

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2022 14:24
To: [Roberts, Ali](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection - Public right of way diversion (Hilp 54)

I wish to object to relocation of public right of way (hilp 54)

The application takes no account of the huge environmental damage that will be done on the removal of approx 315 Meters of mature hedgerow.

The removal of this shelter & food source for the remaining local wild bird , bat & insect population, will adversely affect the local eco system.

This directly contravenes the current Government's emphasis on protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

I insist there is full replanting of a new hedgerow to surround any rerouted foot path well in advance of any removal of existing mature hedgerows.

Early adoption of this mitigation action may help sustain our local biodiversity to survive in an area which is about to be devastated by over redevelopment.

Regards

Mr Mike Linham.

[REDACTED] Devizes road

Hilperton

Trowbridge

Wiltshire

BA 14 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2022 21:59
To: [Roberts, Ali](#)
Subject: Objection to Wiltshire County Council Hilperton 54 Diversion Order

[REDACTED]

As a Hilperton resident and a regular user of Footpath 54 I would like to object to the diversion of the said footpath. The position of the footpath at present is situated in a rural area with a feeling of little traffic pollution and relative peacefulness. The repositioning of the footpath parallel to the main road of Elizabeth Way is unacceptable. The whole purpose of these footpaths is for people to enjoy the peace and quite of the countryside. Repositioning this footpath next to a busy main road defeats the whole purpose. The footpath needs to remain where it is now along with the existing hedgerow housing many birds, insects and wildlife. Replacing it with tarmac pavements is unacceptable. Any building company/planners with any care for the environment should take into consideration existing wildlife and bird life habitats by working around them instead of destroying them and covering them with tarmac and concrete.

Kind regards
Jane Linham
Devizes Road
Hilperton

Objection to Order to Divert Footpath 54, Elizabeth Way, Hilperton, Wiltshire

I wish to object to the Order proposed by Wiltshire Council to divert the above footpath. I understand that the Council can make an Order to divert a public right of way under s.257 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 if they are satisfied that diversion is necessary to enable development to be carried out. I also understand that full planning permission has been granted for the development of land at Elizabeth Way, Hilperton Trowbridge and that the line of the footpath in its current location passes directly through the development site.

My objections to diverting the right of way are as follows:

Alteration to Character

1. Diverting it to the new location would vastly alter the character of the right of way and remove the salient features which currently give it that character including the kissing gate at the southeastern end of the path. The existing footpath is characterised by the fact that it is a rural footpath running through a field alongside an established hedgerow. If it was diverted, its rural character would be lost.
2. The new footpath would be widened to a width of 2 meters and given an all weather gravel surface. The existing footpath is much narrower and has a natural earth surface. Rather than enhancing the footpath, the character of it would be irredeemably altered by these changes.
3. The current footpath is historic and part of a network of footpaths which characterise the local area. By closing and diverting this path, its history would be lost.

Safety

1. The path would be closer to Elizabeth Way, a busy bypass where traffic is limited to 50mph but often exceeds that limit (as a home owner whose house is on the corner of Horse Road, I can bear witness to this). There are high volumes of traffic noise and pollution from this road which do not have an impact on users of the footpath in its current position. If diverted, the walker would be exposed to the dangers of high levels of pollution and traffic. The sound of birdsong which gives walking along the current footpath part of its appeal, would be lost.
2. The surface of the new path and the extended width would not necessarily improve the path. It could have a detrimental effect in that it may attract those riding bicycles or scooters and put dog walkers or ramblers at risk.
3. The Diversion Plan appears to show that the development's major entrance/exit road from Elizabeth Way would cut through the proposed route of the diverted footpath thus bringing users into contact with a busy traffic route.

Disadvantages to members of the public and/or occupants of local properties

1. The new path would be 54 meters longer than the existing path which would cause substantial inconvenience to the public. These include more elderly or less infirm residents who frequently use the path to walk their dogs or as part of a short cut to Middle Lane and the Victoria Road area beyond.
2. Diverting the footpath would bring it nearer to my home and could potentially interfere with the views from the upper windows of my house and my privacy. The wide pavement on Elizabeth Way already attracts a large number of runners, cyclists, dog walkers and families out for walks and its creation has in itself, created a recreational area alongside a busy road. The site of the new footpath could, potentially, increase those numbers and may attract anti-social activity particularly after dark.

