

**From:** [David Holmes](#)  
**To:** [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)  
**Subject:** Comments from Mr F Mattia - proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling  
**Date:** 25 November 2019 17:59:34

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Dear Sir or Madam

Further to the letter of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 from the Department of Transport inviting representations from addressees, I would like to submit the following representations on behalf of my client, Mr F Mattia of Mattias Diner, Sparkford.

1. Effects of de-trunking the road on the local community

De-trunking the old section of the A303 and making it a no-through road would have the following effects:

- The stopped up section of old road will encourage anti-social behaviour and illegal activity, as has been seen in numerous locations where sections of highway have been stopped up. These activities will include fly-tipping and illegal traveller encampments which will make my client's business completely unviable. The cost and responsibility for tackling these problems will fall on Somerset County Council which is an unnecessary burden on the local authority. The measures available to Somerset County Council to resolve these problems are by their nature reactionary, expensive and of limited effect and it is far better to prevent these problems with a road design that prevents the problems at source.
- My client will lose all passing trade to his business with no effective statutory basis for compensation. Without passing trade, my client's business will become unviable, resulting in a substantial financial loss and loss of local employment.

2. Proposed mitigation

The only effective method of ensuring significant problems are not created for the local businesses and community by stopping up the old section of A303 is to ensure it is kept open as public highway. The road can easily be designed with an additional slip road access on to the new dual carriageway which would alleviate all the risks of anti-social and illegal behaviour and increase the likelihood of passing traffic wishing to access my client's premises as a result of an easy, fast route back to the new road. Effective signage off the new road is also required to advertise the location of my client's premises.

Yours faithfully,

David Holmes MRICS  
DIRECTOR

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