

SAFETY BOLLARDS AND FENCE ON THE CORNER OF VIMY AND LEIGHTON ROADS

The safety railings and bollards on the corner of Vimy Road and Leighton Road outside the Linslade Tyres building were part demolished during a police chase in **summer 2017**. This is a dangerous corner on account

- a. Of the large number of pedestrians using it often en route between the Tesco Car Park and the Town Centre, including parents and children going to and from Linslade Middle School. The bollards and fencing also protected the Zebra Crossing from the Tesco/Homebase side to the other side of Vimy Road
- b. Of the number of large delivery lorries serving Tesco, Aldi and Homebase which have to negotiate the sharp corner here.

The state of these bollards on one side of the road (the fencing and bollards at the other side remain intact) has been raised on numerous occasions with CBC. Thus, after the matter was brought up at a Town Council Planning and Transport Committee meeting in **April 2018** with Mark MacDonald of CBC (in attendance) the bollards alone were replaced within a relatively short time. They were shortly thereafter again hit by vehicle(s). It was subsequently said that "An order to replace the whole side of railings will be carried out in the new financial year". This did not happen and, indeed doubt was then expressed by CBC over the need for them given that the area was within a 20 mph zone. This seemed unsustainable given the number of times the remaining bollards have been hit by vehicles and the suggestion has been made that, for large lorry drivers, the bollards alone (without the fencing) may be less visible when, inadvertently, they cut the corner. Certainly, there appear to have been no similar instances of damage on the other side of Vimy Road where fencing and bollards remain intact.

In **March 2019** in response to an email to the relevant CBC officer about the further damage to the bollards and continuing pedestrian safety concerns over that corner in the absence of the railings, the reply received stated: "This was reported to us via the report it web page and an officer raised an order to reset these bollards in February as a 28 day order, unfortunately the officer did not provide the statutory undertakers underground service plans so the work has not been able to be carried out as quickly as it should have been. I have tasked the officer to provide the stats plans and get the work completed as soon as possible". By May, the only progress had been to fill the holes left by the uprooted bollards with tarmac.

In **August 2019** In response to a further enquiry from the Town Clerk, the relevant CBC officer responded that nothing had yet been done at the location for two reasons – a damage claim at the location, and, again, that there "is no engineering need for any pedestrian segregation at the location which is within a 20 mph limit, the footway is actually too narrow for any street furniture to be useful and it will compromise the footway width." It seems strange that the next sentence noted "all the street furniture we have had at the location has been damaged by vehicles that we

have routinely replaced.” It was stated that, nevertheless, a road safety assessment would be done to determine future action.

Despite further enquiries since of CBC (and, apparently, internal promises of action) nothing has still been done. In recent months, the only thing that appears to have happened is the demolition by a vehicle of one more of the remaining bollards!

Cllr Clive Palmer
Leighton-Linslade Town Council