

From: Neil Good
Sent: 17 June 2020 19:19
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Somerton Parish Council <somertonparishcouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Master Plan 18/00825/HYBRID SPC - Objection - ftao Andrew Lewis

Hello Andrew,

Hope you and yours are keeping well through these strange times.

We write to **OBJECT** to the above planning application on the ground it could close the railway crossing at Somerton. We certainly do not want the proposal to go through with their suggested mitigation clause and course of action (i.e. close off pedestrian access of the crossing).

Our objection has several aspects to it:

- **Risk to Public Health** - in an age where we are exhorted to take more exercise, the crossing enables a very pleasant vigorous stroll for us and a good number of other villagers to take in as part of their day. There is the added bonus of beautiful countryside to take such exercise in.
- **Risk of Road injury** - the only way to access the low level grounds (between the Canal and River Cherwell) on the other side of the railway is via the canal bridge by Canal Cottages. Most people would need to cross this a second time doubling the chances of an injury. It would look like we are trading one risk of crossing a well regulated clearly signed environment (the crossing) with another of a much less ordered nature (the road)
- **Loss of amenity** - as you know, Somerton scores low in the various indices of Amenity so the loss of a very pleasant circular walking route would be felt greatly.
- **Mitigation Clause** - this looks to be automatic - permission granted leads straight to crossing closure - there is no reference to any review of usage/closure procedure/local consultation of any kind.

Thanks for our time and patience.

Many thanks,

Neil Good
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