

From: [Nicholas Shakespeare](#)
To: [Roberts, Ali](#)
Subject: Objection to P/2023/016
Sent: 17/06/2025 11:09:47

Dear Ali Roberts,

I am writing in response to a revised application to alter a long-established footpath in Sutton Mandeville.

<https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/RightsOfWay/Path/Detail/aBVi78Bm?row=P2023016>

Having now attempted to walk the proposed new route, I am writing to say that this revised application does not alter any of the reasons listed below for my original objection, which I attach beneath. All of them still stand.

What is not clear is why we are still discussing moving a footpath in a place of outstanding natural beauty against the wishes of the majority of the village (a footpath which was there when the applicants bought the house; and, furthermore, was guarded at that time by a thick and ancient hedge which provided adequate screening for their privacy, before they decided to pull it down). It feels mean-spirited to object to a proposal which has now been re-submitted, but the collective is being asked to compromise for the benefit of the individual. I worry that we are in danger of being worn down by a modified iteration. I remain reluctant to bypass the community's enjoyment for an individual incursion.

Best wishes,

Nicholas Shakespeare

Dear Ali Roberts,

I have lived in Sutton Mandeville since 2001 and I am writing in support of the many in the village who object to the application to divert a public path (Reference P/2023/016).

The current path has existed for generations, providing safe and accessible passage through the countryside. The suggested rerouting, however, is neither practical nor in keeping with the public's enjoyment of the area.

The suggested path climbs a steep, wooded slope, which likely explains why a trail has not been established there before. Even before my knee replacement, I would have found it challenging to walk comfortably up or down this steep incline. It will be inaccessible for individuals with mobility issues, and could be dangerous for many during wet weather.

The original path offers an open, uplifting perspective of the countryside—one of the reasons walkers value it. The change would replace this lovely view with one of the solar panels used to heat a swimming pool.

The proposed alternative does not meet the standard of accessibility or enjoyment that should be required for such a change. Making it safe and usable would require significant destruction of trees and banking, further undermining the area's character.

The historic footpath should not be compromised for the convenience of one household at the expense of the wider community's right to enjoy a safe, beautiful and established route.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Shakespeare

Sutton Mandeville