

Traffic calming and road safety improvements to the bend at Macaulay Buildings  
Widcombe Hill.

My name is Guy Simpson, Chairman of Macaulay Buildings and Prospect Rd Residents Association.

I am here today to thank Widcombe Councillors and the council officers for their help in our recent road safety improvements.

I have lived in Macaulay Buildings for over 20 years and have witnessed, since then, so many accidents on the corner.

When I was elected as Chairman of our Residents Association in late 2019 my main priority was to support the very long campaign to deal with the dangers of our corner, this is when I first met Cllr Born and Cllr Duguid and subsequently Debra Collins

We had an incredibly positive meeting with Cllr Born and Duguid, they listened to our concerns and agreed that something needed to be done. They gave us their full support, pursuing firstly the reduction in the speed limit on the Hill from 30 mph to 20 mph, and then looking for funding to implement physical road safety measures to make the corner safe for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists and by slowing all traffic entering the bend.

Since 2020 I have been in constant contact with Cllr Born who has always kept me informed of any progress on our campaign.

It has been very frustrating at times, due to the length of the process and with ongoing accidents on the corner.

In late 2021 speed reduction from 30mph to 20mph was approved, but again frustratingly it took some time for the signage to be installed.

We were delighted when we were told funding had been made available to eventually install physical measures, to slow traffic on this dangerous stretch of road.

Many residents attended the Widcombe Hill Public Consultation in September 2023 to view the initial traffic engineers' plans, which were very much a collaboration between the residents and the engineers to find a solution that everyone was happy with.

The physical road safety measures were finally implemented in March this year.

We were all impressed with the quality of work that was carried out and how sympathetic the design and quality of materials that were used.

The corner feels safer now, but we think a few minor alterations to the road markings will improve safety further by increasing visibility before navigating the corner.

So, on behalf of the Macaulay Buildings and Prospect Rd residents Association I would firstly like to thank our local Cllr's Alison Born, Debra Collins and previous Cllr Winson Duguid for their support and commitment to securing funding. Thank you to the traffic engineers Thomas Slane and Neil Terry for listening to residents' suggestions and concerns and being always open to discussion and generous with their time.

Also thank you to the council for supporting this scheme and allocating funding for these improvements.

And lastly, many thanks to the contractors that carried out the improvements, as they were always happy to answer questions, give residents access to the terrace when possible and for the excellent work they have done.

Thank you

Guy Simpson

19<sup>th</sup> May 2025