

Somerton Parish Council response to: Application Number 18/00825/HYBRID

Somerton Parish Council supplementary comments on the above application relating to:

1. TN035 - Reassessment of the Impacts of Heyford Park and Associated Mitigation on Local Villages.
2. Middleton Stoney transport improvements (details of the Bus Gate)

Objection to Bus Gate

Somerton Parish council are concerned about the increase in traffic through the village, not only as a result of the Heyford Park development (as previously commented on) but also following the above re-assessment of the traffic the impact as a result of the proposed Bus Gate. While we welcome any S106 funding to mitigate increased traffic, we are not happy with the impact as a result of the Bus Gate. As I understand it, this is to ensure the buses run on time and alleviate traffic at Middleton Stoney. A double insult as Somerton does not even benefit from a bus service! Somerton PC object to the proposed Bus Gate as it will only move some of the traffic along to less suitable villages such as Somerton, Fritwell, Upper Heyford and North Aston. The impact on these villages is too great and another solution needs to be sought.

It was disappointing to see that the re-assessment did not take into account the new junction planned at Ardley on the B430 or indeed did not look at the impact of traffic on the Ardley / Somerton road. As traffic will always find the route of least resistance we are certain that this road will also be affected.

In the re-assessment report (pg 9) referring to Somerton and North Aston, it states: "The mitigation proposed in these locations should be focused on discouraging through traffic from using this route." What route will they be encouraged to take as an alternative?

NB. Page 10 refers to "impacts predicted in Table 6" -Where is table 6?

Speed Restriction

We would like to see a speed limit of 40 mph on the Somerton Ardley Road and suitable mitigation, funded by s106. We also need to see s106 funding to address traffic issues on Water Street and on the Ardley Road within the 30 mph zone by the playground and houses. Here there are no pavements and access to the playground or around the village is already precarious for vulnerable road users. There needs to be considerable thought on how such mitigation can be implemented without spoiling the rural characteristics of the village.

Weight Restriction

As mentioned before, but even more important now is to limit the weight on the Heyford Road and the Ardley/Somerton Road. To prevent HGV's from using this route. (Except for farm vehicles)

Many thanks

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Somerton Parish Council