

Correspondence

Letter received from a resident regarding AXIS 50 land and surrounding footpaths

To Willington Parish Council

2nd November 2023

Dear Sirs

I'm a resident of Willington. I'm agnostic on the issue of Axis 50, no strong views either way, but I can find no one who knows about whether it is going ahead or not.

However, for several years I have been enjoying the footpath across the farmers fields there.

Last week I found my way barred by construction fencing, and I found piping on the ground, looking like it was about to be laid. But there has been no mention of construction, no notices about suspension of the footpaths, etc. It was almost dark when I reached it, and if I had turned back, I would have had to negotiate the electric fence and destroyed stile in the dark.

So I followed the fencing to its end at the Etwall Road to escape, and climb over the farm gate - nearly falling off in the process (I'm not as young and agile as I was).

And I see that now the local farmer has erected an electric fence, and dismantled the footpath stiles. **Is this construction work to do with Axis 50? And if so, why has there been no closure notice for the footpath?**

Supplementary point: I have long argued that there should be a small railway halt where the railway runs along the bottom of the Axis 50 site anyway. This would be ideal for workers who wanted to reach Axis 50. Even more usefully, local villagers could catch the regular Derby-Stoke-Crewe line, since it is hourly in both directions, and is actually better used than the current Willington railway station, which offers very few trains (and none on Sundays).

I suppose that is a side issue to the footpath, but I was hoping to get a conversation going about the possibility of a new small station in conjunction with Axis 50, as that development could help fund it, and benefit from it as much as the village.

I would appreciate it if you could discuss this at your next parish meeting.

Thank you