

PLANNING REF : 253071
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 20 Canberra Lake Way
: 20 Canberra Lake Way, Charvil, Berkshire
: RG109DH
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Daria Timoshicheva
DATE SUBMITTED : 28/07/2026

COMMENTS:

I object to both of the proposed options for a future pedestrian link, as I do not believe either provides a safe or appropriate solution. However, I would like to comment specifically on the option that would run directly behind my property, as this would have a significant impact on my family and home.

As a mum of three young children, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to reserve land for a public footpath immediately behind our rear garden fence. This is where my children play every day, and the prospect of a public route running directly behind our garden raises serious concerns about safety, privacy and security.

My concerns are as follows:

The proposed route would require land that Bellway does not own. The land identified is privately owned by Hicks and CLW Management Co. It is therefore inappropriate to safeguard or reserve land that is outside the applicant's ownership or control. It would create an unsafe environment. A narrow path running behind existing garden fences would create blind corners and enclosed sections with poor visibility, making it feel unsafe for those using it and for the residents living alongside it. It conflicts with crime prevention principles. Hidden, enclosed pathways behind residential gardens are contrary to Secured by Design guidance, which seeks to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. Rather than improving connectivity, this layout has the potential to attract nuisance behaviour, including illegal motorbike use and vandalism, immediately adjacent to family homes.

It would have an unacceptable impact on residents' privacy and security. A public footpath directly behind rear garden fences would fundamentally change the character of our homes. As a family with three young children, we value being able to let our children play safely in our garden without members of the public passing immediately behind the fence. The proposal would significantly reduce our privacy and sense of security. It would negatively affect local wildlife. A footpath of this nature would almost certainly require lighting, disrupting the existing dark corridor that supports local bat populations and reducing the ecological value of the area. The Parish Council has already recognised the concerns. The Parish Council has acknowledged in writing that, because of police concerns, this particular route "may not be viable." Given that admission, it is difficult to justify safeguarding land for a route that has already been identified as presenting significant safety issues.

While I understand the desire to improve pedestrian connectivity, I do not believe either of the proposed footpath options is suitable. In particular, the route proposed directly behind my property would

have a disproportionate impact on my family's safety, privacy and enjoyment of our home, while also creating wider security and environmental concerns.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that this option is not safeguarded as part of the planning application.