

## **Resident Question submitted 11/5/16 and Mayor's Response**

**Question:** As I talk to various residents in all corners of our village, the quiet zone is becoming very polarizing.

I personally would like to have a "quiet zone" in Glendale to make our community more enjoyable. That said, my position and that of many changes when the question of how do we fund it comes up. Do most residents support spending funds in this area as the top priority over other much needed infrastructure needs? I for one would want to see Sharon Road repairs addressed first, followed by Police station, Fire department, water, sewer, and sidewalks to name a few. These capital expenditures benefit all in the village. Just like repairing the Sharon Rd bridge.

My views would drastically change if this became a fund raiser, similar the fire truck purchase. This could clearly identify residents and business owners that have some skin in the game vs forcing all the residents to pay without a majority vote. I saw in the minutes notes that we might use a village survey to obtain input. This would be a great opportunity to also ask residents if they would contribute to this effort. I could see myself throwing in \$5-10,000 if I lived on the track or affected area. My personal benefit would be worth that much. Surveys are dangerous, as they tend to drive the results we want to see based on how we ask the questions... "Have you stopped beating your husband?" comes to mind.

Let's assume we find the money and it does not come out of the Village funds. I am concerned about the elimination of the cross walk we currently have. I know the quiet zone team feels the walk along Sharon Road is not that long and should not negatively affect the Businesses in the square. I believe they are mistaken but lets assume they are not. My concern comes from a safety aspect. Currently the cross walk is perpendicular to the traffic flow with over 100' of visibility for approaching traffic. The new proposed cross walk does not offer any visibility of traffic proceeding West with the intention to turn left as this traffic is generally behind the pedestrian and concerned about the oncoming traffic to safely make their turn let along a pedestrian walking across the tracks.

As a pedestrian you feel exposed, not only that you are walking on the street with oncoming traffic coming your way but also making sure you don't get your foot stuck between the rails. I have made this walk many times walking my dog to see friends and felt uneasy every time. Night time will be even more dangerous. I strongly encourage you to make the walk at rush hour in the evening to get your personally feel of this concern. I also believe we can have a safe way to alert pedestrians of an approaching train with a pedestrian gate and signal at its current location like I have seen all over Europe and Japan.  
Best of luck in this challenging issue.

**Response:** Thanks for your thoughtful comments. The safety and funding of the Quiet Zone will be two important issues as this matter is considered by GPHPC and Council. All residents wanting to express opinions will be heard and I do not believe that it would serve the process for me to engage in an online discussion of the merits.

As I have done with other comments that I have received, I am asking Loretta to post your email and my response to the Quiet Zone page of the Village Website.

**Donald Lofty, Mayor,** Village of Glendale