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Mrs. M. Seaman
Clerk to Bulford Parish Council
The Village Hall
Watergate Lane
Bulford
Wiltshire
SP4 9DY

22nd January 2007

Please ask for: Spencer Drinkwater Our ref: SP/LTP/Salisbury (rural) Your ref :

Dear Mrs. Seaman

Re: Footway from Salisbury Road, Bulford to Solstice Park, Amesbury

Further to our previous correspondence, and having taken advice from members of the Parish Council, a pedestrian count survey was undertaken on Salisbury Road, Bulford on the evening of Friday 3rd November 2006.

The survey took place from 4 – 8pm during which time only two pedestrians were observed; two young men, one going in each direction. Interviews were not conducted as part of this survey, therefore, it is not possible to know whether these men were travelling to or from Solstice Park.

These findings are in keeping with the former South West Regional Planning Conference's Accessibility Indices which suggest that people are not willing to walk further than 600m to access food shops and 1000m in order to access other non-residential facilities.

The County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding is to be used primarily to reduce traffic by promoting other modes of transport and help meet the Council's targets in relation to the reduction of accidents. On the basis of the survey results there seems to be little scope that a footway from Bulford to Solstice Park would help achieve these aims. The provision of such a footway would be very expensive but would deliver little in the way of progress towards our outcome targets due to the limited number of people that are ever likely to use it. Moreover, I believe that there are many other schemes in the County where this money could be better invested and where a better economic rate of return could be achieved

In view of this, I do not propose to take this scheme forward at the present time.

I appreciate that this decision will come as a disappointment to the Parish Council but trust that they will understand my reasoning.

Yours Sincerely

P L Tilley
Transportation and Development Manager

Cc: Mr J Noeken, Wiltshire County Council
Mr M Baker, Wiltshire County Council

**C/o Northern Area Coordinator
Democratic Services
Salisbury District Council
P0 Box 2117
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DS**

Mr P L Tilley
Environmental Services Department
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Date: 29th August 2007

Dear Mr Tilley,

Re: Footway from Salisbury Road, Bulford to Solstice Park, Amesbury

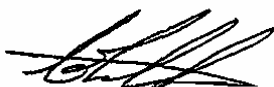
Further to your letter to Bulford Parish Council of 22nd January 2007 we are writing to express the dissatisfaction of Salisbury District Council's Northern Area Committee and Bulford Parish Council with the position of Wiltshire County Council on the above issue.

You refer to a survey conducted between 4pm and 8pm on 3rd November 2006 as evidence that there is insufficient demand for a footpath and cycleway on the route between Bulford and Solstice Park. However, your methodology and approach appear flawed. Very few people would be foolhardy enough to attempt walking this stretch of road on a dark winter's evening at present – the risk to personal safety is simply too great. This is exactly why a footpath is required. We feel that your decision should not be based on current usage, but on likely future use given the provision of suitable and safe facilities.

The route in question runs between a large residential area and a major employment site that is currently at only a fraction of its full development capacity. With the number of journeys between Bulford and Solstice Park set to increase substantially, providing a footpath and cycleway would be an excellent way to encourage alternative modes of transport. This is a stated aim of central Government as well as a key element of the County Council's own Local Transport Plan. As part of the Northern Area Community Plan the desire for a footway is also a clearly identified community priority. As such, your failure to seriously consider the provision of a footway is simultaneously obstructive to both national and local demands.

We hope that you will reconsider your approach to this issue. There may be good arguments for directing what we appreciate is limited funding elsewhere, but we do not believe you have supported your case with sufficient evidence. We consider the citing of a brief and flawed survey as inadequate grounds for refusal and do not feel that you have considered the full circumstances of the case. We would welcome the attendance of the relevant officer at the next meeting of the Northern Area Committee (20 September, Antrobus House, Amesbury) to hear the views of local members and inform the committee further of the County Council's reasoning.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Colin Mills
Chairman, Northern Area Committee