



23rd July 2009

Grant Audley-Miller
Planning Services
Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House,
Abbey Close,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire
OX14 3JN

Dear Mr. Audley-Miller,

You will be aware of the Project proposed to and by "Faringdon Area Project" relating to the development of cycle-ways as the Sustrans routes seem to circumnavigate Faringdon at a great distance. It was decided that our first project should be to create a cycle route & footpath between Faringdon and Shrivenham and we are now preparing the groundwork for this initiative.

You will have noticed that Shrivenham and Faringdon are on opposite sides of the A420 and our first challenge will be to create a tunnel under or a bridge over the A420.

We anticipate that from Faringdon Market Place, the route would follow the old pack-horse route up Southampton Street, on past the Medical Centre and then across Park Road, following the track to Wicklesham Farm. As the land currently lies, a bridge would seem appropriate. However, what currently appears an upward slope may well be levelled if (when) the gravel that it is made of is excavated and removed. In this case a tunnel under the A420 would seem more appropriate – and cheaper.

A tunnel has other advantages.

At some point within the next few years, we hope to design and build a significant show-piece building on the triangle formed by Park Rd, the A420 and the Packhorse path toward Wicklesham. It is proposed that the building will house a significant performance venue, a museum/gallery space, office accommodation and some form of appropriate food and drink outlet. The area is renowned for its fossil beds and it is to be hoped that any excavation under the road might enable the uncovering and future display of those fossil beds as part of the museum.

The area is a close walk to Faringdon Community College and would provide the college with facilities that would otherwise be way beyond their financial capabilities.

The planned crossing over the road would, of course benefit more than just those wanting to travel between Faringdon and Shrivenham. Those villages east of the A420 would be provided with safe access to the town, the schools, the doctor's surgery, etc.

Registered Address:

14 Market Place
Faringdon
Oxfordshire
SN7 7HP
Tel: 08456 580 510

Company Reg. No. 6536016

The purpose of this letter is to gauge the opinion of the Planning Department to these proposals. We would obviously like your/the council's input into these proposals as we are quite sure that you will have a level of knowledge on such matters that will assist us drive this project forward more quickly, and around (rather than over!) some of those pitfalls that we would like to avoid.

Yours sincerely

Nick Elwell
Managing Director