

From: [Les Stevens](#)
To: [A303 Sparkford To Ilchester](#)
Cc: [Les Stevens](#); [Alexander N. Murphy](#)
Subject: Statement of Common Ground between the Three Parish Councils and The Applicant Highways England
Date: 09 June 2019 17:44:49
Attachments: [Statement of Common Ground - Queen Camel, West Camel and Sparkford Parish Councils - Deadline 8 09 06 19.pdf](#)

Dear Ms Coffey,

Please find attached a letter for submission at Deadline 8 from the Parish Councils of Queen Camel, West Camel and Sparkford explaining why they will not be signing the Statement of Common Ground Document.

Kind regards.

Les Stevens
Clerk to West Camel Parish Council

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STATEMENT of COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCILS OF QUEEN CAMEL, WEST CAMEL AND SPARKORD and THE APPLICANT HIGHWAYS ENGLAND.

9th June 2019

Dear Ms Coffey,

All three Parish Councils (Queen Camel, West Camel and Sparkford) have decided NOT to sign the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with The Applicant (Highways England) as they do not believe that The Applicant has entered into the process with any intent to indeed 'reach common ground'.

The three Parish Councils have presented a great deal of information throughout the DCO process in a professional, constructive manner, backed by technical support from a highly accredited commercial Highways Design Consultant (at great expenses to the three PCs).

These alternative views, have sadly been summarily castigated by The Applicant, in a wholly dismissive manner, in most cases without the production of factual engineering based evidence refuting the points of contention presented. In several cases evidence sought from The Applicant, by the Inspectorate, has been withheld, only to eventually be placed 'beyond public scrutiny' by claims of 'confidential privilege'.

To sign a document with the misleading title of 'Statement of Common Ground' would, the three Parish Councils believe, only add credence to a process in which The Applicant has merely paid 'lip service' and demonstrated little regard to the suggestions being made.

The three Parish Councils would like to take this opportunity, as the DCO process nears its conclusion, of thanking you and your team for conducting what has been, to their joint perception, an extremely rigorous, impartial and at times highly revealing inspection of The Applicant's DCO submission.

We have every confidence that you and your team has acquired an in-depth understanding of the issues presented and appreciate fully the shortcomings of the current Highways England design and perhaps, most importantly, understand how a few design changes would make this scheme beneficial to the environment, national heritage, local communities, businesses and indeed all A303 road users.

With many thanks and kind regards.

Les Stevens

Clerk to West Camel Parish Council and on behalf of the Parish Councils of Queen Camel and Sparkford.