

**UPDATE ON
WHITE GATES PROJECT
For H&F Report 07 September 2021**

This project has been considered for some time and options considered are shown in Appendix 1.

Council is being asked to consider whether this initiative would bring about any noticeable benefits or be value for money or whether this project has run its course

1. It has been suggested in the research that whilst providing aesthetic enhancement to the approach to villages, it does not bring about the road safety benefits in the same way that visible monitoring by Community Speedwatch or enforcement by the Police in reducing speeding.
2. The feedback Cllr Bouvie has had after extensive enquiries with Parishes in Kent, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and about eight other villages with White Gate Projects, supports this view. There is also evidence from other Districts (Cambridgeshire [Alternative speed measures - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)) which documents disadvantages to White Gates:
 1. Not as effective as a system of “vertical solutions”, e.g., speed cushions, speed bumps.
 2. Any speed reducing effect could be localised to the village boundary area - for the reduction to be maintained additional measures through the village will be required
 3. The benefit can reduce over time
3. Cllr Bouvie has also established that a few Parishes went on to install the LED speed signs that show actual speed and request to reduce your speed. This was thought to be more effective.
4. Others installed other traffic calming options (e.g., “vertical solutions” mentioned above) which residents may have found “inconvenient”. LCC have not supported this option in the past.
5. Cllr Brocklebank carried out work considering the suitability of siting the gates due to the requirements from LCC and the size of the verges in our Parishes. It is possible to have these located at Woolsthorpe, Stainby, Colsterworth and North Witham if there is support from the local community. A similar area is Londonthorpe near Grantham.



6. The cost of the gates at Londonthorpe to the Parish Council, supplied and fitted was in the region of £5,800 (plus VAT).
7. The potential costs for White Gates as recommended in Appendix 1 is £12,500
The potential costs for improved LED Signage as recommended in Appendix 1 is £9,200

RECOMMENDATION:

The White Gates Project as suggested be discontinued whilst other more cost-effective aspects of Road Safety and Traffic calming are considered as they arise.

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BACKGROUND

The installation of “White Gates” is a road safety initiative:-

- Gateways are designed to highlight the entrance to a Parish, Town or Village and/or change of speed limit.
- Drivers tend to notice and accept the distinction between the two speed limits when there is a more obvious presence on the entrance.
- Effectiveness: The speed reducing effect is highest when gateways are first installed. Many drivers subconsciously adjust their speed according to the surroundings, driving more slowly in built up areas and faster in rural areas with open fields.
- A gateway feature signals that a driver is leaving a higher speed area and entering residential area
- Advantages: Relatively cheap to install and maintain
- Will require approval from LCC including review of existing road markings and signage

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Gates are purchased, installed and maintained by the Parish Council
- They must be insured in case of third party incidents
- If for any reason PC “abandons” them in the future LCC will remove them.
- A village name plate or similar can be put on them which the PC can buy for themselves
- No speed limit signs are allowed as these will invalidate any existing speed limit

POTENTIAL SITES

Village	Survey	Potential outcomes	Potential cost (Excl VAT)
Colsterworth	<p><u>Bridge End Junction from A1</u>: Just north of the bus stop there is sufficient space and in the right place just before the Bridge End Cross Roads. However just to the north is the Isaac Newton sign and the weight limit sign. This signals the approach to the built-up area. Nevertheless, gates would reinforce this</p> <p><u>B676</u> Uphill approach from the crossroads tends to slow traffic. Verge too narrow and better hedge trimming would improve sight of signage/LED sign.</p>	One set of gates may be of benefit approaching the Co-op; The road starts to narrow here and gates would help.	£2,500
		New LED sign beneficial (Solar)	£2,000
		New LED signage on B676 on existing streetlights x 2	£3,200
Woolsthorpe	Immediately after the West End fork as the verge at the 30-mph sign is too narrow. At this stand off from the limit signs it would be a good reinforcement as there are no other visual clues until one is established on a downhill stretch into the hamlet	One set of gates may be of benefit LED for Woolsthorpe (solar)	£2,500 £2,000
Stainby	At the west end and very close to the 30 mph sign there appears to be enough room. While there is a tight bend at this point, other than the church there is no warning of what lies beyond the bend. At the east end the situation is messy. Any limit would have to be on the Colsterworth side of the junction and starting to be a bit detached from the village.	Already has LED signage One set of gates potentially beneficial	£2,500
Gunby	Approaching from Sewstern the approach is tight and speed limiting. No room for sign. On the other hand, approaching from North Witham there is plenty of room and just before the junction entering Gunby would be a good location	One set of gates	£2,500
North Witham	Approaching from the south there appears to be sufficient space at the 40 mph limit signs. At the north end you need to go some distance before reaching the crossroads so not ideal	One set of gates	£2,500
		LED (Solar)	£2,000

APPROXIMATE COSTS AND OTHER OPTIONS

- There is £4,977.16 ringfenced in Council reserves for Highways and Footpaths/Road Safety measures. Potential costs for all suggestions as outlined above £21,200
- A suggestion was received regarding stone troughs being placed at village entrances. These are not considered as effective as the “white gates” in terms of effecting change on drivers’ behaviours. However, it was considered a good idea to have these as a way of locating and planting up around the Parish to enhance the appearance of the Parish and needs further consideration.
- Up-to-date information regarding LED signage has been received (August 2021) similar to the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) currently in Stainby
They range in price from:
 - £1,510 (these require removal for re-charging so requires more maintenance/input)
 - £1,579 (fed off streetlights similar to the ones on B676 in Colsterworth)
 - £1,969 (Solar)

All have the capability of recording traffic data flows similar to the one at Stainby
All can show actual speed with “message” also displayed.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There would need to be some consultation with the community (potentially via In Touch/Website using a survey tool which may be at cost). There is reference in the Neighbourhood Plan supporting traffic management priorities and the aspiration for road safety:-

7.83:”in Colsterworth and Stainby heavy good vehicles and speeding traffic on the B676 are a concern. Furthermore, traditional management, such as signing and bollards, may detract from the over-all character of a village and different approaches for restricting traffic will be required.”

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