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Mr & Mrs Hall

Statement of Case. Weatherby Crossing, Newmarket

We would like to register our dismay, at the proposed closure of the Weatherby Crossing in Newmarket.

The crossing is used by hundreds of people every day and is an important link given that the railway effectively bisects the town.

Walking from where we live to midway along the High Street takes almost twice as long when one is forced to go around under the railway bridge.

For many of the elderly in the area, this will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. They will either have to use a car or not go to town at all.

One of the good things about Newmarket is that it has a genuinely busy and bustling town centre. What it does not need is either A, more traffic or B, those customers who have already had to get into a car, deciding to go elsewhere.

The closure is being done in the name of safety but there have never been any incidents here to do with people crossing. (There was a suicide but that could just as easily have been done by jumping off the bridge further down the line.) The motivation to close this crossing has in my view, far more to do with the desire to run freight trains down this line.

All we can see are downsides to this closure. If it must go ahead, then it is vital that a bridge is built instead, and that the bridge is completed BEFORE the crossing shuts. Otherwise there will be a very detrimental effect on the residents who use the crossing, and town centre commerce will suffer as a result.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully

Gavin & Jackie Hall

