

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 April 2017 14:04
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Weatherby Rail Crossing, Newmarket, Suffolk.

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the proposed and totally UNNECESSARY, IDIOTIC, & ILL-CONCEIVED idea to close the Weatherby Crossing in Newmarket, Suffolk. I and my family have lived in Newmarket for 43 years, mainly on the south side (my mother, & sister & family, and my mother-in-law are still there), the side which will be EXTREMELY adversely affected by this lunatic closure. Any even cursory look at a map would show the detour pedestrians on this side of Newmarket would face. The railway line cuts Newmarket in half, and anyone on the south side has to find a means of crossing it to get into town, but as there is only one other under a bridge, so there is only one alternative, much longer and less safe route.

The crossing provides a means of access between the south side & the primary school All Saints; All Saints Church; and every amenity & shop in Newmarket as a whole. There are no regular bus services, and a lot of people on the south are elderly or have young children, and a lot have no means of transport except walking and cannot afford taxis every day. It is a long enough walk into town as it stands; without the crossing you are looking at another couple of miles – for ELDERLY and VERY YOUNG people- GOING UPHILL ON THE RETURN JOURNEY at the point when they are already tired – AND an extra HOUR on the journey. The Government REQUIRES children attend school EVERY day, and there is NO PARKING at All Saints, most parents have to walk children to school AND BACK. We are talking 4, 5, 6-year-olds AND their younger siblings, having to get up an hour earlier, arrive at school already tired, then getting home an hour later & expected to do homework!

This decision to close the crossing is supposedly on the grounds of safety. The only alternative route follows the main road, considerably more dangerous, which is why there are more accident statistics for that than the route over the crossing. There is NO safety issue at the crossing – the few deaths have been SUICIDES which would have happened even if the crossing had never existed, and will probably continue to happen given the current Government's lack of care or respect for anyone other than the very rich. People like the fatcats making this decision regardless of the very real hardship it will impose, for the sake of boosting profits & giving themselves big bonuses for a job poorly done. We all know this is why the crossing is to close, we are not stupid, and it doesn't matter how much the powers that be try to dress it up in Health & Safety – WE CAN SEE THROUGH IT!!!

If you are truly worried about safety of pedestrians, you would HAVE to keep the crossing open as it is the route with least danger & greatest safety!

This decision to close it is motivated entirely to boost the coffers of the already rich, at the huge expense, in MANY WAYS, of the poorer, more vulnerable members of society in a town regarded as a safe Conservative seat but for whom no-one in power has any other regard. If it goes through it will mark this Government & its Railway lackeys, once again, as stupid and uncaring. That is how you will be remembered in history. That is the legacy you want future generations to associate with you?

Go on, prove me right! – or you could have the courage to make a sensible decision that actually benefits the people you represent! (Bet you don't, bet you don't, I'll lay money you won't!)

Ruth Kent, [REDACTED]

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