

## Key points from MN004280 – Bishops Lydeard: Site 3 & Site 9 Issues Review meeting on 14/04/2026 at 1pm.

### Attendees

- Joanna Zalewska – SC Project Manager (Chair)
  - Kerry Jones – SC Service Manager
  - Joanna Lewin-Harris – Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone Parish Council
  - David Richards – Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone Parish Council
  - Jim Bletcher – Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone Parish Council
  - Cllr Mike Rigby – SC Councillor for Lydeard Division
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### Summary

- The meeting focused on feasibility issues at Site 3 and Site 9.
  - It is understood that outcomes are to be captured within the Feasibility Study, with final decisions resting with the Parish Council on what elements will be brought forward to the next stage once discussed at the full Parish Council meeting on 15/04/2026.
  - Any feedback/ instructions to be sent to Somerset Council for further action following the full Parish Council meeting.
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### Site 3 – Proposed Crossing

- The proposed crossing location at Mount Road, opposite the property no 4 (by the garage), was agreed as acceptable. The crossing is considered the only feasible and safest location, given nearby junctions and visibility constraints.
- On-road parking loss impact in the vicinity of the proposed crossing location was discussed; no significant objections were raised by attendees.
- Previous local consultation on parking matter indicated no objections, although ownership of the property adjacent to the proposed crossing has since changed so that may be discussed with the new owner (although it's understood that they may use the old garage space to park cars and have no plans to operate as a business).
- It was noted that the garage is not operating as a garage anymore (new owners of both garage site and adjacent house)
- No alternative crossing locations were considered viable, although it was noted that currently people are crossing at various points along Mount Road

(there are multiple desired lines) and hopefully a new safer alternative will change their behaviour.

- It was confirmed by Cllr Mike Rigby that he believes that the misaligned dropped kerb crossing by the Village Hall was installed by SC Highways about 12 years ago or so. It has been agreed that the crossing is to remain in place.
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### **Site 9 – Virtual Footway and Speed Management**

- It has been highlighted that there is no current national standard for virtual footways; a risk-based assessment approach was required to assess the site. Any proposal is to be treated as a new installation from a safety and risk perspective.
  - Designers identified the need for additional measures to support safety of pedestrians using the new section of the proposed virtual footway, including:
    - A raised table (supported in principle).
    - Speed-reduction features (e.g. markings, roundels).
    - Street lighting improvements.
    - Drainage improvements to prevent localised flooding.
  - The Parish Council agreed that speeds are too high despite 20mph speed limit to be in place.
  - The consideration was being given by Parish Council to include raised table or other physical measures as means to reduce vehicle speeds and improve pedestrians' safety, whether the virtual footway was progressed or not. This was generally supported.
  - The Parish Council acknowledged that enhanced safety measures may significantly increase scheme costs.
  - It was noted that even if Parish Council opt in just for improvements to the existing virtual footway, some cost implications are expected as Design Team still need to make sure that the site is safe.
  - Final delivery of Site 9 will depend on affordability once feasibility costs are known.
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### **Wayfinding, Signage, and Football Club Link**

- Existing proposals to direct pedestrians to football club along the section of Cothelstone Hill is considered undesirable from a safety perspective, although it can be implemented with extra measures in place, i.e. additional signing to inform drivers of pedestrians walking along the road.
- A potential alternative discussed:

- Creating a permissive path through/behind the hedge along the Football Club field on the western side of Cothelstone Hill leading to the crossing at Site 14. This would remove pedestrians from the carriageway and improve safety.
- Key uncertainties identified though: the land ownership of the field on the western side of Cothelstone Hill (Football Club vs third party) and willingness of the Football Club to support a permissive path. Parish Council to discuss with Football Club. As off Highway, this could be considered for delivery by the Parish Council now or at a later date, or added to the scope of the scheme.

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## Programme

- A potential delay to Site 14 design programme was noted separately and will be confirmed via change control.