

**From:** Barry Thomas <barry.thomas@oss.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 October 2019 21:44  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** DMPA/2019/0948 - Axis 50

Dear Sir/Madam

The Open Spaces Society OBJECTS to the diversion of public footpath Willington FP9 and would like to make the following comments on this application:

1. The diverted route for the footpath almost doubles its length and part of the proposed route is a very unpleasant walk alongside the noisy and polluted A38 which no amount of tree-planting will ameliorate.
2. The diversion of southern section of FP9 to the Willington Road and the closure of the Level Crossing are also not acceptable to the Society as the route is indirect and increases the amount of road walking from the village to the path's northerly termination point, along an already very busy road. Views at the level crossing are wide and any rail traffic from the east will be halted at the road crossing and clearly visible from the PROW crossing. Therefore no closing of the crossing is justified.

Two policies in the recent SDDC Local Plan are relevant here (my highlighting):

**Policy INF2 - Sustainable Transport Walking and Cycling i)** The Council will work in partnership with County Councils, neighbouring local authorities, the National Forest Company, charitable organisations, landowners and developers to secure the expansion, improvement and protection of walking and cycling networks, including public rights of way, cycle routes, greenways and supporting infrastructure. Routes should be coherent, direct, continuous, safe, secure and attractive and should contribute to the wider green infrastructure network wherever possible.

*Comment: The route proposed by the developer is not direct or attractive and does not contribute to the wider green infrastructure.*

**Policy BNE4 - Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness**

A The character, local distinctiveness, and quality of South Derbyshire's landscape and soilscape will be protected and enhanced through the careful design and sensitive implementation of new development.

B Developers will be expected to retain key valued landscape components such as mature trees, established hedgerows and topographical features within development sites unless it can be demonstrated that the loss of features will not give rise to unacceptable effects on local landscape character. Development that will have an unacceptable impact on landscape character (including historic character), visual amenity and sensitivity and can not be satisfactorily mitigated will not be permitted.

*Comment: The proposed development is not sensitive, is on higher ground looming over the settlement (this is particularly apparent when walking the ground) and involves the loss of a considerable length of established hedgerows.*

In the unfortunate and unlikely event that this application receives Planning Permission we would insist on the following mitigation measures in order to prevent our objection to the Order:

1. a more direct route through the site to the northerly terminus of FP9 and a requirement that the developer changes the route to the termination point of FP9 without using estate roads to achieve this

2. a new PROW is dedicated by the developer to link FP9 with the commercial centre alongside the A50 (to the NE) and
3. no closure of the railway crossing unless the developer provides a pedestrian bridge.

Best regards



Open Spaces Society

Local Correspondent for South Derbyshire and North West Leicestershire

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