

From: Timothy Luke Butcher
Sent: 30 April 2017 12:32
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: Jenny Wright
Subject: Objection to closure of railway crossing at The Paddocks / Colne Road, Bures, Essex

ES4

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: closure of railway crossing joining The Paddocks with Colne Road, Bures Hamlet

Cc: Bures Parish Council (for information)

I write in response to the sign erected at the entrance to the railway pedestrian crossing indicating that the crossing may be closed soon, together with an invitation to comment with a tight deadline.

While I can understand some of the proposed closures, the proposal for closing the Bures crossing will, I fear, result in literally grave consequences. The alternative is unfit for purpose.

The railway crossing is a lifeline to people who live to the west of the railway line and wish to either access the village or the railway station; the crossing has a clear view of the line for hundreds of metres in both directions, is on a straight piece of line, is close to the station (meaning that the train is always passing slowly), and is far better than the only other alternative: the extremely dangerous railway bridge.

The railway bridge - which is immediately adjacent to a road junction - has a footpath on only one side; the side furthest from Colne Road. This poses two options to pedestrians:

1) Cross the road on a blind bend against three sources of traffic to reach the bridge footpath

or

2) Walk on the side of the road without the footpath around the inside of a blind bend and hope you're not hit by a vehicle

Numerous people use this railway crossing in order to avoid the railway bridge, and it's only a matter of time until there's a serious incident/fatality. It only makes sense to remove a source of danger when the alternative is safer, and in this case the Railway Crossing is the safer option and should not be removed.

Can I suggest that the decision is made on a wider view of public safety and not that of the railway company's profit/efficiency? Closing this crossing will put lives at increased risk.

I would be very grateful if you could confirm receipt of this objection, please.

With kind regards,

T Luke Butcher