



PRESS RELEASE

25 August 2026

Port Hill Crossing Consultation

Dear Editor

I'm writing to ask for your help in making your readers aware of a short consultation we are conducting.

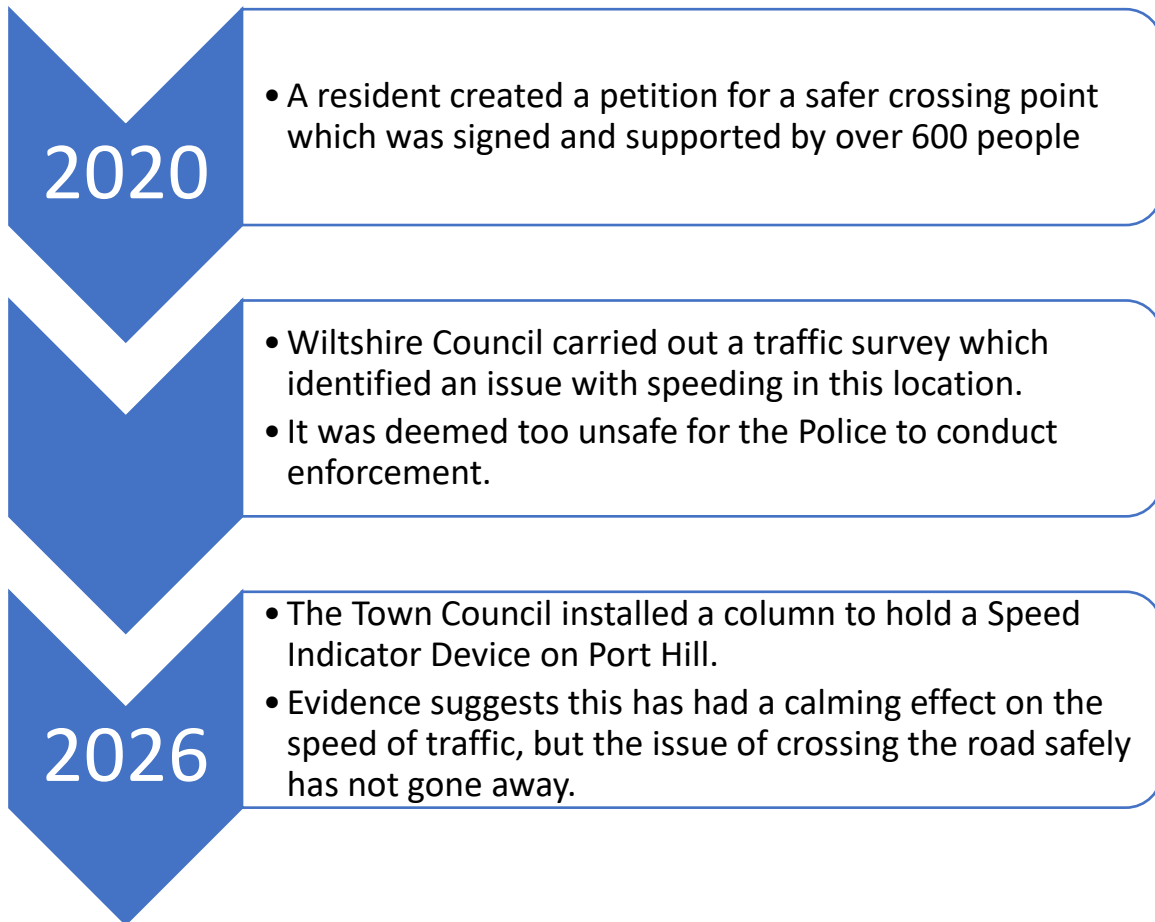
We are asking residents to help us find a safer way for people to cross the busy A346 in Marlborough, at the top of Port Hill between Marlborough Common and residential areas at The Thorns, The Acres, Rabley Wood View and Hawthorn Meadow.



Our consultation survey will help us to understand who uses the current crossing point.

We want to hear from those who do and those who don't use it – but who might, if they felt it was safer.

Background



This issue remains with Wiltshire Council's Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group¹ (LHFIG), a Wiltshire Council subgroup of the Community Area Board which deals specifically with highway issues.

Wiltshire Council's current view is that a pedestrian count is required to inform them whether a pedestrian crossing is needed. We believe this to be counter intuitive as residents may not use the crossing because it is unsafe: meaning the figures from any count of people crossing at this point might be misleading.

Wiltshire Council has agreed that we can undertake our own consultation with residents which is what we are doing now.

We are asking residents to help us in our quest for action by answering the questions in our survey.

¹ <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-lhfig>

The Survey

There are 8 questions in the survey so it will be very quick for people to complete.

The [online survey](#) will be available until the end of September.

Paper copies are also available and can be obtained from:

- The [shop](#) at Baylie Acre² (just off the A346 Swindon road)
- [Marlborough Library](#)³ at 91 High Street (check for opening days and times)
- The [Town Council office](#) at 5 High Street⁴ (Mon-Fri during office hours)
- The [Visitor Information Point](#) (7 days a week, 10am-3pm) and [Community Fridge](#) (open 3 times a week dependent upon donations), both in George Lane car park⁵

Thank you for reading this, and I hope you can help us in the next steps to try to improve pedestrian safety on the A346.

