



Cllr David Mullen
Chair
Steeton-with-Eastburn
Parish Council



64. Thornhill Road, Steeton, BD20 6RD

david.mullen@steeton-with-eastburnparishcouncil.gov.uk

07952261960

Baroness Vere of Norbiton

Ref MC/ 329768

12th March 2021

Dear Baroness Vere of Norbiton.

Many thanks for your response of 24th February 2021 to my email relating to Steeton Driving Test Centre.

There are many points with which I wish to take issue, upon which you seem to be rather behind the times despite my supplying the most up to date information available.

1. In the original papers I supplied, was a plan drawn up by Bradford Council's Major Highways Team. I have included this again for your further information. As you will see from the date on the drawing, it was drawn on 12th December 2008 by S J Barton from that team. The title of the scheme was LINKS TO RAILWAY STATION DRAFT PROPOSAL. This drawing was produced well in advance of any planning application submitted by your Agency for the changes that the DVSA wanted to make to the Steeton Testing Station Site. When the Parish Council made comments on the application this is the document used in evidence along with the Airedale Master Plan. The Parish Council, on behalf of the residents of Steeton and Eastburn, asked for a condition to be put on the grant of Planning Permission that the footpath be included. The request by the Parish Council was ignored by the Planning Panel even though the Agent acting on your behalf and presenting the application said that he could not see any problems with what we were requesting, and should our request be refused he would take our request forward to his instructing principals.
2. When the site was used for the MOT testing of HGVs we never sought to have a footpath in this location because residents fully understood the dangers posed. It wasn't until the



Cllr David Mullen
Chair



**Steeton-with-Eastburn
Parish Council**

64. Thornhill Road, Steeton, BD20 6RD

david.mullen@steeton-with-eastburnparishcouncil.gov.uk

07952261960

proposal was put forward for change of use from HGV testing centre to Steeton DTC, that residents raised the question of the footpath. The difference between this new use and the original use is immense. I note that you talk about the DVSA's priority was and remains safety of pedestrians and cyclists, surely this is the main purpose of drivers taking the test.

3. Drivers start their practical test at Steeton DTC and as soon as they leave the site they exit on to Steeton Grove, which is the access road to a large industrial estate. Most of the employees on this estate arrive by train and then walk to work down Steeton Grove which does not have a footpath. This fact doesn't appear to cause Steeton DTC concern.
4. You mention in your reply that the Steeton DTC site is Freehold; a fact that has never been disputed. You also talk about the rights of third parties over the site of which there are none. This is also not in dispute. What we are requesting to be granted is an easement to allow Pedestrians and Cyclists down a 1.5 metre wide strip along the North Western edge of the site only, not across the whole Steeton DTC site as you imply. This is adjacent to the fence alongside Craven House.
5. What we do dispute in your response email is your claim that the DVSA use the land for HGV testing. It is my understanding and belief that this practice stopped not long after 2005, at which point the site became Steeton DTC.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr David Mullen