

From: Barbara James
Sent: 24 April 2017 23:09
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Objection to proposed closure - c04 - no. 20 - SG8 6JR

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object strongly to the Network rail proposal to close the foot crossing in South Meldreth (ref c04 - no. 20 - SG8 6JR).

Closing this crossing is a dangerous act because it decreases the safety of pedestrians by making them take a more dangerous route. There is also no evidence that the crossing is dangerous or that the change is needed.

From a safety point of view, the proposed new route for pedestrians involves walking over a busy, narrow bridge with a small footpath. Most pedestrians try to avoid this path as traffic passes very close and is dangerous. There was a serious accident here just a few months ago. There is a footpath on only one side of the road so, at one point, pedestrians need to cross on a blind bend. This puts pedestrians at far greater risk than using the railway crossing

Trains approaching Meldreth station will not be going at top speed as they have to slow down, even if they are not stopping. The railway crossing is on a long, straight section of track with good, clear visibility. This is far safer than the narrow, bendy road with fast, busy traffic and poor visibility that you are proposing. Therefore, there is no evidence that the railway crossing is unsafe but plenty to demonstrate that the alternative route is far more dangerous.

The responses from the public to the consultation on closing the crossing show an overwhelming number in favour of keeping the crossing open. An accurate and honest interpretation of the responses shows very few people in favour of any change or the proposed new route.

Best wishes,
Barbara James

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