

Mr Sargent,
By Email

Corporate Resources

Nina Philippidis

Executive Director: Corporate Resources

Gloucestershire County Council

Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG

Please Ask for: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: Petition to Install a Zebra
Crossing in the village of
Aylburton

Your Ref:

Date: 19 December 2024

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Sargent,

Thank you for your recent Petition – To Install a Zebra Crossing in the village of Aylburton [REDACTED] Traffic and Active Travel Manager, has provided the following response:

Thank you for your petition for an installation of a zebra crossing in the village of Aylburton. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is keen to improve journeys for pedestrians by ensuring that travel is safe and accessible. This is in line with the council's priority objectives to improve roads by making them safer and encouraging active travel.

The Road Safety Team conducted a site visit on the 27th March 2024 and provided a safety view to Cllr Alan Preest. The comments from the Road Safety Team were as follows:

There is a pedestrian refuge in the vicinity of the junction, but there is not tactile paving on the Eastern side of Church Road Junction. At the crossing point there is no dropped kerbs or tactile paving. The width of the footway is limited due to the proximity of buildings to the road. This constrained area has very poor visibility to allocate a pedestrian crossing within the pedestrian desire line of crossing. So, there is a potential for raising the whole junction (see picture below yellow area) and changing the surface for paving blocks, this will reduce the speed of the vehicles when negotiating the junction. The other option we considered at this location was to increase the footpath on the western side of the road (to gain visibility) and installation of a traffic signal-controlled crossing (see picture below grey area). At the moment, this junction is not in our hotspot list (priority list for actions) due that it has only three slight injuries in the last 5 years, so it cannot be considered for any further action. Neither of these two options is a cheap solution and we need to assess the pros and cons of both of them. However, if local funding is raised, we could be in a position where the feasibility study can be done.

Implementing a zebra crossing as requested in your petition or any other proposed type of crossing and associated works would require funding. The council has limited funding. Therefore, highway schemes are assessed so that budgets can be prioritised. A primary criterion to implement changes on the highway is a review of traffic collisions that have caused personal injuries. In the past five years, there were 4 recorded collisions on the A48 in Aylburton. Each collision caused a slight injury. This is not sufficient to be prioritised over other locations in the county where there are serious casualties and in some cases fatalities.

The collision record is not the only basis for improving the highway for pedestrians and cyclists. As discussed above, it is a council priority to encourage more walking and cycling, which means ensuring that pedestrians and cyclists feel there is a safe route to all locations within their area, and therefore this also would inform part of an assessment. Favourable consideration will be given to improvement schemes and routes that have already been identified through public engagement on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). There may also be money available as part of agreements with developers to meet the needs of new developments. At this time there is not funding available through these sources.

A feasibility study is an essential basis for seeking future funding for work to implement the objectives in your petition. This study would include traffic collision analysis, surveys to measure speeds and collect traffic data (in terms of the number of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists that use the road), producing and evaluating design options and generating cost estimates for implementing these options. This would also require council officer time. The feasibility study would need to be funded. The council does not have funding for feasibility studies for the county.

In situations, where there is no support for funding budgets are sometimes provided by a combination of sources such as the Parish Council and / or the local County Councillor's Highways Local funding. I suggest that you first consider the funding of a feasibility study and discuss this with your county councillor. We are happy to facilitate this discussion.

Should you have any more information on the levels of use at the location please contact the council's Road Safety Community Hub roadsafetycommunityhub@gloucestershire.gov.uk

This response has been sent to you as the Lead Petitioner, if you require further information please contact [REDACTED], or myself directly.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Democratic Services

cc. Cllr Alan Preest – Forest of Dean: Lydney