

S 22

WEATHERBY CROSSING

LETTERS TO THE PRESS

SUBMITTED BY

PHILIP HODSON

S 22

Letters



OUR POLICY

Please enclose your full address and daytime telephone number. Keep your letter to no more than 250 words. Newmarket News reserves the right to edit material. Letters should arrive by noon on the Tuesday before publication.

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Counting the crossing cost

WHILE one hopes for a favourable outcome re the Weatherby rail crossing, I rather fear that the financial implications are being overlooked.

Network Rail would have to spend money improving the safety of crossings for residents' convenience. Such would eat into profits and upset shareholders.

The company are similarly trying to reduce their liabilities regarding fencing, arguing that farmers should fence to stop livestock straying onto the railway, rather than vice versa.

Similar considerations pertain re water supply. There is no profit in repair, renewal and maintenance to stop water leakages.

I suggest we must beware of a rail crossing solution which requires local authorities to use public funds to mitigate the failings of privatised utilities.

Cllr Andrew Appleby
St Albans
Newmarket

Leave EU after June election

EVER autocratic in its dealings and contemptuous of all who may think differently to it, it now is clear the EU, under Jean-Claude Juncker, intends to "play dirty" over Brexit.

Since the EU is falling apart fast, we should leave with no deal and do this straight after the election on June 8.

We should now be entering trade deals with the world and later, over the broken back of the EU, with the individual nations of Europe, bypassing the EU entirely.

Philip Hodson
New Cheveley Road
Newmarket

Team will work tirelessly

AS chairman of the Newmarket branch of the West Suffolk Conservative Association I am writing to thank you for electing my two candidates Rachel Hood and Robin Millar as Suffolk county councillors and Robert Nobbs as town councillor.

Exning, the whole of Newmarket, and Red Lodge now have a team who will work tirelessly together to make our lives and living standards better

Your pictures



SPECIAL BRANCH: Terry Stubbings, of Newmarket, took this photo. "We have some interesting tales to tell," he says

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public service and wish them every success in the many challenges they face over the next term of office.

Andy Drummond
vial email

Information on dementia

It is Dementia Awareness Week from May 13-20.

There will be a stall in the grounds of All Saints Church, Newmarket, from 10am - 12noon on Saturday, May 13, run by our three dementia champions and volunteers of the Shine a Light support group.

We will be there to answer your questions and give helpful information about services to access in this area. Please come along and have a chat over tea/coffee and cake in church.

In June we have the opportunity to

War and la rain are pro

ARTHUR Roberts (Letters) bragged of his intention to cash at the recent Craven which surprised me on two

Firstly, in many of his letters recent months he has had a good word about any of the horse racing industry Newmarket and in particular against the Jockey Club but housing exclusively for stable are the life blood of the sport me to believe that Mr Roberts racing enthusiast, unlike n

Secondly, Mr Roberts business moments of extravagance that business is good and the benefits of Brexit on a which begs the question v trying to kid?

John Bone

The Journal columnist who gets people talking...

www.newmarketjournal.co.uk
@NKTJournal



Rail crossing fight has eloquent champion

Is Philip Hodson a secret QC? His campaign of painstakingly researched and powerfully worded letters fired off from his New Cheveley Road home must surely be shaking some of the smug jacks-in-office who plan to rob Newmarket of a precious right of way. The way he recruits King Alfred and Napoleon in his defence of a simple railway crossing has the authentic stamp of a true Englishman infuriated by puffed up and invisible functionaries who give not a damn for little people and their little journeys. Well, the fight's not over yet. If there is any justice, the so-called public inquiry that every attempt has been made to keep out of sight, will chuck out this unjust scheme despite the cunning tricks employed. Let Mr Hodson have your support. He surely has mine.

Editor's note: Mr Hodson has another letter published today. See right.

To me, one of the most amazing and pleasing things about flying Scotsman's rapid passage through Ely the other day was how people in their 20s, true children of the electronic age, were genuinely thrilled by this clanking, hissing, spitting hub of antiquated iron machinery. I heard a trendy-looking girl of about 18 gasp one word: "Awesome!" Her partner, a little less lyrical, managed only "Cool!"



CAMPAIGN: Fight for Weatherby Crossing at Newmarket not over yet

Simon Dobbin's wonderful wife Nicole must see the funny side of the television transformation of her Mildenhall home to make life a little easier for Simon since he was so horribly hurt by vicious hooligans. "This will give him some privacy," she said as about 200 builders and gardeners tramped through their little house.

The Attleseys of Soham would probably scoff if someone told them they were artists, but I really think they are. Helen and John are the kind couple who every Christmas smother their home in Julius Martin Lane with thousands of multi-coloured electric lights in dozens of different pictures and seasonal emblems. They might be surprised to hear that learned academics have written a shelf of books about what they call "vernacular art" – the decorative works of ordinary people ranging from those gaudy old canal narrowboats, all the way up

to the wall works of Banksy, who the toffs take so seriously. I hope their neighbours enjoy their street's annual notoriety – even if they must keep remembering it's all for children's charities.

Lucky Houldsworth Valley Primary academy has room to expand (it now has two handsome extensions) with space to spare for play. But head teacher Lisa Tweed also hopes to fit in a plot where the young people can grow flowers and vegetables. Ten out of ten, Miss! Too many young people have little idea where their food comes from and even fewer appreciate the flavours that come from fresh home-grown vegetables.

If you read our Village Voice columns each week you are bound to come across the name of Ruth Ginn who has given scores or hundreds of talks to social clubs all over this area. She describes how her father trained her as a butcher in 1926 when she joined the family business

aged only 15 and learned to drive the delivery van at 17. But how many of her audiences have realised how much trouble she goes to to keep her talks up to date, even though she long ago gave up butchery for accountancy? Ruth let slip at Soham Over 60s that she has made three voluntary 6am starts at a Cambridge abattoir just to update herself. I know politicians who have been making the same speech for years without going to such bother to ensure accuracy.

