

From: John Finbow
Sent: 29 April 2017 10:20
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Fw: "Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order"
Attachments: Footpath Fords gn crossing.pdf; SCN_0007.pdf

Sent from Outlook

From: John Finbow
Sent: 29 April 2017 10:15
To: Willow Farm
Subject: Fw: "Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order"

From: John Finbow
Sent: 29 April 2017 10:12
To: transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: "Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order"

Dear Secretary of State please find attached two letters attached regarding our objection to the above proposals.

Yours

Finbows Bacton 1991 Ltd

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Finbows Bacton 1991 Ltd,

Willow Farm, Bacton, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 4HJ

tel.

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28/04/2017

re. Transport and Works Act to remove or downgrade Level crossings in Suffolk

Dear Secretary of State,

As a director of a Farming Company with land around a crossing point on the London to Norwich Railway Line affected by the above proposals I would like to set out my points of opposition, along with a letter I sent to Ardent and Network Rail back in September 2016.

Process

I think on this point alone there is enough evidence that procedure has not been followed correctly. We have had to deal with a disrupted and disorganized organization whether it was dealing with Ardent who were then stood down for their incompetence or Network Rail who offered no route of communication to this complex issue, or latterly Bruton Knowles (BK) who informed me of Network Rails (NR) plans only to find out a week or two later NR had decided on a previous designation of an alternative route even after I had clarified the point with BK!

Please also see the letter of Sept 2016 attached to highlight my point. All of the above has been a considerable drain of my time and resources just to keep a hold of our Legal Rights!

NRs attitude

We have for a considerable time found NR to have a gung-ho approach they will do or take any action that they feel fit without due consideration for others it may affect, although they have a full record of who has access to and uses any given crossing, they fail to communicate their intentions to any work they are carrying out, which is unacceptable in this age of communication!

NR has an objective I think they call Norwich in 90 thus in my view expanding the commuter belt further into our rural communities to increase profits understandably, but they seem to be afraid to spend money on infrastructure at level crossings to make them safer, it is cheaper just to close them, however these are Legal rights of way and I don't feel NR has the right to extinguish them without due consideration of lights barriers bridges or tunnels as an alternative, to increase safety! We have a Private level crossing which hasn't been designated for closure but it is very frustrating to sometimes have to sit at the crossing having phoned for permission to cross for in excess of ten

minutes when some offhand land we farm uses a road crossing where the light goes on the barrier comes down train goes through and barriers are straight up again!

Fords Green Crossing S13

I initially wasn't unduly concerned about the closure of this Foot Crossing, as I only occasionally used it! However I did enjoy that walk with the dogs in order to inspect my crops on the other side of the railway, and once a right of Way is closed it is very unlikely to be opened again, as demonstrated on this exact area of line as there used to be an underpass under the railway which a previous farmer had use of, however when his land was sold off it was split up and the tunnel closed, now NR will not entertain reopening it as a safer crossing point!

I did have some dialogue with NRs representatives redirecting this crossing back to Cow Creek Crossing which I was prepared to do if they extinguished the path that ran parallel to this proposal, through the middle of my field! NR decided against this option and pushed forward with a plan to construct a brand new footpath linking Fords Green IP14 4HN S13 to S69 Bacton Football club, this we are totally opposed to, because as demonstrated by their own studies very few people use it! A new footpath would also have consequences on certain Environmental Plans we have under our farming schemes and the criteria they require!

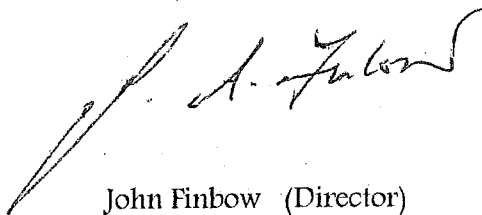
Please also see Sept 2016 letter with other issues I consider to be important to this proposal!

Summary

I think in summary these plans are mainly aimed at a few who wish to save a little time off their journey into London but also enjoy the country idyll, it has been masked with the pretense of safety on the railway!

I think little or no consideration has been given to the many who have to live with the wishes of the few, and very little consultation has taken part with the Landowners and farmers whose livelihood is being affected by a huge organization and I trust you will give a fair and balanced hearing as I know we have not had one yet!

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Finbow', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

John Finbow (Director)

Finbows Bacton 1991 Ltd,

Willow Farm, Bacton, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 4HJ

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26th September 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

We are writing to register our objection to the new proposed footpath from Fords Green Foot Crossing (S13 / IP14 4HN) to Bacton Football Club (S69) as the land owner of part of this new Footpath at the Fords Green Crossing end, we find it wholly unacceptable and incredulous that we were not consulted prior to this proposal being put forward! One might consider it devious or underhanded that consideration was not given to the land owners before this proposal was released into the Public Domain at Bacton Village Hall, I have also spoken to someone who got the impression at the consultation that the land owners had consented to this proposal which is far from the truth!

We feel as demonstrated by your own survey it would be seldom used, because people from Cow Green area wishing to cross the railway would do so at Cow Creek crossing to make their way to the village, and anyone living at the bottom of Broad Road (B1113) would not walk away from the point they need to access ie Bacton to go to Fords Green crossing then walk down the path to the Football club crossing S69.

Our field that is adjacent to Fords Green crossing already has two Public Footpaths within it and we do not wish to sanction a third and the responsibilities that then encompasses especially as in our opinion it will be an infrequently used route!

Yours Faithfully

John Finbow (Director)

