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# Wakes Colne Parish Council

[www.wakescolne.org](http://www.wakescolne.org)

**YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH**

Route Managing Director  
Network Rail  
One Stratford Place  
Mountfitchet Road  
London  
E20 1EJ



6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Sir

At the Wakes Colne Parish Council meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the Parish Council discussed the proposed closure of level crossing E51 Thornfield Wood by Network Rail and strongly object to the closure on the following grounds:-

- The connectivity with the countryside for local residents and walkers would be greatly reduced.
- There would be an increased and unacceptable risk for users if the red route was implemented. Network Rail would be expecting users of the existing footpath to exchange a low risk walk over a field and a single track railway line for a walk along a 60mph road which has no footpath, poor visibility in places, particularly the hump back bridge which becomes impassable for pedestrian during heavy rain at the foot of the bridge. The road is heavily used by domestic vehicles, buses, farm and equestrian vehicles as it is a link road between Marks Tey and Sudbury and the access route to the A1124 for travel onto Colchester, Halstead and A120. It is also the access route for Chappel and Wakes Colne Station and onward travel to London, Norwich and the Anglia rail network.
- The proposed blue route up one side of a field/wood, across a road and back down the opposite side of the wood is a pointless diversion which is inconvenient for users of the footpath on the west to east route.
- The branch line is a single track with two trains an hour which we understand do not exceed 50mph. The trains can be clearly heard and visibility is excellent at the well-marked Thornfield Wood level crossing. At this crossing the trains have greatly reduced their speed, in anticipation of arrival/departure from the Chappel and Wakes Colne station which is about 400m from

Thornfield Wood Crossing. Contrary to the letter sent by Network Rail this line is NOT used by goods trains.

➤ The briefing note from Network Rail highlights five benefits from closing the level crossing , one of which is reducing the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the railway crossing, this however appears to be minimal or no cost, as no operation mechanical or otherwise is required at this crossing. Local residents and users of the footpath would see no benefit to the closure of the level crossing which would be to their detriment and enjoyment of the countryside

Wakes Colne Parish Council support Mount Bures, Bures St Mary and Bures Hamlet Parish Councils in their objections to the proposed closure of the following level crossings :-

- ✓ Golden Square E52
- ✓ Josselyns E53
- ✓ Bures E54
- ✓ Lamarsh Kings Farm E55

and ask Network Rail to re-consider the proposed closure of these crossings.

Yours faithfully



Parish Clerk  
On behalf of Wakes Colne Parish Council

cc. Secretary of State for Transport c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit,  
General Counsel's Office, Department for Transport, Zone 1/18, Great Minster House,  
33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR