

ALLINGTON - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR SUPPORT

The lane is narrow and used as a "rat-run" causing danger to other road users, particularly pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

The erosion of verges by traffic trying to pass opposing vehicles causes severe damage to verges and the wildlife.

Without the through traffic it could be returned to its previous state, suitable for the Conservation Area status granted in 1998.

In the Conservation Area Statement prepared by North Wiltshire District Council, the lane through Allington has been recognised as one of the principal features for conservation and protection, in particular its verges and rural character. One of the options recommended in the Statement to preserve and enhance this character is to close the lane at the northern end.

The short alternative route via the B4039 and Fowlswick Lane is approximately only one mile longer in length and one minute longer in travelling time due to the lower speed necessary on Allington Lane, and this is from one end of the lane to the other. If taken as part of a longer journey, the increase is insignificant.

Local residents have experienced serious damage to their vehicles due to collisions with rat-running vehicles. Many are not reported as involving personal injury.

The narrowness, alignment and character render the road unsuitable and dangerous for use by through traffic and the two alternative routes (A420/B4039/Fowlswick Lane and the A350) are both wider, of better character and totally suitable for two-way traffic.

The preservation and safety of Allington will be impossible to sustain with the destruction caused by the present volume of traffic.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS TO THE CLOSURE

Deliveries to properties for everyday needs, or larger deliveries and access by the refuse vehicle will be difficult with no turning area provided. Private accesses will be abused.

The road would fall into disrepair and even less maintenance would be carried out.

The closed area would encourage dumping of rubbish.

It would cause inconvenience and force drivers to go a long way round on busy roads.

There are more accidents on the alternative route and it is more dangerous to travel by the alternative route.

The extra distance and the increase in fuel consumption would be detrimental to the environment.

The alternative route for agricultural vehicles via the field and farmyard is unsuitable and liable to be closed at times. If ownership changes, it could be unavailable in the future. Organic crop requirements would be breached. Disease outbreak controls could close the route.

It would not be available for vehicles that need to access the weighbridge on the A420.

It will cause significant inconvenience to those wishing to avoid the main road, especially those travelling to and from the Allington Farm Shop.

The right to use the attractive and scenic route should be retained.

It would benefit only the residents of the lane and improve the value of their properties.

Having only one access could cause problems if a tree should block the lane.

It is a public highway and should remain available for all to use.