



**Dr Paul Williams MP**  
Member of Parliament for Stockton South

Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE  
Chair of Planning Committee  
Stockton Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS18 1LD

26 February 2018

Dear Norma

**Yarm School Footbridge Proposals**

I am writing to object to the current planning proposal by Yarm School, 17/2942/FUL - development for a Yarm School bridge, playing fields and associated access.

I have met with and listened to residents of Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Egglecliffe, read comments posted on social media and I have also spoken with the Headteacher of Yarm School.

Having considered the views expressed to me I am of the opinion that the current proposals for a private footbridge would not benefit the community.

I can also see that not enough has been done to assure residents in Yarm and surrounding areas that the bridge will not lead to the development of the Tees Heritage Park and also to development of Green Lane and Aislaby playing fields. There has already been too much development in this part of our borough.

If the Planning Committee did accept the proposal for the footbridge then I would want to see planning permission granted with two important caveats.

Firstly, any successful application should ensure that a bridge should be accessible for residents and school pupils alike. I would welcome consultations with the community about which hours the a bridge should be open, and when it should be closed. Egglecliffe Village should be protected by ensuring the bridge is closed during school drop off and pick up times.

Secondly, restrictions should be put in place so that no buildings are constructed in the section of the Tees Heritage Park that will be made more accessible by the construction of a bridge.





Yarm School is an asset to Yarm. It employs 250 people and makes a positive contribution to the local economy. But some local people – who do bear some of the ‘costs’ of having the school, as well as some of the benefits – don’t feel as though the school and the community always work in partnership to help Yarm become a better place for all.

In conclusion, it is my view that Yarm School has not won the support and confidence of local residents regarding the proposals for a bridge and as a result I cannot support the current proposals.

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Williams  
Member of Parliament for Stockton South

**Dr Paul Williams MP | House of Commons | London SW1A 0AA**

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