Richard Spencer-Williams

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

² <https://w3w.co/hacking.overheat.evidently>

³ <https://w3w.co/rationed.stove.excellent>

⁴ <https://w3w.co/swarm.footballers.observers>

⁵ <https://w3w.co/steers.blur.completed>

Notes to editors

Petition

A petition was handed in to the Town Council in 2020, which was fully supported by Councillors. Read the press report here:

<https://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/18843661.traffic-petition-safer-marlborough-crossing-gets-support/>

The A346



This is a busy road, being a main north/south route between the A419/M4 and the south coast.

A speed indicator device (SID) report for June 2026 shows *average* speeds generally within 30MPH: however *maximum* speeds of 60-70MPH have also been recorded in the past year. In the most recent report, at peak times there were 300 vehicles per hour passing through this location, with more than 146,000 vehicle movements in the 19 days that our SID was in place.

You can read the SID reports for this location for the past 12 months at

<https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/council/speed-indicator-devices/sid-reports-port-hill>

Marlborough Common

Marlborough Common was given to the borough by King John (1196 to 1216) as pasture for livestock.



Photo shows a circus on the Common, rugby pitch and mown paths through areas managed for wildlife

[The Common](#) is used for sport and recreation and is a popular spot for dog walking. There is a trim trail and swings for children as well as organised sport – a weekly parkrun, Marlborough Rugby Football Club is based here and Marlborough Youth Football Club plays on the football pitch. Marlborough Golf Club covers part of The Common, next to Marlborough Tennis Club. Members of Marlborough Model Flying Club are regular users as well.

The Common is a popular venue for circuses and fairs as well as other public and community events, having played host to car boot sales, a daredevil stunt show, a civil war re-enactment, food and drink festivals and more. There's a beacon here, used for celebrations such as Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee as well as VE Day commemorations.

Marlborough Cemetery and the closed Victorian Cemetery & Arboretum are also to be found here.

With so many reasons for people to access Marlborough Common, our Town Councillors fully support residents in their plea for a safer way to cross the road from the east of the town.

PORT HILL/THE COMMON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



**DO YOU FEEL SAFE CROSSING THE
BUSY A346?**

Scan the QR code
to open a short
survey and help
us understand
whether people
feel safe crossing
the A346



Paper surveys
available at the
Library, Council
Office, Top Shop,
Tourist Kiosk/
Community Fridge in
George Lane Car
Park

**Please complete the survey
by the end of September**



Marlborough Town Council
5 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA
01672 512487
enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk

PORT HILL CROSSING SURVEY



**Help us find a safer way for people to cross
the busy A346 to The Common**

We are consulting residents to understand who uses the crossing point to The Common at Port Hill.

We want to hear from those who use it as well as those who don't use it - but who would if they thought it was safer.

We will share our findings with Wiltshire Council to influence their decision about improving the safety of the crossing here.

How we got to this point:

2020

- A resident created a petition for a safer crossing point which was signed and supported by over 600 people

2026

- Wiltshire Council carried out a traffic survey which identified an issue with speeding in this location.
- It was deemed too unsafe for the Police to conduct enforcement.
- The Town Council installed a column to hold a Speed Indicator Device on Port Hill.
- Evidence suggests this has had a calming effect on the speed of traffic, but the issue of crossing the road safely has not gone away.

This issue remains with Wiltshire Council's Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG), a Wiltshire Council subgroup of the Community Area Board which deals specifically with highway issues.

Wiltshire Council's current view is that a pedestrian count is required to inform them whether a pedestrian crossing is needed. We believe this to be counter intuitive as residents may not use the crossing because it is unsafe: meaning the figures from any count of people crossing at this point might be misleading.

Wiltshire Council has agreed that we undertake our own consultation with residents which is what we are doing now.

Please help in our quest for action by answering the questions in this survey

1. Do you use the crossing point on the A346 at Port Hill?

Please circle **one** answer

Yes

No

If yes, go to Q2

If no, go to Q3

2. Please tell us why you cross the road at this location

Please tick or circle **all** that apply

To go home

To access the Common

Other: please explain here

To go to town

To go to school or work

To access sports facilities & amenities

To go to the Cemetery

To go to the 'top shop'

To get to the bus stop

To visit friends or family

3. If you choose NOT to cross the road here, please give your reasons below

Please tick or circle **all** that apply

The traffic goes too fast

Other: please explain

I prefer to cross elsewhere

The central refuge doesn't feel safe

4. If you choose to cross elsewhere, please tell us your preferred crossing point or route

Please tick or circle **all** that apply

The crossing at The Green

Other: please explain

Herd Street

5. Does the time of day impact your decision about whether to use the crossing point?

Please circle **one** answer

Yes

Add any relevant comment here:

No

6. Does the current crossing point put you off taking a journey on foot?

For example, do you choose to cycle, drive or take the bus instead of walking?

Please circle **one** answer

Yes

No

Sometimes

7. If there was a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing on the A346 at Port Hill, would you cross there more frequently?

Please circle **one** answer

Yes

No

Don't know

8. If you have any other comments please write them below

Please also tell us your postcode and your age or age group. This will help us when we present the findings to Wiltshire Council

Please return your completed survey to

Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA by the end of September