

# St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

## Report #09.2

### Extension of Pedestrian Safety Refuge in Milbourne

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for an extension to the safety refuge in Milbourne to permit pedestrians and others additional time to step off the road before the blind corner in the village.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The principal residential development in the village of Milbourne sits either side of Milbourne Lane and the C67. The village is essentially a string development necessitating pedestrians, including dog walkers and parents with buggies, when visiting other residents, to navigate the right-angled bend in the centre of the village.
- 2.2 Following the raising of a Community Issue by several residents, the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) prioritised and completed the initial stage of the pedestrian refuge in March 2019. Due to financial limitations on both the CATG's and Council's budgets it was only possible to complete the short first section at the time. It was always recognised that an extension to the refuge would be required at some point to provide extra time and improved visibility to safely cross the road before coming into conflict with vehicles manoeuvring at excessive speed round the blind right-angled corner.
- 2.3 Due to a considerable number of higher priority Community Area schemes and pressure on a limited budget, the CATG - now Local Highway & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG - is unlikely to assign a project such as this extension sufficient priority for it to be addressed in any sensible timescale. Therefore the Council approached Wiltshire Highways directly with a proposal to independently fund the extension to this route.
- 2.4 A detailed plan of the scheme is attached. The costs of the scheme, following a more detailed design, remain at £22,000. However, the Highways officer wishes to bring to the Council's attention the significant inflation rises since the original estimate last year. Whilst an allowance for contingency was made in the original estimate this may now be somewhat eroded with the rise in inflation recently. Nationally, inflation stands currently at around 10%, however the construction industry as a whole is experiencing inflation rises in the order of 15%. The construction and road closure dates are booked for the 5th to 16th December 2022.

#### 3. Options

- 3.1 To decide that the extension is unnecessary.
- 3.2 To approve a shortened version of the proposed extension but accepting the majority of the costs are associated with the design work, topographical survey and the road closure process
- 3.3 To approve installation of the extension as planned and at the current indicated cost of £22K

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council has sufficient funds from CIL contributions to cover the cost of this scheme.

#### 5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Council is recommended to support Option 3.3