

**From:** Website <[no-reply@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:no-reply@herefordshire.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 14 February 2024 15:41

**To:** Neighbourhood Planning Team <[neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Online form received: Comment on a proposed neighbourhood area

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## Comment on a proposed neighbourhood area

**Case reference:** FS-Case-586837928

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### Comment details

**Title:** Mr

**First name:** Robert

**Last name:** Sutcliffe

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address line 1:** 11

**Address line 2:** Broxash Close

**Address line 3:**

**Town or city:** Bromyard

**Postcode:** HR7 4TU

**County:** Herefordshire

**Which plan are you commenting on?:** P163932, Hardwick Bank site, Bromyard

**Comment type:** Objection

**Your comments:** Public Safety on Bromyard's A44

Formal Complaint regarding Vistry and the Hardwick Bank Planning Application

I am writing to complain about the lack of thought regarding public safety on and beside the A44 at the top of West Hill, Bromyard. Especially between the Acacia dental practice and Upper Hardwick Lane.

At the start of the 25th October meeting the opening photographs showed very benign shots of an open road, not a vehicle in site, blue skies and green hedges. Very picturesque but not at all

indicative of the inherent dangers of this narrow part of a busy A44. It is a narrow highway utilised by many articulated lorries that have difficulty passing in opposite directions.

After rejecting this development application, partly on the grounds of pedestrian, cyclist, and mobility scooter safety, Herefordshire planning are now allowing a development to go ahead. Is public safety no longer a concern of the council?

This area contains a dangerous and complex junction. Within a 130 meter length of the A44 there are two road junctions with islands (A44 and B4214, A44 and Old Road), a dental practice access, a Morrisons store carpark, cricket club access, Winslow Rd, and a pedestrian crossing.

SIX traffic intersections and a pedestrian crossing within 130 meters of a busy, narrow 'A' rated trunk road.

Over the past 10 months there have been 6 incidents that I have witnessed:

1. About to turn right at the top of Old Rd onto the A44 another car tried turning right from A44 onto Old Road - on the wrong side of the island and almost into the front of my car. I had to take evasive action allowing him to miss my car.
2. On 13th April last year my sister was hit by the wing mirror of a mobile home (NK60 AWG). Although the driver drove off and around two corners I did manage to confront him. After first denying he hit her he then admitted he had to pull over to the kerb to avoid another vehicle. My sister only suffered light bruising to her shoulder.
- 3 & 4. On 24th October last year, an on-site viewing was carried out by councillors of the Flaggoner's Green site. Whilst they stood on the pavement alongside the A44 there were two incidents involving pairs of articulated lorries meeting from either direction. In the first case both lorries had to slow down considerably and manoeuvre to pass each other. In the second incident one of the lorries actually stopped to allow the other to pass.
5. Very recently, on Monday 5th February a child was knocked down adjacent to the A44 and Winslow Road pedestrian crossing.

Possibly none of the above incidents would have happened if the A44 adjacent to Winslow Road, Broxash Close and Upper Hardwick Lane was wider and made safer. However, it is not possible to widen the A44 in this area and especially adjacent to the pedestrian crossing where it is constrained by buildings on both sides.

Nor is it possible to widen the footpath - the property owners have maintained and used the verge since the houses were built in the late 1970's and therefore have Adverse Possession of that land under common law.

Also:

From an earlier meeting, in early 2022 when phosphate credits were coming on line it was made clear to Vestry that 500 houses would not be supported

Although the Vestry plan has now been reduced from 500 to 250 houses another company, Opulent Developments, is discussing with Bromyard Council the development of land between Porthouse Rise and the industrial site. Within this discussion is the prospect of an additional 250 houses to the east of the Tenbury Road. This effectively re-instates the 250 house Vestry are generously reducing their plans by.

I look forward to your response

Regards, R A Sutcliffe