

From: Catriona Renk
Sent: 11 June 2020 18:03
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Somerton Parish Council <somertonparishcouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Ref - Masterplan 18/00825/HYBRID SPC - FAO Andrew Lewis

Dear Andrew,

I write to strongly object to the proposed closure by Network Rail of Somerton Crossing due to the higher risk caused by an increased number of houses being built at Heyford Park.

This crossing is a vital access for our village to the Cherwell Valley Circular Walks and in particular it is the one used most by the residents of Somerton. I along with many other villagers use it on a daily basis and if access at this point was denied the effect on our village would be devastating. We have few amenities but this is what we value in our village, it's open rural feel and access to outdoor exercise in the form of walking or running.

I appreciate the requirement for health and safety but since the crossing was upgraded a few years ago, access across the railway at this point has been made significantly safer. There are several minutes of warning sounds and lights signalling the approach of trains before one actually passes the crossing.

As a vital and ancient bridal way the closure of the crossing by Network Rail will necessitate an alternative crossing in its place, for example a foot bridge for pedestrians.

There are two dwellings on the opposite side of the track that rely on this access too, so I trust that this will still be available to them with the current system in place? There is no other feasible route to these properties without massive upheaval and disturbance to a Conservation area.

It is the rural charm of the Cherwell Valley that attracted us and our fellow villagers to live here over the years. The village in which we live is already suffering significant traffic increases since the development of Upper Heyford Base and to rob us of this much used and loved footpath route would be a further nail in the coffin of this beautiful area.

Yours Faithfully

Catriona Renk
Millstone
Heyford Road
Somerton
OX25 6LW