



6th December 2017

REF Newmarket Weatherby pedestrian crossing

Dear Mr Hirst

I understand you will be attending and speaking at the above public enquiry in February next year. I assume following a number of deaths in the last few years and the subsequent trial by media that follows these days, that Network Rail feels the need to mitigate that situation. But I somehow think that this blanket closure of some large number of crossings across Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex has more to do with maintenance costs than preventing further deaths.

Until someone can establish the real reason for such a large number of closures where no deaths have occurred, which to the best of my knowledge is the case here. I would guess the Council would hold records for such an event no matter how far back in time it would have occurred. I must comment that even in this age of Health and Safety if an individual puts their life in danger either by distraction or haste on a railway crossing I fail to see how the bodies maintaining or providing a service on the railway can be held responsible. Deaths occur every day on our roads but we don't see the Highways Agency suggesting that they close public access to them; the difference I suppose is that they are public highways and you cannot trespass on the highway but you can on the railway, which suggests that it is private land.

This fact then opens up the question of public rights of way that many private land owners have to abide by. Does this crossing have a public right of way? The council should know this. I do not use this crossing frequently but I do use it like the many hundreds of people that do use it on a daily basis and I feel personally outraged that I cannot be trusted to use this crossing and look after my own welfare, that Network Rail believe they need to step in and do it for me.

Have they performed a full survey on the number of people and different age groups that do use it daily and the impact it will have on their having to walk around. Feel free to pass my details on to Network Rail and anybody else that feels they might be able to use my support on this closure.

Yours Sincerely,

