptably loud “cattle-grid” type noise from passing traffic and the Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure that this issue is resolved.

2.4 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council requests Wiltshire Council to remove the four strips of granite setts installed in pairs on Studley Lane to either side of the war memorial.

3. Highway Improvement Request Form – A4 Studley

3.1 Request

A Highway Improvement Request Form was received on 26th June requesting the installation of a set of white gates on the A4 westbound at the 50mph speed limit signs.

3.2 Discussion

The white gates would be located to reinforce the change in speed limit from the national speed limit to 50mph, immediately west of Norley Lane. At this point, Crewe’s Cottages are visible on the right, with a further seven properties becoming visible on the left shortly afterwards.

White village gates are a recognised method of moderating driver behaviour approaching and passing through settlements. Over the past few years, the parish has promoted the installation of white gates for Sandy Lane, Pewsham and Old Derry Hill; these have been well-received by residents.

3.3 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parish Council endorses the Highway Improvement Request Form, and submits it for consideration at the next Calne Area LHFIG meeting on 2nd October.

4. Update on LHFIG Funding

At its meeting of 11th May 2026, the Parish Council resolved to write to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Streetscene, and Flooding to express concern about the budget reductions to LHFIG funding and to request that the budget be match-funded with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money as in previous years.

In response, the Council received the following response on 30th June, from Cllr Martin Smith:

“The LHFIG funding for the Calne Area Board remains the same as last year. The request to use CIL is a manual task which for some reason has been delayed each time for the last couple of years. This is what has caused the confusion. I have received assurances

from my cabinet colleague for Finance, that in future years, this request for CIL will be automated. I sincerely hope that this will avoid confusion in the future.

“The other good news is that we are doubling the size of the budget for substantive bids. There will also be two opportunities per year to submit a bid.

“This change is in response to feedback from the LHFIG survey, where many Town and Parish Councils wanted more access to larger projects. We are also empowering LHFIG chairs and engineers to agree lower levels of spend between meetings to improve the delivery of schemes. We will also be publicising a 'shopping list' of items so that councils will be able to get a rough idea as to the cost of schemes that they are requesting (without waiting for an official Highways estimate).

“I'm a big supporter of LHFIGs and I hope that the above measures will improve the speed of delivery and continue to allow communities to get the highway improvements they need.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- Request Wiltshire Council to remove the four strips of granite setts installed in pairs on Studley Lane to either side of the war memorial.
- Endorses the Highway Improvement Request Form for white gates on the A4 westbound at the 50mph speed limit signs, and submits it for consideration at the next Calne Area LHFIG meeting.
- Notes the reply from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Streetscene, and Flooding in respect of LHFIG Funding and Substantive Highway Scheme Funding.