

Sent 1 July 2025

Dear Amelia Elve

Ref: 2025/0137/OUT

I am responding to your email of 16th May 2025 in which you rejected the Parish Council's request to include discussion notes and correspondence of recent meetings held between the PC and Somerset Highways team regarding the above outline planning application. The reason given for the refusal was that the discussions did not constitute formal comments from the PC about pedestrian and highway safety.

I would like to remind you that:

- Despite many attempts to raise our concerns with Somerset Highways about the application of policy WM1 regarding pedestrian safety and the RL development application, the Parish Council has been consistently ignored. We followed advice to wait until the planning application was received before making formal objections, however it now appears that details of the discussions held since the application are not considered relevant.
- In February, following significant pressure from the Parish Council, meetings were arranged between the PC, Planning and Highways departments to discuss addressing pedestrian safety in line with Policy WM1. During these discussions, and subsequent communication, the PC made it clear that they believed significant safety issues and potential solutions were ignored by Somerset Highways. The applicant's less than robust safety assessments, however, appear to have been accepted without question. The formal comments now issued by Somerset Highways demonstrate that the very real concerns raised by the PC should be included in the public record.
- The PC have referred specifically to the RL outline planning application by name and application number in all communications regarding highway safety. The PC and local community are not prepared to accept that their concerns regarding a safe pedestrian crossing of the A371 can be excluded from the public record.

We request you review your decision, with your line management if necessary, and confirm how you propose to proceed.

Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council