



Town Mayor: Councillor Andy Drummond

Town Council Manager: Roberta Bennett

1. COLLABORATION

- a. We support and reiterate the comments made by Forest Heath District Council with relation to Weatherby Crossing and would like to submit the additional following evidence on behalf of Newmarket Town Council.

2. DIVERSION ROUTE

- a. The route was walked measured on 20th December 2017 by staff and councillors from Newmarket Town Council. The following was identified.
- b. The Diversion route is 856m.
- c. The route encompasses both a steady incline (between the railway bridge and cricket field road over a distance of 339 m) and decline down the length of Cricket Field Road.
- d. Information sought from Ordnance Survey online shows a total ascent over the route of the diversion is 17.20m.
- e. On the day the route was walked there were vehicles parked on the pavement that would force pedestrians in to the road. In addition it is noted there is a fixed telegraph pole narrowing the pavement immediately north of the railway bridge. Please see photograph evidence:



Pavement Obstructions Granby Road



Incline at Cricket Field Road



Incline at New Cheveley Road



Pavement Obstruction

Newmarket Town Council - Proof of Evidence relating to s22 Weatherby Crossing – Document 1 of 2

- f. Newmarket Town Council argues that this diversion is too long, adding over a mile in total on a return trip. This will take the average walker and additional 16 minutes of travel time in each direction. (Average walking speed of 2.5mph or 1.115m/s)
- g. Evidence has been gathered by the local school to show that this is an unacceptable increase in travel time and pedestrians will resort to traveling via vehicle.
- h. We ask the inspector to revert to the evidence supplied by Rachel Wood in her role as School Governor for further detail on this especially with reference to parking issues near the school and encouraging walking to school as part of a healthy lifestyle.

3. Football Parking Congestion – Cricket Field Road

- a. The Town Council have been working with Suffolk County Council highways to try and find a solution to the parking issues along Cricket Field Road and in particular inconsiderate parking on the pavement on match days. This is currently an issue and there is concern both that the closure of Weatherby Crossing would increase the vehicles trying to park at the football ground and that pedestrians using the diversion route would be forced to walk in the highway. This is compounded by the limited visibility for drivers from Willow Crescent around the bend on to Cricket Field Road.

4. Community Amenities

- a. The allotment and the football ground are located immediately north of Weatherby crossing on Cricket Field Road.
- b. There 123 allotment plots at this location, all of which are occupied and a waiting list is in operation.
- c. The football ground is a highly used facility.
- d. Closing the crossing would split the community and crucial amenities from the body of Newmarket.

5. Risk Rating of the Crossing

- a. Newmarket Town Council seek clarification with regard to the ALCRM score applied to the crossing as the methodology for assessing the risk at this crossing has not been made available to Newmarket Town council.



- b. Anecdotal evidence from users tells that the risk of the crossing is understood. Users feel the visibility splay is sufficient and that the risk is lowered as the crossing traverses just one railway line.

6. Community Severance

- a. The closure of the crossing would undermine the positive efforts that the Business Improvement District are working on with partners to improve dwell time, footfall and ultimately spend in Newmarket's town centre.
- b. There is a high risk that the additional travel time will push people to use their cars rather than walk to access the retail and employment centres at the heart of Newmarket.
- c. There is concern that this would have an impact on emissions in the centre of Newmarket
- d. There is additional concern that due to the existing parking pressures in Newmarket, shoppers may choose to travel to out-of-town shopping destinations or shop online.
- e. Those shoppers that continue to walk will be affected by the addition 30 minutes travel time which will reduce their available leisure time within the town.
- f. The closure of the crossing would prohibit easy access to the residents north of the line to the economic centre of Newmarket. Newmarket BID consider there to be a large risk of retail leakage which will impact the town centre.

7. Popular feeling

- a. Newmarket town council have received 57 letters protesting against the closure of the crossing and a petition of 343 people petitioning against the closure of the crossing. These have been forwarded to the independent person. There is demand for the crossing to remain open.

Report Prepared by
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Town Council Manager.
12th January 2018