

From Neil Ripington (local resident)

I have lived in Cromwell Lane for nearly six years and have been getting the train to Birmingham every day to travel to work. Over this period of time, I have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of rail users and significantly more traffic on Cromwell Lane during travelling times.

Our house at Westwood Farm (right in the very centre of the proposed development) is on the same side of Cromwell Lane as Tile Hill Station. This is where the problem starts. At the end of our drive, adjoining Cromwell Lane, there is no footpath. In fact, there is no footpath on this side of the road until you get very close to the station. Therefore, I have to cross Cromwell Lane at this point to join the footpath on the opposite side. During the hours between 07:00 and 09:00, in particular, this can be quite challenging with the sheer number of cars combined with the crazy speeds some drivers accelerate to over this patch of road. Although I don't possess a speed gun, I would confidently say that I have witnessed many cars travelling at speeds above 60 and even 70 MPH. I am relatively fit and most days have to carefully time my sprint across at this point to get across the road. The irony is that I have to do the same in reverse when I get closer to the station. This is to get to the short area of pavement that leads to the path and on to the station and platform. The traffic here, if anything, is even busier.

The current situation on Cromwell Lane in the mornings is as bad, if not worse, than ever. Last week, I witnessed a bike rider almost getting knocked off his bike at the junction with Charter Avenue. Over the last two or so years, numerous vehicles regularly park on the pavements blocking pedestrian access. Traffic generally flows beyond the speed limit, sometimes ridiculously. There is little break in the traffic flow to try and cross the lane, and then you have buses stopping to pick up passengers with impatient drivers rounding the bus blindly into oncoming traffic. It is truly a nightmare scenario! Often I'll stand and watch out of the sense of disbelief at what I'm witnessing. I have tens of pictures that I've taken, some of which I attached to my official objections to the inspector back in the early summer.

Furthermore....just to top it off, I regularly get 'sardined' into already packed trains at Tile Hill Station with barely any space to stand, let alone sit, for a totally uncomfortable and unpleasant journey to work and start to the day. Last week, for example, many passengers at Berkswell were simply unable to board trains and forced to wait for the next service. The morning trains are now similar to tubes at Oxford Circus during rush hour. In fact, I have thought that London Midland might consider removing seats for the morning trains so that more people can get on. If it were legal, I'm sure some passengers would climb on the roof as people do in places like India, although we don't enjoy such a warm climate in the West Midlands. Again, last week, passengers on the train had to assist a female pensioner (approximately 80 years old) who was standing as there were no seats. As the train slowed at Birmingham International, she lost her balance and went flying towards the door. Putting the rest of the passengers to one side, a lady of this age should not have to travel in this fashion. I can't even blame the seated passengers for not offering the

lady a seat as the train was so packed that you couldn't physically see beyond the people that were surrounding you.

I regularly get the 07:55 which is obviously a busy time to travel. The 08:18 is even worse. I dread getting this train and try to avoid it as much as possible as it never has seats available and barely any standing room either. The expansion to the car park has attracted more people from outside of the area and this has further exacerbated the issue. The car park alone is full by 07:30 in the morning which tells its own story. The whole infrastructure simply cannot take it and the situation is getting worse as time passes by. The developers and council can present the picture to suit and pretend all is well but I, and my travelling companions, are the ones who live this day in and day out. To add to the problem with the proposed development would be totally irresponsible and increase the dangers even more. Six years ago, I got a seat on the train in nineteen out of twenty journeys. On the 08:18 these days, for example, I am lucky if this happens once in twenty. If this is meant to be progress, I want no part of it.

Best regards

Neil

On Thursday, 20 October 2016, 15:26, cromdugra <[cromdugra@sky.com](mailto:cromdugra@sky.com)> wrote: