

Mrs S. Russell

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

7th February 2023

Re: A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme - Proposed construction and site of Gershwin Boulevard Bridge at Witham

It was brought to our attention in January that a plan had been approved for the proposed re-instatement of a severed right of way crossing the A12 at south Witham as part of the A12 Widening scheme. This right of way has not been used since the A12 Witham bypass was built 50 years ago but we are aware of the importance given to keeping these routes open.

As this has a direct impact on our environment we attended a meeting on 27th Jan 2023 to find out the extent of the planned works. Present were representatives from the construction company and national highways who chaired a very lively debate with all the residents that like us were also unaware of this amendment to the original road widening plan which we had accepted would happen.

The plan shows a multi-use footbridge named Gershwin Boulevard Bridge being sited on the relatively small green play area on the north side of the A12 on [REDACTED] and connecting to the east side of a to be created nature reserve on the south side of the A12.

[REDACTED] residents and other users of the green space, which would be decimated by these works, are united in asking for serious consideration to be given to the relocation of this bridge on the plans. We propose that it be positioned further west connecting to Gershwin Boulevard on the north side of the A12 and crossing to meet the West side of the proposed new nature reserve.

This could utilise existing footpaths on the south side of the A12 connecting to the historic right of way and link to the right of way on the north side via Gershwin Boulevard pathways with minimal impact on residents in the area.

We accept that progress has to be made to the infrastructure at times but are hopeful that we can achieve a positive outcome from your consideration of the above and we will be able to continue to enjoy our homes as we have done for the past 40+ years.

[REDACTED]
Sue & Alan Russell