

From: [June Mann](#)
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Network Rail (Leeds to Micklefield Enhancements) Transport and Works Act Order
Date: 26 August 2023 00:26:28

Dear Sir,

I am making the following representations on behalf of myself and my husband, Robert Mann. The above email address may be used for related correspondence. Our postal address is [REDACTED].

We have lived north of the railway in Micklefield for 48 years and have often used the pedestrian crossings at Peckfield and Highroyds Wood to reach the upper part of Pit Lane and Castle Hill Woods. We also regularly use the A656 Ridge Road.

We attended one of your public "consultation" meetings and heard many other attendees making similar comments to our own. However, I can see very little evidence in your proposals that they have been adapted in light of the feedback.

Peckfield Level Crossing Closure

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->We object to the proposal to re-route the bridle way crossing of the railway at Peckfield through the Recreation Ground, on the grounds of danger, impracticality, inconvenience and waste of money.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->There is danger inherent in the mixing of horse riders and users of the recreation ground if the bridle way is re-routed through it. The route passes near the football and cricket pitches and there are also a playground and skateboarding area nearby, with all the noise and disturbance one can expect from such activities and the comings and goings. As someone who has been a horse rider, I am fully aware how unpredictable such a powerful animal can be, and how easily one may "spook" at unfamiliar activity around it. The possibility of causing a rider to fall from a horse is not to be taken lightly.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The proposed route is nonsensical! It does not provide a reasonable alternative to the crossing at all, as in essence it already exists, should anyone wish to use it. However, I cannot imagine anyone choosing to use such an impractical and round-about way to get from Fish Bend to the southern side of the railway, when a more direct route is obvious, although still much longer and more inconvenient than the crossing.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Expenditure on a new footpath is unnecessary for the reasons given in the previous paragraph, i.e. it is already possible to go through the Recreation Ground, and the route is unlikely to be used enough to justify it.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->An acceptable replacement for the present crossing would be an underpass or a bridle way bridge, as near to the present crossing as possible. We note that a bridle way bridge is proposed at Barrowby Lane, where there are far fewer dwellings in the vicinity, and therefore fewer residents to use the bridge compared to the Peckfield crossing. The huge recent growth of the village means that there are many more people wanting to explore and make use of the opportunities for safe walking and cycling in the surrounding area. The Peckfield crossing provides access to walking and cycling paths as well as being used by people living in the northern part who work at the businesses on the southern side of the railway. The new housing being built off Pit Lane merely increases the need for a safe, accessible route to and from the school, surgery, shop etc, which all lie in the northern end of the village. The extra money needed to fund an underpass or bridge would be worthwhile, as it would provide an amenity which would be useful and usable. If the difficulties of providing a bridge can be overcome at Barrowby Lane, then perhaps it is not beyond Network Rail's capabilities to find a better solution for Micklefield than the one proposed so far.

A656 Ridge Road Bridge replacement

We object to the proposed demolition of the A656 Ridge Road Bridge on the grounds of the huge disruption that will be caused by closing the road for even a short period. This is a very busy road in both directions. Regular users of the road would soon learn how to avoid long diversions by using the Great North Road through Micklefield, thereby creating more heavy traffic through the village. Other roads in the area which are unsuited to heavy traffic would also be affected. We sincerely hope that some other way to adapt the bridge can be found.

Highroyds Wood Level Crossing Closure

As stated previously, the influx of new residents to the village has increased the need for access to the countryside for health and wellbeing. Many chose to move here specifically for that and the footpaths around the nearby woods are well used. We are pleased to see that the proposed diversionary route will utilise the small bridge under the railway which already exists, as we do not expect the construction of a footbridge or underpass in that location.

Yours faithfully,

June Mann (Mrs).