

Public Inquiry Statement – Personal Impact

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Introduction

I would like to explain how these proposals could affect me personally as a disabled resident. Recent events have made me realise just how much changes to my surroundings can affect my confidence, independence, and ability to go about everyday life.

My Recent Experience

Whilst preparing for this inquiry I have spent my time focusing on the needs of disabled and vulnerable residents however two weeks ago, I had a large seizure and fell, hitting my head on a bed frame. I suffered cuts and bruising to my face and narrowly avoided breaking my jaw. This incident has reminded me of the impact my disability has on my own daily life. I have realised again how quickly confidence and independence can be lost. I no longer feel as secure moving around on my own.

Difficulties Getting Around

Things that may seem minor to others now feel like major obstacles. For example, the scaffolding currently in place outside a house on my street makes me feel unsteady and anxious. Walking around it increases my fear of losing my balance. Crossing Mill Lane is already difficult. Even during school holidays, the volume of traffic can feel overwhelming. I often experience anxiety and a racing heart when trying to navigate through vehicles and restricted spaces. More construction traffic would make this much harder regardless of size, particularly when they are forced to mount the pavement. Brookfields is often suggested as an alternative route within the case, but the uneven ground creates different problems. I worry about falling and what would happen if I became injured or unwell while alone. These are genuine concerns that now affect the choices I make every day.

Impact on My Daily Life

I have missed work and stopped myself from attending activities that are important to my wellbeing, including my singing group, which provides valuable support for my mental health. I have also cancelled social plans because the anxiety involved in travelling has become too much.

Why This Matters

The effects of these proposals go beyond inconvenience. For disabled and vulnerable residents, they can affect independence, confidence, mental health, employment, social activities, and access to support networks. My recent experience has shown me how quickly these things can be taken away.

Request to the Inquiry

I ask the Inquiry to carefully consider the impact that increased traffic, disruption, and reduced accessibility could have on disabled and vulnerable residents. These impacts are likely to be felt more strongly by people with disabilities and should be given significant weight when decisions are made.

Thank you for listening.