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WITHAM

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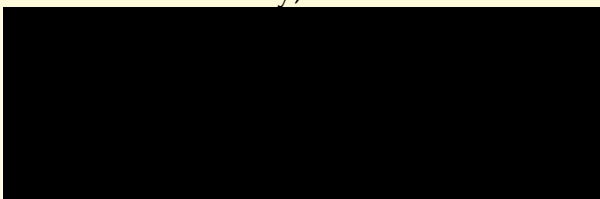
Proposals for the Gershwin Boulevard Bridge

I have been contacted by constituents living in the vicinity of Maldon Road and the A12 who have expressed concerns about the impact of the current designs of the widening scheme in this locality.

You will note from the correspondence attached that they feel that the design and location of the bridge needs changing. I am aware that on 26 April 2023 the hearing taking place is due to include an item on the bridge.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the arrangements for the meeting and to give details of the opportunities for representations to be made to the hearing.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Priti Patel
Member of Parliament for Witham

Unfortunately we, as residents, only found out recently about one aspect of the development, the restoration of a historical footpath - ie. the new Bridge across from Olivers Drive (which by way of a smokescreen is being named "Gershwin Boulevard Bridge") to a footpath that's not been used for over 58 years, and ends on a dangerous bend on Maldon Road.

Surely we as residents should have been better informed of this project so we could have all been prepared for these changes? Instead we have had it put upon us with no say in the matter.

We feel as Residents that this Bridge will have a major impact on all of us, especially the Residents of Olivers Drive and Halfacres, with this bridge passing straight across the front of their HOMES and an amenity area of grass that is used by many local residents for childrens' play, exercise and dog walking, being ruined.

Please as our Member of Parliament will you be able to intervoene with National Highways and the Planning Inspectorate, and object on Behalf of the Residents of Olivers Drive, Halfacres and Maldon Road, by supporting the MOVE of the proposed bridge around 300 meters West so that it actually joins Gershwin Boulevard to Howbridge Hall Road, and so give a better access to James Cook Wood?

A Local land owner, Mr Charles Willet, is willing to grant a Permissive Access to reach the Wood and link to the footpaths that continue on around the golf course and even access to a complete circle of Witham if some residents wish to do so.

Surely the safety of walkers should be paramount?

The risk of walking on a part of Maldon Road with narrow verges and sharp bend roads should be avoided if possible Mr Willet is offering a far better route to the Wood, where a lot of people exercise and walk their dogs, and this is best achieved via Howbridge Hall Road.

This makes good sense and we don't think would cause to much inconvenience to the Highways agency.

We are sorry to say this, but it would nice if we as Residents actually had a say in OUR Town -- we just feel we are put in a position and that the Highways Agency have a right to dictate their View of our Town and our Homes.

We ask again if you as our Member of Parliament would act on our Behalf and Talk to the Highways Agency and so take away the worry and sleepless nights that a Lot of us have had and, will continue to have, if this Bridge is built as the drawings are at Present. Again we appeal to you to speak on our behalf and have the position of the GERSHWIN BOULEVARD BRIDGE moved to Gershwin Boulevard.

With regards and respect,

The Residents of Maldon Road, Olivers Drive and Halfacres