

11 February 2021

**Our Ref: ESH 12357**

Victoria Rutt  
Parish Clerk  
Alfriston Parish Council  
33 Swains Way  
Heathfield  
East Sussex  
TN21 0AN

Dear Ms Rutt

**Re: Post Obstruction Letters to Residents of Winton Street, Alfriston**

Thank you for your email regarding our letters sent to a number of residents in Winton Street, Alfriston regarding bollards along the verges. In addition to your correspondence we have received letters from residents about their concerns, and I have outlined below how we will be responding to them directly.

We attended Winton Street on 12 January 2021 in response to a report of newly installed posts causing an obstruction. We soon identified that these posts had been installed without the permission of East Sussex Highways (ESH). They had also been secured with concrete and were positioned too close to the carriageway. As part of our inspection we also identified other posts along the highway verge between Thatchover and the junction with Alfriston Road that again we had no record of permitting.

When dealing with enquiries we receive, we must action them in a fair and consistent manner. If we attended site and only issued an obstruction letter to Winton Field for example, the resident may ask why other nearby properties are not being dealt with in the same way. This is why all residents between Alfriston Road and Thatchover received a letter requesting the removal of posts from the highway verge. Even so we do now recognise this approach has caused some distress amongst residents and we apologise for this.

To confirm we have received letters from Winton Barn, Winton Fields and Thatchover.

We have responded to the residents as follows (brief overview):

**Winton Barn and Thatchover**

The residents have been advised that the plastic posts outside their properties appear to be historic and of an approved style, as such we are in agreement that these plastic posts can remain. But all metal posts must be removed within 28 days from the date on their letters.<sup>[RB1]</sup>

However, the residents will be permitted to replace these metal posts with passively safe posts, including the missing ones outside Winton Barn.

Should they wish to install passively safe reflector posts adjacent to their property we will waive the usual fees to provide licenses for these bollards and will provide the statutory undertakes drawings free of charge. We have advised the property owner of the requirements around the positioning of the bollards and the accreditations needed by the Contractors delivering the works.

## Winton Fields

Unlike the posts outside Winton Barn and Thatchover which are historical, these posts have recently been installed here and as I mention above, they have been erected without our permission. As such we have written to the resident and asked them to remove all posts and support material from the verge within 14 days of the date on their letter.

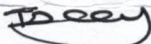
The resident will be welcome to apply for the appropriate license if they so wish, and we have explained the process for this.

We understand that residents in Winton Street do not appreciate motorists driving over the verges outside their properties or surrounding areas especially in winter when the verges may look unattractive. However highway verges adjacent to our roads across the network are there to provide a safe place for motorist to pull onto in case of an emergency, vehicle breakdown or for pedestrians to take refuge from vehicles wishing to pass. Vehicles should be able to pass one another safely and use the verge is required.

The residents raised concerns over Winton Street being used as a diversion route when Alfriston is flooded. To confirm we do not promote this as an official diversion route as these are usually based upon the classification of the road which is being closed to traffic, for example, if a B road is closed, the diversion route would be via other B roads or roads with higher classification, except in emergencies.

I understand residents did ask for a site meeting, however with lockdown restrictions in place this is not something we can arrange at the present time. However, I hope the above clarifies our position. If you have any further queries or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely



Isla Dacey  
**Highways Stewards, Licencing and Enforcement Manager**  
**East Sussex Highways**