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25 March 2017



Secretary of State for Transport
%Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
Department for Transport
Zone 1/18
Great Minster House
33 Horseberry Road
LONDON
SW17 4DR

Dear Sir,

Weatherby Level Crossing - Newmarket, Suffolk

I write in regard to the proposed closure of the above-mentioned Level Crossing by Network Rail. To implement its closure would cause undue inconvenience and hardship to many residents on this south-side of Newmarket town. Many people have expressed their dismay at such an action; a meeting was called for by the West Suffolk MP Matthew Hancock with Network Rail to put forward concerns. However, Network Rail could not be bothered to turn up and sent a message saying 'no one was available' - nothing further has been arranged.

This Level Crossing has been used for more than a hundred years by hundreds of people, making their way to:

Work, Schools, Football Club, Allotments, Church but, mainly, the **direct route into the Town** and used by all pedestrians/cyclists as a short cut to reach the town. The alternative route is twice as far, (with many not being able to undertake) twice as dangerous because there are busy roads to cross and is quite unacceptable.

Yes, there have been three suicides on or near the Crossing, which is regrettable, but these can happen anywhere on a railway line or road.

The Level Crossing is over a Single Line Track - Two Trains an hour - and a Tunnel which will only accommodate one Train.

1. If all Trains were made to **sound their Whistle** after leaving the Station/Tunnel - both are a very short distance from the Crossing and can be seen by pedestrians using the crossing.
2. **Flashing Lights** installed to signal a Train's imminent arrival, then there is no danger from the oncoming train.
3. Hundreds of Signatures were collected a few years ago when such a proposal was made but fortunately, on that occasion, abandoned. Petitions signed, letters written but still Network Rail do not want to listen to the public, they are only interested in cost - a bridge or underpass has been suggested but it's cheaper to close the Crossing and continue with the 6ft chain-link fence.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW NETWORK RAIL TO CLOSE OUR CROSSING

Yours faithfully,

J.D. Curtis (Miss)