

Here are my observations after reading the Network Rail info.

To summarise objections:

1. Network Rail have not considered the provision of the extra leisure pathways and parks being developed on Heyford Park for the residents to use from their doorsteps. Which will mean many people remaining on site for their leisure and recreation.
2. Network Rail are basing their assumptions and projections stating that Somerton crossing is in 'very close proximity'. We would not consider Somerton crossing in very close proximity to our village. It is a 3/4 hour walk from our village plus at least a further 25 minutes from the new development on Heyford Park. No housing is being built near the Somerton end of the site.
3. Network Rail are assuming vast amounts of young people and dog walkers will be accessing the crossing. If it was going to be in very close proximity, as in a short walk from their homes, we can understand the concerns but **it is not**, it is a considerable distance at least an hour leisurely walk and not visible from the road. The crossing itself is well managed, signed with lights and is a very safe crossing.

We do not consider Network Rail's summary to be enough to close or divert this crossing. Network Rail have not considered all of those who live in the villages who enjoy and use the Somerton Crossing sensibly. They have based their report on projections and assumptions and an inaccurate distance from the actual housing on the new development site. They state .9 of a mile this measure is probably taken from the bottom of the site nearest to Somerton but there is no housing going there and access to the public footpath is the other side of Heyford park, which to walk to the crossing would be approx an hours walk.

Network Rail have not mentioned that the increase in housing will take many years before the number of occupied houses reaches the permitted level. Therefore the public route should remain open and monitored on a yearly basis.