

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)
Subject: SPIL-AFP052
Date: 16 September 2020 00:25:36

REQUEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMENTS FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Gason Lane/Vale Lane crossing

There are 10 properties in the parish of Queen Camel that are located north of the A303 in Vale Lane (a no through road).

Vale Lane directly crosses the A303 on to Gason Lane and it is a 10 minute walk from Vale Lane, down Gason Lane to the village centre (Queen Camel) and all the amenities that the village provides.

I [REDACTED] use this route frequently by foot and bicycle as it is quicker and less trouble than a car to the roundabout and down the A359 to Queen Camel.

Since Covid-19 and the lockdown, there has been an incredible increase in the number of people from Queen Camel walking Gason Lane across to Vale Lane for exercise in pleasant surroundings.

If Gason Lane is stopped off with no access to Vale Lane, the only way to cross the A303 by foot or by bicycle will be the proposed route to Hazelgrove roundabout. This is a hazardous crossing to say the least.

The additional time (some 30 minutes) added to make this journey, and the extra effort needed to make it, is likely to discourage anyone from even bothering to do so, and would make a car the best option to "pop down the village". This will just result in adding further unnecessary traffic from Vale Lane on to the Hazelgrove roundabout simply to cross the road...

Highways England should provide for the properties/households in Vale Lane, access to Gason Lane (and the village) for non motorised users, either via an appropriate underpass or bridge.

The decision to stop off Gason Lane for local residents, I believe, is wrong and should be reviewed.

I should like to add that I find it disappointing that Highways England appear to have focused more time on a proposed bridleway crossing the Hazelgrove roundabout (where there has never been one) and not on the needs of the residents immediately affected (including those who will inhabit the properties, that they currently own and are required to sell) to equally enjoy healthy non motorised exercise and vital access to our village centre.

Bird Strike

Concerns have been raised by RNAS Yeovilton regarding possible bird strikes from ponds planned with the works. It should be noted that a number of properties on Vale Lane (and indeed the A303 itself) are directly under the west/east 'fixed wing' approach path to Yeovilton's secondary runway.

In hindsight, perhaps Highways England should reconsider its original route which now seems a more cost effective and quicker solution through relatively uninhabited land with no need for all the complicated road structures and access and the obvious negative effects it will cause to the nearly 2,000 residents on the southside of the A303 should they continue with the current plan.

Kind regards

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