

# Simonburn Parish Council

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Chairman: Mrs JE Lamb

Clerk: Miss K L Heaney

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## Road Safety Concerns – Teckett Lane, Simonburn

Meeting Date: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Time: 11:00am

Location: Simonburn Village Hall

### Present:

- Clerk: Katie Heaney
- Chair: Jane Lamb
- Cllr. Alan Mardell
- Cllr. Alan Brown
- County Councilor Atonia Azócar-Nevin
- Neil Snowden, Northumberland County Council Representative

### Purpose of Meeting

To discuss ongoing safety concerns on Teckett Lane, Simonburn, and to explore possible solutions in partnership with Northumberland County Council (NCC).

### Key Issues Raised

#### 1. 1. Current Marker Posts

Existing hazard marker posts were described as flimsy and ineffective, providing little reassurance to road users.

#### 2. 2. Birdsmouth Fencing Proposal

- Members noted that birdsmouth fencing is a more robust option, but it is expensive.

- Concerns were raised that fencing alone would not stop a moving vehicle due to slope instability.

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- Questions were asked regarding:

- Whether birdsmouth fencing would qualify for funding through Highways if the Parish Council raised funds.
- Who would take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and associated costs.

### 3. 3. Winter Maintenance Risks

Teckett Lane presents significant hazards in winter conditions, including:

- Ice, snow, and reduced grip.
- Low sun reducing visibility.
- Difficulty in safely reversing on the road without safety barriers.

### 4. 4. Design and Future Planning

- The Parish Council requested that NCC's design team prepare a proposal for fencing suitable for Teckett Lane.
- Consideration of future maintenance and possible insurance implications should be included.
- Neil Snowden confirmed:
  - The design team will be contacted to arrange a site visit.
  - The Clerk will be kept updated on progress.

### 5. 5. Funding & Programme Inclusion

- The scheme could potentially be included in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2026–2027.
- The Clerk will continue to monitor and report back once updates are received.

### **Agreed Outcomes**

- NCC's design team will develop a design plan and costings for birdsmouth fencing (Phase 1).

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- A report is expected by the September Parish Council meeting.
- Costing information will also be shared with the Council to allow consideration of funding options.

## **Conclusion**

Simonburn Parish Council recognises the urgent need to improve safety on Teckett Lane and is committed to working with Northumberland County Council to identify and implement a practical solution. The Parish Council seeks support from NCC in prioritising this project, ensuring that residents and road users can benefit from a safer road environment.

Report prepared by:

Katie Heaney

Parish Clerk, Simonburn