The semi-detached Airey house for sale at Burwell for a modest £199,995 would amaze the people who planned and put it up in the difficult days after the Second World War. Arriving on a lorry as long, pebble-surfaced concrete beams, they sprang up in great haste all over the country where bombing had destroyed thousands of conventional houses. The designers and builders surely never imagined their splendid structures would still be around in the next millennium. But the Burwell survivor seems doomed. There's a plan to replace it with a new home. Some older readers may not know whether to feel glad or sad.

A fellow prisoner says Ian Huntley, the Soham murderer, expects to be released by 2022. If this is true, we can only pray the police and other authorities keep a better eye on him than they did before he came to live and kill among us.

Readers Views

WEATHERBY CROSSING Inquiry process has serious flaws

Network Rail "Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order" is now available for public view in Newmarket Library. Its public submission is late. Most citizens of Newmarket still do not realise the significance of the closure of their rail crossing near Newmarket Football Ground. If this goes through as is, there is serious miscarriage of due process.

Network Rail owns the land, but, under English Law, the people of Newmarket, through the custom and habit of walking across the railway line, have established right of way since the inception of the crossing.

The custom and habit of crossing the track over a period of many years is well-described in the Statement of Case submitted by Patricia Collins and viewable in Newmarket Library. It is not for a government body to extinguish such rights. It is for the people of Newmarket to decide whether they want those rights or not. On at least three counts, this proposed Order breaches all Due Process.

Firstly, the people of Newmarket were required to submit their objections before May 5, 2017, this before the nature and scope of the order had been declared. It has only just appeared in Newmarket Library. This means that people did not know what they were objecting about. So, they did not object. The public need time to digest it. Then they need to declare their views. The inquiry is forbidding the public to express their views at the inquiry and must change its remit.

The proposed Order is granting Network Rail powers of compulsory land purchase and to extinguish the customs and habits of locals to walk their routes, which is entirely unconstitutional and wholly unacceptable. It is vital that Newmarket citizens establish their authority over the Secretary of State for Transport. Write to your MP, to your local councillors, Warwick Hirst and Peter Hulbert at The Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket. State your position for the crossing. Demand that the town's views for the Weatherby Crossing are not just listened to, but are applied and force the removal from the order, the extinguishing of the rights to



READER'S PICK

This week's See It. Snap It. Rowley Drive. Newmarket growth. If you have a photograph See It. Snap It. Send It to newmarketjournal.co.uk 1mb and 2mb in size or via it through the post. To See Journal. Rookery House, Suffolk.

Please include your name as a daytime telephone number and a £10 voucher for a shop and cafe in Chippenham.

walk over established places
Philip Hodson
New Cheveley Road
Newmarket

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Late night shop for 12,000 people

I just wanted to say a big 'thank you' to all of our wonderful community that can support the town's first ever Christmas Lights Switch-Off event on Tuesday, November 14. People came from far and wide to sample the delights Newmarket, and to taste/touch/feel the products a services that our local businesses had to offer. Indeed, we welcomed also

Newmarket Journal

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Readers' Views

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RAIL CROSSING

Minsiter should listen to locals

Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Europe, sweeping away the old feudal states, which then needed a civil code. This was designed by his commissioners and appeared in 1804 as the Napoleonic Code. In many ways a masterpiece of democratic intent, it nevertheless had to be imposed forcibly upon the peoples of Europe within a very short timescale. Protestors were suppressed.

The legacy of Napoleon's code is evident today. It is the EU Commission which determines what Europe needs and it guards its position mercilessly. No-one, not even other national leaders, may suggest change to the Commission for that may open floodgates of dissent.

Britain's democracy has a wholly different root. In AD871, Alfred became king. He set about asking his subjects their habits and customs. Then he built English Law upon their ways and aspirations. Initially a rare and precious system of government among the despots of the world, English Law spread throughout Britain's Dominions, which by the early 1920s, included 25 per cent of the world's land area and 25 per cent of the world's population.

In the late 1950s, as a child in Southern Rhodesia, I now realise I was privileged to witness the promulgation of English Law at work. My godfather, a Native Commissioner, would spend weeks in the bush meeting local village communities, sitting with them, learning their ways and customs, then reporting back so that our English Law accommodated African needs.

In Britain, we call our civil administrators 'civil servants' or 'public servants'. This is rooted in our concept of English Law, the example of King Alfred, who as a servant of his people, set out to incorporate their customs as the foundation of sound law. Increasingly, since we joined the EU, London has been acting in over-ride of the people's of Britain. Roads, rail projects such as HS2, and housing being built over community interests at London's behest. This is enabled only by adopting European governance methods and is grossly unconstitutional under English Law.



READER'S PICTURE OF THE WEEK: WIN £10 TO SPEND AT LA HOGUE

This week's See It, Snap It, Send It winner is Becky Pinckard, of Burrough Green, for her snap of equine chums Boo and Dexter enjoying a frosty morning at Westley Waterless. If you have a photograph you think could be a winner of the See It, Snap It, Send It feature, email it to alison.hayes@newmarketjournal.co.uk pictures should be between 1mb and 2mb in size or you can submit a print, by sending it through the post, to See It, Snap It, Send It, Newmarket Journal, Rookery House, The Guineas, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8SY.

Please include your name and full postal address as well as a daytime telephone with your entry. Each winner will receive a £10 voucher for the award-winning La Hogue farm shop and café in Chippenham, which sponsors the feature.



Order or Law he promulgates embodies the aspirations of the local community.

