As a resident I am struggling to understand the concept of constructing this art installation so close to the village. The plans for the multi-user access trail show that it is intended to be utilising the track which runs to the back of our houses, past the water tanks. Is there any proposed security for these tanks, as if tampered with this is the water supply for the entire village that will be affected.

My main concern however with this path is that with the elevation of the land to the rear of our properties this will mean that everyone walking along that track will be looking directly into the bedroom and bathroom windows of houses 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 & 5, which is a huge invasion of privacy.

After the building of the Gruffalo trail the village has become unbelievably congested, and the rear gardens are our only possibility of privacy, and a small amount of peace. This access trail will now give everyone a full 360 degree viewing of our houses, and will result in people looking over our gates and possibly even entering our properties. We would need to completely change the back of our properties, installing new gates and fences to make them secure, at no doubt, a huge cost to us personally, as after witnessing the personalities of the current tourists I wouldn’t be at all surprised for people to decide to take a ‘shortcut’ directly through our gardens.

From a financial point of view I’m also concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on the value of our properties. After all, who would want to live somewhere where there are people looking through every window of your house, I know I certainly wouldn’t.

Parking is also a major issue currently, without this added ‘attraction’. My husband spent a lot of time last year monitoring, emailing and even sending pictures to the Forestry Commission highlighting the problems that we face on a daily basis with people parking not only in the resident spaces, but also parking on the grass and in front of the garages. If asked, the only reaction we tend to get is a shrug of the shoulders and “the car parks are full, where do you expect me to park”. We are increasingly being made to feel like WE are an inconvenience to the tourists when trying to go about our daily business, and I have on more than one occasion been shouted at, with one man even following me to my property, who then punched my car and threatened to punch me because I was driving down the road past numbers 3&4 and he wanted to run in the middle of it.

So far the Forestry Commission have failed to address this parking issue or make it any clearer that by making that right hand turn across the bridge you are entering a residential area, not a general car park.

At the top end of the forest there is a dry stone maze being built, along with an activity centre, enchanted woodland walk, play area and a huge amount of parking space. At concert time there is enough parking for 5000 people, there certainly isn’t that space in the village area. During the summer months this area is not utilised to the extent that it should be, in fact its an area that I personally prefer to be, as its so much quieter than the village. Surely it would make more sense to build this project there to encourage a more even spread of tourists throughout the forest, instead of causing further congestion in what used to be a wonderful tranquil area of the forest.