

Congresbury Residents Action Group (CRAG) is preparing to wade into battle on behalf of Wrington Lane residents who are again threatened with road safety issues from a proposed housing development.

Land agents Gladman's plan for a development of 50 houses in a field off the lane was thwarted when North Somerset Council granted permission on the condition that there was "a continuous footpath" along the length of Wrington Lane.

The firm submitted proposals, reducing the width of the carriageway to allow for greater space on the footpath. In April North Somerset rejected the proposal on the grounds that "The development will result in the intensification of the use of Wrington Lane and the proposed amendment would result in an unsatisfactory and substandard carriageway width of 2.75m contrary to the guidance of the North Somerset Highways. This would result in unacceptable levels of conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles and would result in an adverse impact on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists."

Gladman have appealed. Their claims will be put to planning inspectors early next month, and the deadline for writing objections is 4 September. To view Gladman's proposals, go to North Somerset Council's website and under planning applications, enter the code 18/P/3957/FUL.

All of the many residents who commented on Gladman's footway plans were strongly opposed to the narrowing of the road.

CRAG chair Mary Short said she would be keeping a close watch on the situation: "CRAG has made its position very clear on this matter as have dozens of residents in the Wrington Lane area.

"This planning application was first made three years ago, and Gladman is costing the council precious funds by persisting with these spurious appeals. Not only that, by continuing to pursue this matter, they are causing anxiety to some of the elderly residents of Wrington Lane."