

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Red Lion, A303 duelling  
**Date:** 20 November 2019 10:37:12  
**Attachments:** [Blank 17.docx](#)

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Hello,

To whom it may concern please see my response to the Sparkford to Ilchester duelling planning application.

The attached is intended for the Secretary of State for Transport.

I look forward to a response ?

Regards Charles Garrard

Sent from my iPad

RE: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester planning application

12th November 2019

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as a rural business owner (The Red Lion Inn, Babcary). Situated down a small lane some five miles off the A303.

Several years ago we applied and were granted planning permission to renovate a derelict barn into six en-suite letting rooms. We had the full support of the council and the majority of Councillors who were happy to support a local rural business and champion our ever nationally declining village Pub. I believe your Government, which I support, says it also supports local rural life and business, and in particular one of the corner stones of village life, "The Pub"

I believe if the present Highways application is approved and direct access to Steart Lane is lost, my business that I have saved as a village Pub and reinvested in over the last eighteen years, could loose up to £100,000.00 turnover per annum. Also it's freehold value would be greatly reduced and rural jobs will be lost.

Therefore I'm sure you can appreciate, that we have worked hard to create a great English country inn, that the very people using the A303 would imagine as the quintessential country pub, would want to visit.

So why ignore local points of view and make it harder to find and slower to get to?

Government departments don't seem to communicate, about overall objectives and unless you deal the whole A303 your are only going to pass on the summer congestion, further down the road. I use the A303 to London regularly and have done so for twenty odd years, yes it's bad on bank holidays and slow on summer weekends. But the M25 is considerable worse.

I've tried to keep things brief and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss the thought process of how the favoured slip roads were chosen. It's incredibly frustrating to think that a small business that pays large tax contributions in all areas gets no support and has its future decided by young, faceless planners from different parts of the Country.

My wife has corresponded numerous times with our suggestions and followed the procedures given, but we have had no feedback or support. By support, Highways to pay for directional signage, a discussion of compensation for example.

Finally, we have made the Red Lion a success, injecting a lot of money in the meantime, which helps to keep Babcary a vibrant village. We employ up to twenty five local people and we have previously taken advise from planners, development officers and Tory Councillors. I don't want to find out that the last eighteen years are for nothing and my investment is in jeopardy.

Thank you taking the time to read this email and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Kind regards Charles Garrard