

## Rachel Tibbetts

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**From:** Phil Holman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 June 2020 23:20  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Somerton Parish Council  
**Subject:** Proposed Closure of Somerton Crossing - objection to Master Plan.  
18/00825/HYBRIDSPC

Dear Andrew, I would like to oppose the proposed Closure of the Somerton Crossing for the following reasons;

1. The Crossing is the only way that Somerton residents can cross the valley without going via the road which will become increasingly busy as the development progresses.
2. It is unlikely that more pedestrians will be generated from the Heyford Development around the crossing as it is quite far from the heart of the Heyford Community. The assumptions that Network Rail make are not based on evidence, just generalisations.
3. As a father of teenagers I know it is very unlikely that they are unlikely to play around the crossing. It takes all my energy to get them to go for a walk. Whilst this may be a problem in more urban areas there is no evidence to support this suggestion at this crossing.
4. The walk is a beautiful part of the Cherwell valley heritage and to close it would be to compromise the villages around it for the new residents of Heyford Park. The track which leads to the Mill across the Crossing has been used for many hundreds of years.
5. There are other ways to police this crossing and from the report there seems to have been no middle ground. Surely you can't just close a key crossing?
6. There are 2 properties over the other side of the crossing and farmers also use the crossing. What solution will be provided for them?

In short I do not think this proposal has been thought through and the implications considered seriously. There are other more effective ways of ensuring the crossing is safe whilst still allowing the local community to cross the valley and enjoy the countryside in which they have chosen to live.

My address is;

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Your sincerely,

Philip Holman