3. It is not in the overall interest of the local residents and members of the public to divert the footpath.
4. Hilperton Parish Council may have no objection to the proposed diversion but their view is not necessarily that reflected by those who live in the area.
5. A compromise could be reached with the developers whereby the existing footpath could remain in its current location with alterations made to the plans for positioning the houses and roads. If a compromise is possible, this should be considered as a viable alternative to diverting the footpath.

Environmental Impact

1. It is stated in the report dated 15th August 2022 that the diversion of the right of way in isolation has no identified environmental impact.
2. I appreciate that this assessment is a result of the considerations undertaken at the time the planning process was undertaken. However the relocation of the path must, logically, have a significant impact on the environment as the diversion will remove the hedgerows which run alongside the existing footpath. These are crucial habitats for local populations of foxes, badgers, birds and other creatures. It is part of the ecostructure which underpins their survival. Underneath the hedgerows are deep ditches which again are an essential part of this habitat.
3. Hedgerows have no legal protection but many in the Hilperton area are hundreds of years old and have been used as boundaries for centuries. Hedgerows provide an essential source of insects and shelter for bats, birds and other mammals. If this extended section was removed, it is bound to reduce the supply of shelter and food for the bat and bird population.
4. The Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy, produced by Wiltshire Council, confirms that the landscape around Trowbridge is home to three species of rare bat which are functionally linked to a protected site, namely the Bath & Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation.
5. In a survey conducted in the neighbouring village of Staverton in 2021, fifteen species of bat were recorded. An unofficial survey undertaken in the Whaddon Lane area in the summer of 2022 recorded the presence of 15 species of bats. Given that there are 18 species in total in the UK (with 17 known to breed), this is an area of significant and sensitive ecological importance. Bats have a large ariel network of feeding, roosting and breeding routes and to remove a large swathe of established hedgerow in order to divert a footpath is disproportionate to the damage this could cause to their environment.
6. Swifts, now on the red list of conservation concern, return to the area every summer. Again, I can testify to this as I watch them from both my front and back gardens. They rely on insects from trees and hedgerows for food.
7. I appreciate that the development has been granted planning permission but anything that can be done to mitigate the effect of it on the surrounding environment must be considered.
8. The diversion of a footpath may appear a trivial matter but must be considered within the context of the neighbourhood and its rural character and the environment it supports. The removal of an established line of hedgerow may not be considered of vast importance to the developers but if it can be retained it would help to mitigate the impact the overall development is going to have on the local environment.
9. Is it necessary to divert the footpath in order for the development to proceed? Has an alternative been considered? If an alternative was available, and surely this must be an option when houses and roads are yet to be built, it would not be necessary to divert the footpath and the development could still proceed. Have the developers been approached and invited to consider an alternative, bearing in mind the particularly ecological sensitivities of the area they will be developing?

Liz Gwinnell



Horse Road, Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

5th October 2022

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2022 15:29
To: [Roberts, Ali](#)
Subject: HILP54 diversion order

**Public path diversion and definitive map and statement modification order.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
The Wiltshire Council Hilperton 54 diversion and definitive map and statement
modification order 2022.**

Dear Madam,

Having discussed the above order with other users of HILP 54, I wish to register my formal OBJECTION to the above order made by Wiltshire Council on 23rd August 2022. This objection is made in accordance with the advert in the Wiltshire Times dated 9th September 2022.

My first objection is that the proposed new path is less convenient to users than the existing path as it is considerably longer in length.

My second objection is due to the fact that the proposed new path will be less amenable to users as it will run alongside the busy B3105 (Elizabeth Way) thus exposing users to noise and odours/exhaust gases from passing vehicles.

I would point out that if the applicant re-designed their proposed housing plan for the site, the existing path, which is arrow-straight, could remain in place. Perhaps the hedge too could then be retained.

I reserve my right to amend/add to these reasons at a later date.

Can you please confirm the safe receipt of this objection.

Yours faithfully,

E. Clark

Ernie Clark,
Wiltshire Councillor for Hilperton Division,

■ Stonelea,
Hilperton,