

Possible replacement of the village entrance 'gates' on the A352

1. As far as I can ascertain, the four entrance 'gates' (at the entrances to the village on the A352, at both ends of the village) were provided with funding from the Binnegar quarry company in about 2012 (so they are 10 years old). They were a mitigation measure to compensate for large lorries using the A352 through Broadmayne. Neither Dorset County Council (as it then was) or Broadmayne Parish Council took ownership of them. They are not recorded on our asset register and despite being within the highway, Dorset Council (DC) denies any responsibility.

2. A few years ago, one of the gates was damaged in a storm and the general condition of all four gates has gradually deteriorated. It was decided to get them painted white so that they are again obvious to drivers (the whole point of them is to emphasise to drivers that they are entering a village). That has proved to be a long-drawn out process. DC officers say that the job must be done by someone with competence to work within the highway. We asked DC to give us a quotation for the painting of the gates and that was slow to materialise so, in the meantime, other possible contractors were approached about doing the job. Only two out of six responded and one of those was to say that it wasn't his line of work. The other said the following:

Unfortunately they are all quite rotten and, in my opinion, not worth salvaging.

I would not be able to replicate them myself as we are not joiners. I could take one to a joiner to get a price to replicate them or get something made similar!

I would suggest hardwood and install them on concrete spurs to prevent the wood from touching the ground.

Alternatively...

I have just googled Village Gateways. They are usually large white gates with the village name and a speed limit sign. It says that the County Council should have a budget for this if not it falls on the village or parish council.

There are many types of gate, made of wood metal or recycled plastic, and many companies selling them. The recycled plastic gates look quite good and should last. It looks like that they are about £450 each, not sure if this includes signage.

I would be happy to take away the old and install the new if required.

3. I have therefore begun investigating possible replacements, looking for gates made of plastic or recycled plastic. Unfortunately the firm which are using for the seats (Green Scheme Solutions), which specialises in re-cycled plastic items does not make gates. However, I have identified three firms which do, as follows:

Glasdon

This is a large company which specializes in outdoor furniture of all kinds, largely for use by local authorities. It has a brochure which covers gateways here: [Glasdon-UK-Gateway-Booklet-GV777.pdf](#). Note that we don't need a name plate because there is a name plate and speed limit sign immediately behind our existing gates. The Glasdon products are made of a synthetic material called 'Everwood'.

A standard gate at the medium width which is what we would need costs between £470 and £930, depending on the number of bars involved. I think we would need at least three crossbars which would cost £683. However, the height might be a problem because they cannot hide the signage behind. They appear to come in standard 1.3m above ground height and our present gates are only between 800 and 900mm above ground. I would need to check if they can be customised. Installation would be additional to this and it may be the case that we would have to ask DC to undertake the work because they are designed to be set in wet concrete so a lot of work in very close proximity to the A352 would be necessary.

So, the minimum cost for four gates would be around £2,732 plus installation.

Watt Plastics

Supply all kinds of gates and fences made of PVC. You can see their website here: [Watt Plastics | Equestrian & Sports PVC Products & Fencing](#).

They custom make gates but I have made some enquiries about approximate costings. The range is shown below. These appear to be considerably cheaper.

These first two are post and rail.

4 Rail Village Gate Post & Rail Style 1200mm high x 1000mm wide - £150.00



This is their scallop design but I haven't got a price for this.



The next is their picket design. This comes in both a straight and L-shape version.



Village Gate Picket Style 1200mm high x 1000mm wide (Straight) - £160.00

Village Gate Picket Style 1200mm high x 1000mm wide x 900mm (L shaped) - £250.00

Prices exclude delivery & VAT.

NBB Recycled Furniture

This company only appears to have one type of gate. See here:

[Town Gates ideal for entrances to towns and villages \(recycledfurniture.co.uk\)](https://www.recycledfurniture.co.uk/town-gates-ideal-for-entrances-to-towns-and-villages)

The prices are shown on the webpage.

Again, I am concerned about the height, unless they are able to customise the product.

4. I have consulted Stephen Mepham about whether DC would want to be involved in the style of gate chosen and he has asked another officer to contact me to discuss possibilities. That contact is still awaited.

5. I am not seeking a decision this month but wanted to give you the opportunity to look at the options.

6. The alternative is to simply get the existing gates removed.

Janet Davis
September 2022