

From: Clare Bertram
Sent: 31 August 2020 22:17
To: Richards, Clive <clive.richards@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Planning Inspectorate ROW/3226477: Glebe Way, CT5 4LW

31st August

The Planning Inspectorate Reference: ROW/3226477

I am submitting this as additional evidence to support my objection to the extinguishment of the crossing in Glebe Way, Whitstable. I initially submitted these points on 20th July but received no official acknowledgment.

I would also like to flag up the fact that my mother who is receiving postal correspondence from the inspectorate has received a letter which I have not received on email and which indicates that Clive Richards is no longer the point of contact. Please could you clarify this position for me moving forward?

I do not wish to speak during the virtual event, but would like the opportunity to view the event as it is live streamed. Please could you furnish me with the necessary information to facilitate that.

In addition to my original arguments made against the extinguishment in December 2018. I would also like to add the following statements.

I feel that any initial site visits previously carried out were executed prior to Covid 19 and therefore social distancing measures were obviously not on the agenda back then and I feel these should be reconsidered. The crossing provides a route that enables efficient social distancing measures to be carried out which the alternative route into town and beach, which uses Canterbury road does not, as the pavements are too narrow for social distancing and due to the high numbers of visitors flooding into Whitstable at present, increasing not only the people on pavements but also the road traffic, crossing to avoid people on this busy road is not an efficient option.

Having read the information that was sent through from your office some weeks back outlining various proposals from all the parties concerned, it just seemed to me that there was a lot of fragmentation regarding the various solutions. It would be such a shame if due to the very unusual circumstances we find ourselves in currently that a solution that could have addressed both safety and access is somehow lost and in so doing, the whole nature of how the community in Whitstable connects to its surroundings is lost permanently.

On the subject of virtual events being a suitable replacement for public meetings it seems to me that there are large numbers of our community that due to their lack of digital connectivity will be left out of the loop. Due to the fact that the local council remaining impartial and that our MP is prohibited from representing our opinions I feel it is even more essential that every member of the community effected should feel able to take part if they choose and be fully aware of progress.

I was very disappointed when a week after issuing your statement of a postponement it was reversed. It seems to me that your original decision would have been made by considering, most fully, all the deciding factors so the turnabout is confusing. Can I please enquire as to the grounds of the reversal so soon after making the initial judgment? As you can probably tell, I am of the belief that a postponement would be the best solution at this point.

In addition to the problems being encountered regarding public meetings, it has also made it much harder for the community to raise awareness of what is happening and the proposals being put forward. I have been amazed by the number of local people who do not even know the crossing is under threat and it is very hard to rectify that under the current Covid related measures.

Forcing people to take alternative routes is not simply about convenience but equally about how our town and its people flow and connect. It is for this reason especially that I would plea to the decision makers to do everything in their power to find alternatives to extinguishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, please let me know if I can furnish you with any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Bertram