For the people of Newmarket, all this is highly relevant to the matter of keeping open their pedestrian railway crossing. Therefore it is essential that the Minister of State for Transport sends his 'native commissioners' into the community of Newmarket to hear its customs, habits and aspirations for the rail crossing with a view to considering orders which must enshrine the aspirations of Newmarket. He must also con-

the people of Newmarket would do well to demand The Secretary of State for Transport's presence. The spirit of the English Constitution is not being exercised.

The London-induced extinguishing of public rights of way elsewhere along railway lines in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire may be legal under EU-rooted legislation but is grossly unconstitutional under English Law, and with cessation of EU diktat through Brexit, will be void and subject

UK CHARTS

Song sadly failed to reach No 1

I have just read your article on my musical hero Roy Wood (Culture section, Thursday, December 7), the man is a living legend and I have seen him/Wizzard on several occasions. The article stated that I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday was a Christmas chart topper, alas that is not true, with the song sadly only peaking at No4 in the UK chart in 1973 – it would have taken a monumen-



more sadly, The New Seekers. As far as I know it did not top

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CHARITY

Support won't cost you a penny

Christmas is here, the season of goodwill and generosity is well and truly upon us. But with a seemingly never-ending Christmas shopping list, it can be hard to find the money to donate to a good cause.

This Christmas, however, there's a way of supporting the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) – a charity close to my heart – that won't cost you a penny.

All you have to do is collect used stamps from your cards and parcels. Your old stamps will be recycled and transformed into much-needed funds to help even more people with sight loss access the information, support and advice they need. And with millions of cards and parcels sent in the run-up to Christmas each year why not ask your friends, family or work colleagues to get involved as well?

Simply visit www.rnib.org.uk/stamps or call 01413 289357 to request your pre-paid envelopes. You'll then be able to send your stamps off to RNIB in the post – it really is that easy! Every day 250 people will begin to lose their sight and many will face a future without any help or support.

By supporting RNIB this Christmas, you can help change this and give people with sight loss the gift of a brighter future.

Amanda Holden
RNIB Supporter

RAILWAYS

Safety first

The people of Newmarket are responding! Network Rail is now receiving objections and statements of case from Newmarket citizens and is replying to them, mainly by reiterating safety issues. At the same time, it is declaring the Weatherby Crossing to be "No Public Right of Way", apparently on the grounds that it is not on some "definitive map".

Network Rail accepts closure will incur longer walking distances but claims the inconvenience is small.

In its replies, Network Rail writes of an "underbridge" which gives the impression of an existing under-pass near the crossing. Nothing like this exists. The "underbridge" is the rail bridge at New Cheveley Road/The Avenue, a quarter of a mile away.



READER'S PICTURE OF THE WEEK: WIN £10 TO SPEND AT LA HOGUE

This week's See It. Snap It. Send It. winner is Bryan Symonds of Burwell for his snap of the first snow of the year in the village.

If you have a photograph you think could be a winner of the See It. Snap It. Send It feature, email it to alison.hayes@newmarketjournal.co.uk pictures should be between 1mb and 2mb in size or you can submit a print, by sending it through the post, to See It. Snap It. Send It. Newmarket Journal, Rookery House, The Guineas, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8SY.

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It records extra time only, not the whole route, and disregards that a walker, not doing school runs, probably walks back again, at least doubling the times it suggests. I measured distances using a surveyor's wheel. The distance from junction New Cheveley Road/Cricket Field Road to All Saints School is 866 metres over the crossing, taking about 10 minutes to walk. But all parents do not live at that junction. It takes another 4-10 minutes to reach it. By taking children to school and collecting them at the day's end, parents and children make four journeys. When using the

ley Road bridge or via Old Station Road, doubles the distance, so the daily school-walk for parents and children becomes 160 minutes, 2 hours and 20 minutes! That is a large amount of time out of a busy mother's day! Network Rail's present claim is that the crossing is a Permissive Path. It states in its replies to objectors that its current status is "No Public Right of Way". To be a Permissive Path, the owner must close the path for one day every year, and the owner must put up signs to say it is a Permissive Path, else the path reverts to a public right of way at 20 years. Network Rail, nor its

ing is not a right of way because it is not declared as such on a map. However, the crossing is shown by dotted lines on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map. This is viewable in the Record Office at Bury St Edmunds. People have been using this crossing, probably since the lines were laid in 1848, for, before the lines were laid, Park Lane and Cricket Field Road constituted the main road through to Ashley. Today, as far back as the 1960's, there are plenty of people who remember the Weatherby Crossing being used freely by the public. The time limit of 20 years of

ular action of the public who cross it. The land belongs to Network Rail but the Right of Way belongs to the citizens of Newmarket.

Network Rail writes to objectors that it has considered a foot-path from the Weatherby Crossing to the New Cheveley Road bridge and back, but found this impractical. It is totally silent about the more obvious option, which is to build a footbridge capable of accommodating prams and mobility scooters at the present crossing which, most people to whom I have spoken, find an entirely acceptable alternative.

HOT CONTENT

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NEWS

Laureate school pupil is keen fundraiser



Chloe has the chop for Princess charity

Newmarket schoolgirl Chloe Cox had 12 inches of her hair cut off to help a charity which provides real hair wigs to children and young adults who have lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Eight-year-old Chloe, who is a pupil at Laureate Primary Academy and a member of the junior section of St John Ambulance, had her locks trimmed at the Spikes and Ponies

salon on Studlands Park. She is also a keen fund-raiser for the British Heart Foundation and has organised events that so far have collected some £700 for the charity in memory of her great aunt who died as the result of a heart attack. Mum Sue, who is pictured with Chloe, and stylist Becky Lovell, said: "Chloe read about the work of the Little Princess Trust and decided she wanted to donate her hair to help others."

Rail crossing

School run time 'would be doubled'

BY ALISON HAYES
alison.hayes@liffepublishing.co.uk
@AlisonHayesNU

Campaigners fighting to keep the Weatherby foot crossing over Newmarket's railway line open are urging residents to keep up the pressure on Network Rail by continuing to submit objections.

One of the campaigners, Philip Hodson, who lives in New Cheveley Road, said: "Network Rail accepts closure will incur longer walking distances but claims the inconvenience is small," said Mr Hodson.

"I measured distances using a surveyor's wheel. The distance from the New Cheveley Road/Cricket Field

Road junction to All Saints' School is 866 metres over the crossing, taking about 10 minutes to walk. But all parents do not live at that junction. It takes another 4-10 minutes to reach it. By taking children to school and collecting them parents and children make four journeys.

"When using the Weatherby Crossing, this is around 80 minutes walking a day. To walk via the New Cheveley Road bridge or Old Station Road, doubles the distance, so the daily school-walk for parents and children becomes 160 minutes, two hours and 20 minutes."

Mr Hodson urged objectors to write to the Department of Transport at email: transportandworksact@dtf.gsi.gov.uk

YOUR VIEWS

LETTERS

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Give the city a market it deserves

IT is really disappointing to read such glib comments on your online comments page regarding the latest proposals for the Cambridge market.

What we should be looking for is not negative remarks to denigrate this central location but ideas as to how it can and should be improved to reflect the status and charm of the city.

It is extremely sad to see the lack of investment by the council over the years in such a potentially attractive space right in the centre of a beautiful city.

Despite a recent rise in rent and talk of an amount of money set aside for improvement, nothing appears to have been put in place and no communication to traders as to what these improvements are and to what extent.

Unfortunately the market, as with many other public provisions, has had to undergo cuts, which in the present economic climate is understandable, though

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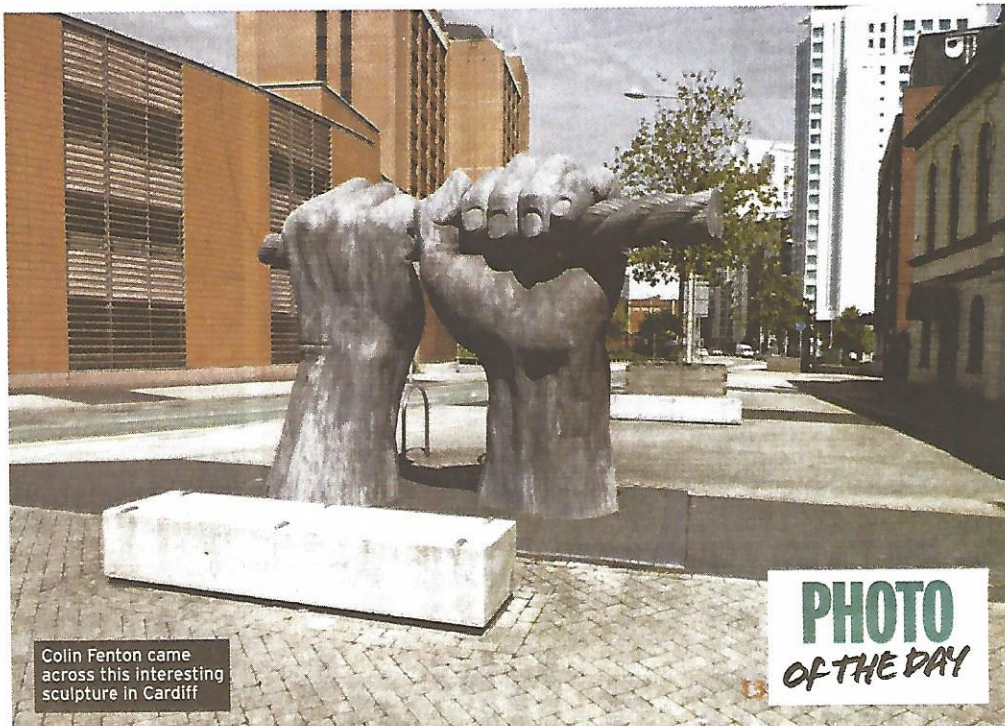
It is obvious the dated stalls need complete replacement with more attractive structures

Name withheld

investment in other shopping areas of Cambridge seem totally disproportionate to money spent on improvements and upkeep of the market area.

If the council are serious about these improvements, then they need to look at the whole organisation of how the market is run, from the structure of the management to taking time to visit and talk to traders and see the conditions under which they have to work.

When applying for a licence, traders have to undergo and submit to a



Colin Fenton came across this interesting sculpture in Cardiff

PHOTO
OF THE DAY

variety of bureaucratic requirements regarding trading, including regard to health and safety. The same requirements should be complied with by the council as many traders, including the public who visit the area, comment about the poor state of the stalls and hygiene evident throughout the market.

It is obvious the dated stalls need complete replacement with more attractive structures, perhaps using alternative technology to provide power rather than rely on dated electrical components which often fail. The provision of seating areas as well as planting of greenery to enhance and attract greater numbers of visitors.

We need to see a market area which reflects this city's

culture and history, to help improve the working conditions under which many traders work and to develop a market area to enhance the reputation of Cambridge as well as provide an important economic base for the many traders who work here and consequently the economic well-being of the city as a whole.

Name and address withheld

Turn out to fight crossing closure

THE location for the first day of the inquiry into Suffolk level crossing closures has been changed from Ipswich to Ashlar House, Eastern Road, Bury St Edmunds. The session will start at 10am on February 13. The dates for when any one crossing will be discussed are not yet released.

English laws and orders must be made with the consent and aspirations of the local communities at heart. This means that local people must stand up and say what they want.

The risk is that, if the people do not bother to assert their democratic right, the Minister of State for Transport may act unconstitutionally by imposing closure orders which do not embody the aspirations of the local communities which the orders affect.

The inquiry includes, as it must, a public gallery. Its purpose is for ordinary

citizens to observe proceedings, to ensure that the will of the local communities is recognised and exercised in the course of the inquiry.

Therefore it is vitally important that the community attends on the day which affects their crossing. To fail to attend gives carte blanche (a white card of surrender) to the Minister of State for Transport to issue closure orders in defiance of community wishes. After all, if the community does not care, why should he?

I urge residents of Newmarket to continue to write their objections on the pedestrian rail crossing closure to Network Rail with copies to Newmarket Town Council, and for individuals to make arrangements to fill the public gallery to overflowing, both on the first day of the inquiry which is mainly procedural, but most especially, on the day to be decided when the Newmarket crossing will be debated.

Phillip Hodson
New Cheveley Road
Newmarket

Get us out of a hole lot of trouble

FOLLOWING Brian Smith's letters regarding potholes, and his praise for the highways road repair department for tackling potholes in Shelford Road, perhaps he can use his

OUR POLICY

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influence with the department and arrange for the repair of a large pothole on Bridge Road, the B1049 in Impington.

This has been around for weeks and is getting bigger and deeper every day. I am afraid if it is left much longer someone will disappear down it.

I am not totally convinced though that Mr Smith has a lot of influence with the department. I think it is more likely the case that more councillors use Shelford Road than use Bridge Road in Impington.

Roger Blunt
Peacock Way
Histon

WEBCHAT

WHAT is wrong with Cambridgeshire? Am I really reading that police are hunting someone who drove through a puddle?
Olikidda

The real question is why was the drain blocked?
dannyboy

An overreaction. A little common sense from pedestrians is needed too.

Hunt for motorist who splashed trio by driving through puddle

If you see a huge puddle beside a pavement, wait until there's a break in faster moving traffic before you pass it.
ALittleBitOfMe

We can tell who the motorists are on here can't we but, if it was one of their own being soaked by another motorist, you'd soon see their tone changed!

Above everything else, this is driving without due care and attention or are some motorists too stupid to realise this. It's not for a pedestrian to wait for a vehicle to pass.

Because the puddle is in the road, it is the motorist who has to drive according to the conditions, therefore drive slower and with due care and attention.

Pecko

Readers' Views

● We welcome your letters. Email alison.hayes@iliffepublishing.co.uk putting "Letters" in the subject line, or post to the address below. Please limit letters to about 250 words. I reserves the right to shorten letters, for legal reasons. Please remember that all publication must include the full name, and daytime telephone number of the writer.



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CONCERT

Thank you for your support

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who supported our 25th Christmas Celebration Concert.

HOW
CONTACT

www.newmarketjournal.co.uk

Newmarket

Rail crossing

Rail inquiry to be held in town

BY ALISON HAYES
alison.hayes@iliffepublishing.co.uk
@AlisonHayesNJ

The inquiry which will determine whether the much-used Weatherby foot crossing over Newmarket's railway will stay open will now be held in the town.

The town council, which offered the use of the memorial hall for the part of the hearing covering the Newmarket crossing, was told on Monday that the inquiry, which is looking into a number of crossing closures across Suffolk and opens next month in Bury St Edmunds, will move to the town to examine local evidence on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 13 and 14.

Town clerk Roberta Bennett said the council was currently working on its proof of evidence in preparation for

the hearing which would be detailing concerns as to how a decision to close the crossing would cause 'community severance' and about the diversion route suggested by Network Rail.

"We have just got to make sure this crossing is not closed as it will have a devastating effect on the town," said Cllr Warwick Hirst, who with Cllr Peter Hulbert has been at the forefront of the council's campaign to keep the crossing open.

Residents' campaigner Philip Hodson, who lives in New Cheveley Road, has called on those who want to keep the crossing open to attend the hearing in Newmarket.

"It is vitally important that the community attends on the day which affects their crossing. To fail to attend gives carte blanche to the Minister of State for Transport to issue

closure orders in defiance of community wishes," he said.

"After all, if the community does not care, why should he?"

Crossing campaigner Rachel Wood has researched the crossing through the Great Eastern Railway society which came up with an article from 1878 showing that at that time it was known as Mrs. Wetherby's crossing and also found a reference to it in the 1885 Newmarket Journal.

According to Network Rail, which wants to close the crossing on safety grounds, people currently using it would only face a 'small inconvenience' but campaigners said the detour would double the walk time for parents taking children from Newmarket Cheveley Road to All Saints' School, meaning daily school run journeys could take up to two hours and 20 minutes.

Racing

Stable and stud staff in running for awards

Eighty-one-year-old Angela French is the most senior of Newmarket's finalists in the world's richest competition for stud and stable staff, sponsored by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin racing operation.

Angela, of Windsor Road, has been nominated for the Rory Macdonald Community award by The Racing Centre where she began running classes and raising money for the former Stable Lads Welfare Trust in 1986. Also nominated for this award is Peter Williams, of Newmarket's British Racing School.

Daniel James, of Chippenham's Brookside Stud, is nominated in the stud category while Petra Sebestikova, who works for trainer Luca Cumani is up for best rider/groom. Ed Murrell, assistant manager at Cheveley's Banstead Manor Stud, is nominated for the leadership award.



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with performances from musicians who played at the 'Kit-Kat' during the 1970s.

The show will be compered by Sean 'Rollo' Rollason on Sunday, January 28.

Tickets are available from the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton, on 01485 532252 or at www.princesshunstanton.co.uk.

Philip Law
via email

CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Thank you for all your support

Everyone at EACH would like to say a massive thank you to the communities across Suffolk

For those that don't know, we provide specialist care for over 350 children and young people with life-threatening conditions, and various support services for more than 450 family members.

We aim to give families the best in the worst possible situation but, needing £16,000 a day in voluntary donations, we simply wouldn't be able to without the backing of so many of you across the region.

