From:
To: Planning Policy

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Virginia Water Neighbourhood Plan

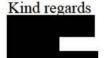
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I am writing regarding the Virginia Water Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

As a long standing resident of the village I support most aspects of the plan and commend the work that has gone into it.

I do however have one concern, it relates to the proposal to close and pedestrianise one of the roads that access Station Parade. This is a busy road used not just to access the parade shops but also the station and car parks, it is also the place where the bus stop is located and several school coaches stop in the morning and afternoon peak to collect and drop off school children. Closing this section off will both remove the ease of In / Out access that the 2 road access currently facilitates fo coaches and buses but also risks creating a huge bottle neck for all traffic exiting the parade onto Christchurch Road, a road that often has long tail backs from the traffic lights over the bridge and back down to the entrances of Station Parade. The idea of a pedestrian zone is nice but the reality is the shops are of limited appeal there - a charity shop, a betting shop, Indian restaurant and a vacant (most recently gift shop / previously wine shop) there is no cafe that could use the street area effectively all day long. The disruption this proposal would cause to traffic in Station Parade is significant and in my view outweighs the marginal benefit of the proposed scheme.



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