OBJ/21

Caroline O'Neill

From: Emma Alterto
Sent: 23 April 2017 20:43
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: stephen.barclay.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Landowner Response to the Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossing Reduction Order) Consultation

This email is send on behalf of Mr T Alterton and Miss J Avison (trustees for Alterton & Avison landowners) as they do not have email access. The main postal address for contacting the trustees is listed at the bottom of the email.

To Secretary of State for Transport

Re: Response to the Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossing Reduction Order) Consultation

We are responding to this consultation as landowners who will be affected by the closing of crossing C13, the result will be our farm land holdings being split in half with fields to either side of the railway line, and no direct way easily access them. We will also suffer from loss of land due to compulsary purchase orders and blocked access way into our land. Our main concerns with these proposals are as follows:

- You are taking our land and access rights to our holdings, it is unacceptable. It appears the land is to be used to create a horse mounting area. Please consider that this is not needed, I have not seen horses using this crossing. Any horses that do manage perfectly well at present without any help. I do not understand why closing a crossing should mean it requires more land, surely it should take up less area.

- Network Rail have never needed the additional land in all the time of having a crossing here, there has not been any problems with this particular crossing, it has manual gates and lights that mean the regular users of the crossing have been safely traversing it without issue. Why should closing or downgrading the crossing need a larger area, it cannot be for safety reasons or there would be the need now.

- Closing this crossing means that whenever the Whitemoor Road crossing is closed the homes, fields and businesses including our land are completely cut off and inaccessible. This will stop our tenants being able to access our land, and any emergency services would not be able to access a large swathe of the countryside.

- Ideally we would like the crossing to remain open exactly as it is, or for it to be upgraded to an automatic barrier with lights. At the very least should the crossing be closed we would like the following:
    - to retain the existing lights and telephone to the signalman
    - for no additional land to be consumed in creating parking areas or mounting blocks, they are not needed
    - access to our land to be maintained

- keys to the gates for our tenants to continue to conduct their business as they do now.

Thank you for considering our concerns in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. Our main contact postal address is listed below.

Yours sincerely
Mr Tony Alterton & Miss Jeanette Avison
Trustees for Alterton & Avison

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