

**From:** H.W. Smee  
**Sent:** 12 June 2020 13:04  
**To:** Planning <[Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Master Plan 18/00825/HYBRID SPC - Somerton level crossing - closure?

Thank you and my address is:

East Wing,  
Old Rectory,  
Somerton OX25 6NB

A further thought occurred to me after I wrote. I would be grateful if it can be added.

At a time when the government is sensibly doing all it can to promote physical and mental well-being through daily walking and exercise, it would be a severe blow to very many living in the area if that one, highly significant rail crossing point was closed to pedestrians. For the reasons I explained in my previous email, I believe that many lives would be damaged, the village would be damaged.

With many thanks,

Harry Smee

**From:** Planning <[Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Friday, 12 June 2020 at 12:15  
**To:** SMEE ASSOCIATES  
**Subject:** RE: Master Plan 18/00825/HYBRID SPC - Somerton level crossing - closure?

Good afternoon,

Please provide your full postal address so your comments can be registered on the application.

Kind regards

**Development Management**

Cherwell District Council

Direct Dial 01295 227006

[planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

[www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/cherwelldistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/cherwelldistrictcouncil)

Follow us on Twitter [@Cherwellcouncil](https://twitter.com/Cherwellcouncil)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19):** In response to the latest Government guidance and until further notice, the Planning Service has been set up to work remotely, from home. Customers are asked not to come to Bodicote House but instead to phone or email the Planning Service on 01295 227006:

[planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk). For the latest information about how the Planning Service is impacted by COVID-19, please check the website: [www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk).

**From:** H.W. Smee

**Sent:** 11 June 2020 13:03

**To:** Planning <[Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Somerton Parish Council <[somertonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:somertonparishcouncil@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Master Plan 18/00825/HYBRID SPC - Somerton level crossing - closure?

For the attention of Mr. Andrew Lewis

Dear Sir,

I understand there is some danger that if the Heyford Park development is allowed to proceed as requested, that the level crossing over the Oxford to Banbury railway line known as the Somerton Crossing, will be closed to pedestrians.

This would be a tragedy for the village of Somerton. It would close off its most popular walk used, not by the tiny number detected in the few, exceedingly wet days that numbers were surveyed, but to virtually every household in the village. We use it most days and we invariably meet several other villagers enjoying about the only 'round-the-block' walk that is available of a reasonable duration.

The reason there are not a myriad of other opportunities is that the village is cut by the Oxford Canal, the River Cherwell and the Oxford to Banbury railway line. These three barriers have very limited crossing points and effectively reduce to one, any walks of this distance, time and difficulty. If the level crossing is blocked to pedestrians this lovely walk, the only walk of its nature and one that has been used daily for centuries, will be removed.

It would mean the village of Somerton will pay a shockingly heavy price, an altogether unfair burden for the developer's gain and I urge you to fight against it, to find a solution on our behalf and on behalf of all the others from surrounding villages who have used the east-west unmetalled track that crosses at this point, since time immemorial.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Smee