Many of our families will spend the start of 2018 consoling, reflecting and going through a range of emotions but, without

whether you've taken part in one of our fundraising events this year, hosted your own, bought from or donated to our shops, or volunteered for us, you really have made a difference.

We look forward to your continued support in 2018, our plans for which you can find out more about at www.each.org.uk.

Helen Chapman
EACH Suffolk &
East Essex Fundraising
Manager

RAIL CROSSING

of the inquiry into Suffolk level crossing closures has been changed from Ipswich to Ashlar House, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds.

The session will start at 10am on February 13.

English laws and orders must be made with the consent and aspirations of the local communities at heart.

This means that local people must stand up and say what they want.

It is vitally important that the community attends on the day which affects their crossing. To fail to attend gives carte

orders in defiance of community wishes. After all, of the community does not care, why should he?

I urge residents of Newmarket to continue to write their objections on the pedestrian rail crossing closure to Network Rail with copies to Newmarket Town Council, and for individuals to make arrangements to fill the public gallery to overflowing, both on the first day of the inquiry, which is mainly procedural, but most especially, on the day to be decided when the Newmarket crossing will be debated.

Debbie Rodman

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Caroline Harland

NEWS

Laureate school pupil is keen fundraiser



Chloe has the chop for Princess charity

Newmarket schoolgirl Chloe Cox had 12 inches of her hair cut off to help a charity which provides real hair wigs to children and young adults who have lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Eight-year-old Chloe, who is a pupil at Laureate Primary Academy and a member of the junior section of St John Ambulance, had her locks trimmed at the Spikes and Ponties

salon on Studlands Park. She is also a keen fund-raiser for the British Heart Foundation and has organised events that so far have collected some £700 for the charity in memory of her great aunt who died as the result of a heart attack. Mum Sue, who is pictured with Chloe, and stylist Becky Lovell, said: "Chloe read about the work of the Little Princess Trust and decided she wanted to donate her hair to help others."

Rail crossing

School run time 'would be doubled'

BY ALISON HAYES

alison.hayes@liffepublishing.co.uk
@AlisonHayesNJ

Campaigners fighting to keep the Weatherby foot crossing over Newmarket's railway line open are urging residents to keep up the pressure on Network Rail by continuing to submit objections.

One of the campaigners, Philip Hodson, who lives in New Cheveley Road, said: "Network Rail accepts closure will incur longer walking distances but claims the inconvenience is small," said Mr Hodson.

"I measured distances using a surveyor's wheel. The distance from the New Cheveley Road/Cricket Field

Road junction to All Saints' School is 866 metres over the crossing, taking about 10 minutes to walk. But all parents do not live at that junction. It takes another 4-10 minutes to reach it. By taking children to school and collecting them parents and children make four journeys.

"When using the Weatherby Crossing, this is around 80 minutes walking a day. To walk via the New Cheveley Road bridge or Old Station Road, doubles the distance, so the daily school-walk for parents and children becomes 160 minutes, two hours and 20 minutes."

Mr Hodson urged objectors to write to the Department of Transport at email: transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk

YOUR VIEWS

LETTERS

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Post: Building 1000, Cambridge Research Park, Waterbeach, CB25 9PD

Grand Tory plan to run down NHS

YET more Robert Boorman distraction tactics to deflect attention away from the Tory-created NHS crisis (Letters January 20).

The Tories have always hated the NHS and the truth is the present crisis is down to the underfunding of the NHS by successive Tory governments since 2010.

The result being, 10,000 doctors short (highest ever), 40,000 nurses short and more leaving than joining (for the first time), 40,000 beds cut since 2010, people dying in corridors and 55,000 operations cancelled.

A whistleblower has said at least 40 patients in the East of England were harmed or dead after 'significant ambulance delays' in a three-week period this winter.

This is all a grand Tory plan to run down the NHS so it will make people more acceptable to the idea that privatisation is the answer. Warning - think Carillion.

The most likely scheme to run the NHS would be based on the USA model.

The Tories have always hated the NHS

John Doland

Let's have a look at the number of people who go bankrupt every year because of medical bills. Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, Switzerland - none; USA - 643,000.

Worried? You should be.

John Doland
Hanover Close
Bar Hill

Thanks to those who helped

MY wife, Joyce, fell and fractured her hip recently. I would



PHOTO OF THE DAY

Fiona MacDonald was amazed by the symmetry of this scene captured at King's College

like to thank ambulance crew (from King's Lynn), A&E staff, doctors, surgeons, nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists, occupational therapists for the excellent care and especially to all the staff of Ward D8 yellow team.
Bryan Svensson
Via email

Cost of closing level crossing

NO doubt we retain affection for Network Rail, our public servant whom we task with keeping our railway lines in good order, our rail verges and fences clean and tidy, and not least, to provide us with commodious, convenient and enjoyable crossings where we need them.

But in this, it seems Network Rail is "going off the rails".

The closure of level crossings across Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and elsewhere threatens to really disrupt ease of travel and to impose heavy extra travel costs upon many of us. It is vital we set out our "compensatory" position. How to do this? I use the Weatherby pedestrian crossing in Newmarket as illustration.

There are two types of claim we can make, firstly for loss of amenity - that is, opportunity to use. Secondly, for the actual increased costs to us that closure incurs.

If Network Rail permanently closes this crossing, people lose 365 days of opportunity to cross in the year. For parents who cross the rails in the morning to deposit children at school, and then make a return journey in the afternoon to collect their children, they lose 180 school days of opportunity x two return crossings = 360 return opportunities lost. The other non-school days of the year are also lost to them - that's another 185 lost opportunity days at one return-crossing a day.

What are these lost opportunities worth?

Take a common, public charge. A taxi ordered from the taxi rank in Newmarket High Street to deliver you from one side of the Weatherby crossing to the other side will charge you about £4. When you go back again, that is another £4 - that's £8 for a return journey.

As a single person, making one return journey, occasionally, over the crossing, your

lost opportunities upon closure are 365 days in the year. 365 x £8 = £2,920 for every year the crossing remains closed. Claim it! As a school-parent, 360 opportunities to return-cross are lost on 180 school-days, and at one crossing lost a day for the rest of the year, 185 days.

That is 545 lost opportunities to cross, which at £8 each is £4,360 per year for each year the crossing remains closed.

That is an example of claiming for "opportunities to cross lost" by closure - loss of amenity.

But there is more. Now, because of closure you have to take your car or a taxi. You can propose the £8 return charge again as reasonable costs to you because of the closure, costs which were not there when you could walk the crossing.

So, if you actually make one, 12 or 500 crossings each year, you may choose to demand in compensation, £8 for each of those travels.

If you never use a car or a taxi, you can value your claim on the minimum wage, £7.20 per hour. What was a ten-minute walk is now half an hour or more. As a professional, you can claim according to your higher hourly rate.

I now urge all individuals who are affected by rail crossing closure to write to Network Rail heading their letter, "Illustration of probable compensation demand".

This absolves you from any legal tie. You are not making a claim yet.

OUR POLICY

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You are just telling them in a friendly, helpful way what you might go for if they close your crossing. The address to write to is Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Team, Network Rail, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS or email anglialevel-crossings@networkrail.co.uk.

Send a copy to our town councillor, Warwick Hirst, at hirstjwh@aol.com or post it to Newmarket Town Council, Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8JP.

For Newmarket residents, write well before our inquiry starts which is now scheduled to be held on March 13/14 at the Memorial Hall in Newmarket.

Philip Hodson
Newmarket

WEBCHAT

First they must sue their solicitor who let them buy this place. Next, inform their MP and then try to get all the other residents together to object to this
Caroline Humphrey

We pulled out of buying a house here, right at the last minute, for similar reasons! Our solicitor discovered this loophole and also the fact that the

Couple unable to sell house after discovering legal catch

vendors had been refusing to pay the ground rent. They were involved in a huge court case which would have been passed on to us.

It is disgusting that they can get away with it and I really hope that something is done about it.

Jenny Grossman

Shouldn't the agent be held responsible for not having

warned the purchasers? Due diligence, or some such?

Visnja McMaster

Herein lies the trouble of buying leasehold!

Although the charges are absolutely outrageous, this should have been pointed out to them. Leasehold will always incur charges, but this is insane.

Michael Dunn

LETTERS

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Extra walk is more than 'inconvenient'

THE people of Newmarket are responding!

Network Rail is now receiving objections and statements of case from Newmarket citizens and is replying to them, mainly by reiterating safety issues. At the same time, it is declaring the Weatherby Crossing to be "no public right of way", apparently on the grounds that it is not on some "definitive map".

Network Rail accepts closure will incur longer walking distances but claims the inconvenience is small.

In its replies, Network Rail writes of an "underbridge" which gives the impression of an existing under-pass near the crossing. Nothing like this exists. The "underbridge" is the rail bridge at New Cheveley Road/The Avenue, a quarter of a mile away.

Network Rail's claim that extra walking time is small inconvenience is disingenuous. It records extra time only, not the whole route, and disregards

“
There is no reason today that this road should not permanently be opened

Brian Smith

that a walker, not doing school runs, probably walks back again, at least doubling the times it suggests.

I measured distances using a surveyor's wheel. The distance from junction New Cheveley Road/Cricket Field Road to All Saints School is 866 metres over the crossing, taking about 10 minutes to walk. But all parents do not live at that junction. It takes another four to 10 minutes to reach it.

By taking children to school and collecting them at the day's end, parents make four journeys. When

using the Weatherby Crossing, this is around 80 minutes walking a day.

To walk via the New Cheveley Road bridge or via Old Station Road, doubles the distance, so the daily school walk for parents and children becomes 160 minutes - two hours and 40 minutes!

That is a large amount of time out of a busy mother's day!

Philip Hodson
New Cheveley Road
Newmarket

No reason not to open village link

I HAVE used the village road from Oakington to Longstanton many times. It is far quicker, easier and safer than taking the longer route via the A14 from Longstanton to Cambridge.

No, I was not breaking the law, because when I travelled on this road it was in the early 1960s. The road at the time was usually closed during the week and opened at the weekends. This was because RAF Oakington was part of Flying Training Command and flying was only during the week.

When RAF Oakington closed I was surprised that the road was not permanently opened. I think it may have been because it was in bad condition and needed repair.

There really is no reason today that this road should not permanently be opened.

I am sure that many people in Longstanton would agree.

Brian Smith
Milner Close
Sawston

No campaigning academics in '65

STEPHEN Hawking is a brilliant physicist and a long-time Labour supporter who claims Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs) are designed to enable privatisation of health.

He should read the report by the King's Fund on Accountable Care Organisations in New Zealand.

In 1965 I worked for the General Practice Finance

Labour pay freeze. Where were the academics campaigning at the time?

When he left Hawking decided physics and chemistry instead of mathematics. He did not campaign against government waste on Private Finance Initiatives.

Private investment operated new clinics, and repayments spread over 25 to 30 years exceeded the projects.

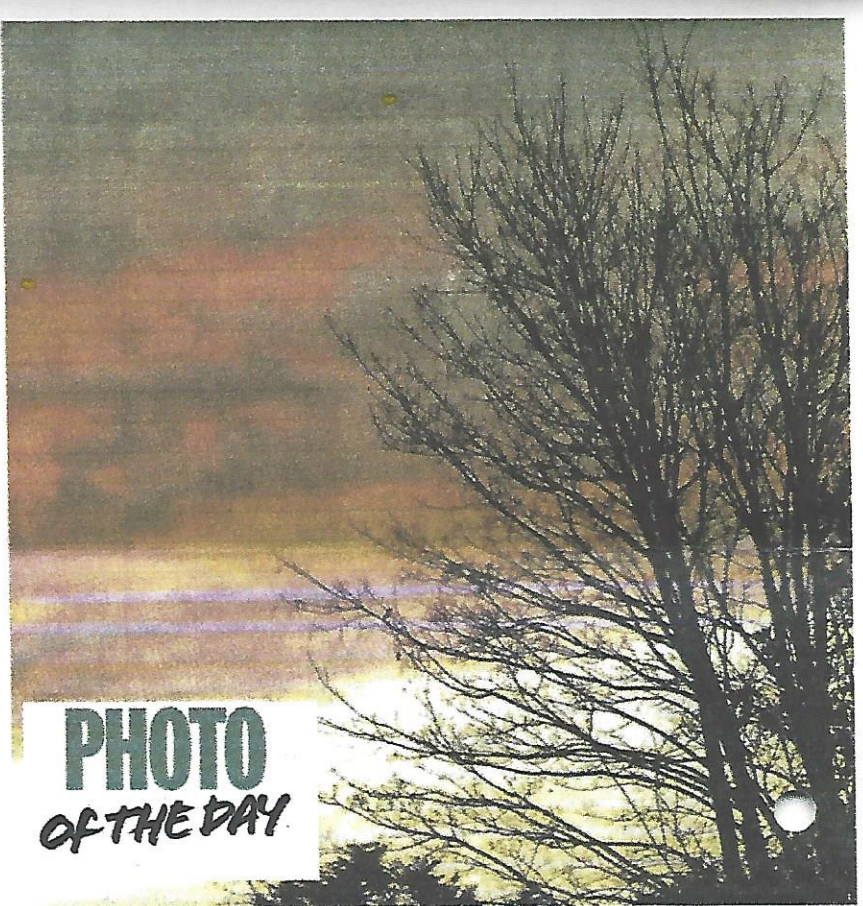
Britain's consumer private finance will end up costing more than £300 according to a analysis of consumer

Where were the academics protesting against?

I am sure Professor Hawking is aware

86 per cent of services, 83 per cent of patient transport of diagnostic services, 45 per cent of health services cent of mental services are provided the NHS logo to non-NHS providers. Did he campaign Alternative Private Services contra introduced by 2004?

Or object to



WEBCHAT

Cambridgeshire has a bigger pay gap than rest of country

The pay of the top earners is completely disconnected with the pay of the bottom earners. Both are dependant on market demand. Just because a company has to pay more to recruit an engineer does not mean that they also should pay their cleaners

same as everyone else, but it has been seen in the former communist countries that this approach is flawed. Fundisi

£50K is nothing in Cambridge. How do you buy a house on that

better off working in London which will pay more, or moving to a location such as Cardiff or other growing city where property is less than half in some situations. I see many skilled people picking other locations and not Cambridge due to hideous

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Newmarket Journal

Thursday, February 15, 2018 | newmarketjour

Inquiry opens into Network Rail closure plan

Battle for railway crossing under way

BY RHODA MORRISON
news@newmarketjournal.co.uk
@NktJournal

A plan to close a railway foot crossing in Newmarket would 'cut the town in half' an inquiry has been told by residents.

The town's Weatherby crossing is one of 24 across Suffolk which Network Rail is proposing to close or downgrade, and which are being considered at a public inquiry which started in Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday and is scheduled to last five weeks.

Jacqueline Lean, counsel representing Network Rail, told the opening session of the hearing it wanted to create 'a more efficient and reliable railway and improve the safety of railway users, level crossing users and staff'.

"Network Rail are looking to reduce the number of

level crossings which is in alignment with the national policies," she said.

But residents and local councillors have raised concerns that the Weatherby crossing is the only walkway linking the north side and south side of Newmarket.

In a document submitted as part of the inquiry, Ann Dunning, chairman of the Newmarket Ladies' Open Door Club, said that a survey conducted by Network Rail found that 500 people used the crossing daily.

"We object to this closure because it is a much-needed pedestrian rail crossing for Newmarket people. This closure would cut the town in half. People use it for access to the town, shops, schools, allotments and football matches," she said.

For Forest Heath District Council, barrister Merrow

Golden said the closure of the crossing would have a negative impact on Newmarket residents and requested that inquiry inspector Ian Jenkins recommend it be removed from the closure order.

"Network Rail hasn't justified the need to close the crossing in this manner and at this time. It fails to consider and balance the public interest in favour of keeping the crossing open. If the crossing is closed the impact on the community will be significant and it will be immediate," she said.

Network Rail's statement of case said that residents would have to take an alternative route, including Granary Road, New Cheveley Road and Cricket Field Road adding some 870 metres on to a journey.

Closure would 'cut town in half'

→ FROM PAGE 1

But Sue Rumfitt, representing the Suffolk Ramblers' Association, said the alternative routes were not only much longer but were also dangerous and unfit for purpose.

"A number of the proposed alternative routes make pedestrians walk on or along the side of country roads, on which cars are often going very fast and do not expect to see people walking," she said.

"Network Rail wants to reduce safety risks on its network but the knock-on effect is that it will increase safety risks elsewhere. For Network Rail, it's out of sight, out of mind."

But Mrs Lean insisted

that closing the crossing was part of a wider plan to reduce the number of level crossings and improve safety for all railway users.

"Level crossings form the largest point of accidents and 77 per cent of all level crossing accidents have involved pedestrian users," she said.

"Safety is at the heart of Network Rail and it's committed to reducing the number of accidents at level crossings."

The inquiry is being held at venues in Newmarket, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. The Weatherby crossing will be discussed on March 13 and 14 in Newmarket's Memorial Hall and those opposing the closure are encouraging residents who support the crossing being kept open to attend.

TURN TO PAGE 3

