

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Mark Tredwin



22 November 2022

Dear

Following on from the letter sent to you on the 26 October 2022, I am now providing all of the relevant information that we have and which you have requested.

A number of the emails you have seen before however for transparency, and so that you are able to share these easily, they have been included in PDF format. Where appropriate some redaction has taken place so that individuals names and private contact details have been protected as per the ICO guidelines.

In response to the specific questions that you have asked, details are provided below and are supported by documents within the PDF. All information has been provided that we hold and which you have requested. I hope that it will assist you with your efforts.

1. *Notes of your 'lengthy meeting with Traffic Management/Somerset Highways' including all emails and letters (dated) that are appropriate.*

This meeting took place on the 13 September 2022 and was a meeting to discuss a number of highways related issues. A great deal of the time was spent looking at the way in which the Town Council could get its Speed Indication Device (SID) deployed within Ilminster. One of the sites looked at was Bay Hill. Discussions also took place regarding the implementation of some form of traffic calming along Whites Drive.

The issue of the H Bars was discussed and the basic information noted. These notes are appended, but as they were purely an "aide memoire" they are not particularly detailed.

2. *The notes produced plus the Police notes ‘**after consulting the local police**’ and their comments and whatever emails and letters (dated) are appropriate*

The police call into the office on an infrequent basis and it was at one of these meetings when the issue of H Bars was discussed with the Police Community Support Officer for Ilminster John Martin, who reiterated the concerns that applying yellow lines would have the impact of shifting the problem of cars parking along Bay Hill, as well as allowing vehicles to speed even faster.

Any information relating to details provided to Highways by the police will need to be requested from them if it is not already contained within the emails that we have and are providing.

3. *How the information was communicated to you ‘**They are of the belief that applying these lines..**’ including all emails and letters (dated) that are appropriate.*

This information has been communicated through the two meetings described above in the responses to your questions 1 and 2. You will also see that there is a detailed response from Rebecca Vaughan from Traffic Management at Somerset County Council on the 3 August 2022 that details the information you are requesting. You were sent this information on the 5 August 2022 by Vicky.

4. Please explain the statement ‘**They were however able to confirm that revised H Bar markings could be implemented. It is worth pointing out that their current policy H bars means that any changes would see the existing lines removed and bars inserted just across the dropped kerbs.**’

In essence, if the H Bars were to be painted across the entrance way for the seven properties to the South of Bay Hill and the four properties to the North as indicated in your drawing of the 7 March 2022, then the existing white H Bars would be removed from either side of the entrance. I refer you to the email from Ms Vaughan which states:

“When providing the advisory white H-bar road markings, we aim to ensure that they are kept to an absolute minimum. This ensures that drivers recognise other H-bar road markings and respect them. Over proliferation of advisory H-bar markings tends to lead to misuse. They should, therefore, only be used where the kerb is dropped at a pedestrian crossing point, or where the Police request them to deal with sites where they have been repeatedly called to deal with actual obstruction occurring.

These markings should not be used for private accesses where it is obvious to the motorist that vehicular access is required. Any parking in front of a vehicular access is an obstruction under the Road Traffic Act and the matter should be referred to the Police to be dealt with. Residents can erect a ‘please keep clear’ sign off the highway, or ‘access required at all times’ sign on a gate or wall. “

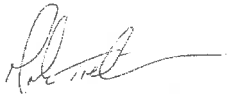
5. Please could you point me to a link to **'their current policy H bars'** as it is not on their website.

We do not hold copies of policy documents for other authorities and as such you will need to contact Somerset County Council for any policies relating to this matter.

Unfortunately, we also do not have the link to their policy and thus cannot share it with you.

All the information pertinent to your Freedom of Information Request has been provided and as such I do not believe at this time we have any further information that we are able to share.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Tredwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk