

From: Duncan Nott
Sent: 14 June 2020 20:48
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Martha Harfoot ; Somerton Parish Council <somertonparishcouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed closure of Somerton crossing - for the attention of Andrew Lewis

Ref: Master Plan [18/00825](#)/HYBRID SPC
For the Attention of Andrew Lewis

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in relation to the proposed closure of Somerton Crossing (reference above).

I would like to register an objection to this proposal.

Somerton Crossing is a valuable asset for those in Somerton who walk locally to the village. Any short walk 'around the block' depends entirely on the ability to cross the railway at that point. Closure would require a longer loop to Heyford and a return along a busy road, or the use of the much less accessible swing bridge to the north up the canal.

The Crossing is currently managed through lights and warning alarms, and poses no risk if used appropriately. Closing the crossing would invite the illegal - and presumably unregulated - crossing at that point, which can only increase the risk of the type of accident that this closure seeks to avoid.

Survey results show that the usage of the Crossing is limited but regular, which would be consistent with what we see of local use of the canal path and farm track for exercise and dog walking. There is no clear evidence for increased usage based on the proposed development at Heyford Park that would place an unreasonable burden on the crossing given the starting point. Even at a higher level of use - which cannot be assumed - the presence and use of the lights and klaxon will manage safety concerns as it is reasonable to expect responsible use (which cannot be guaranteed if it is closed).

We ask you to consider any decision carefully, and to preserve Somerton Crossing as a valuable local asset for this who enjoy the nearby outdoors. Closing this on the presumption of greater use would cause a material impact and lead to increased, rather than reduced, risk given the lack of practical alternative routes.

Many thanks

Kind regards

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