

30 Grange Park  
Steeple Aston  
Oxon  
OX 25 4SR

Andrew Lewis  
Planning Department  
Cherwell District Council

29<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Mr Lewis

**TN035 Rev C Reassessment of Village Impacts ISSUE Report – Heyford Park**

I would like to make the following comments about the above report and proposed bus gates. As a resident of Steeple Aston my nearest large town is Bicester. There is only one direct route that residents from my village, Rousham Village and anyone driving from the Hopcroft Holt crossroads can use when going to Bicester. This is by using the B4030. The proposals to install a bus gate and close this road to traffic is of great concern due to the following diversion routes that we would then have to use when driving to Bicester:

**Option 1.** This would involve us travelling along the B4030 through Lower Heyford as usual and then either continue driving along Station Road or taking the Kirtlington Road that runs parallel (which would then become a rat run). We would then turn right onto Camp Road across the traffic flow and travel through Heyford Park thereby significantly increasing the traffic along this road (noting that this road passes both of the local schools). We would then have to take a left along a minor road, before turning right at the busy junction opposite the Viridor Plant in Ardley and joining the rest of the traffic on the B430 driving into Middleton Stoney from that direction. In the middle of Middleton Stoney, we would be required to take a sharp left turn to re-join the B4030 and this is a corner where I have witnessed several near misses.

The figures in the report suggest that this diverted traffic could actually make things worse for Middleton Stoney residents. It would change the volumes of the traffic on the various roads that enter the village but would not reduce the numbers. This would also cause a significant and unnecessary detour for current users of the B4030. We would still end up going through Middleton Stoney and re-joining the B4030, which makes the usefulness of shutting a stretch of the B4030 in the first place questionable. Traffic lights would also have to be installed at the junction by the Viridor Plant where the traffic would access the B430 to enable drivers to safely join the traffic flow on that busy road.

**Option 2.** This would be far worse than option 1 as it would involve drivers turning right off the B4030 onto Port Way in order that we go to Bicester via Kirtlington and Chesterton. This road is far less suited to traffic than the B4030 and was not designed for use by heavy traffic volumes or large vehicles. It is a deceptively difficult road to use and, in the winter, becomes dangerous - a Steeple Aston resident was killed on it fairly recently. If you take this road you eventually have to turn left onto the A4095 and then cross the busy B430 to join the A4095 to Chesterton. This junction would need to be modified to make it safer for the increased traffic that would be required to use it as the B430 is a busy road that is used by a lot of traffic travelling at high speeds. This route would also

significantly increase the traffic that would then pass through Chesterton which will be of concern to residents living there.

**Suggestion.**

If the aim of the scheme is to take cars off the road that links Heyford Park and the B4030, and also make it easier for buses to use why not investigate installing rising bollards similar to those used within Cambridge City Centre? These could be installed at two appropriate points at either end of this stretch of road. They work really well in Cambridge as they detect the presence of buses whilst preventing cars from travelling down the roads that cross the central areas. Cyclists could still use the road to join the B4030 and cross the B430 at the traffic lights which might also be safer for them. This proposal would not require the significant detours that are being proposed for traffic travelling to Bicester from Lower Heyford.

Best wishes

*Lorraine Watling*

CC: District Cllrs Mike Kerford-Byrnes, Bryn Williams, Hugo Brown

County Cllr Arash Fatemian

Steeple Aston PC Chairman - Richard MacAndrew

MCNP Forum Chairman - Martin Lipson