

Angela Foster

083/125

From:
Sent: 10 May 2017 11:14
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order - E48 Wheatsheaf

To: The Secretary of State for transport
CO 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

Dear Sir

We are writing with reference to the proposed closure of the rail level crossing in Wrabness - ref E48 Wheatsheaf. We do not want the crossing to be closed and we do not agree with the proposed route for the new footpath.

We object to the closure of the crossing for the following reasons:

1. The crossing is used by residents, our family included, as a short cut from Station Road to Wheatsheaf Lane and as part of our regular dog walking route.
2. There have been no accidents, near misses, or misuse between 2011 and 2015 (as stated in the proposal document prepared by Network Rail) or since (as far as we are aware).
3. The visibility is very good at the crossing and, since it is a country location, there is no noise to interfere with the sound of the train approaching.
4. Network Rail have already recently spent funds improving this crossing for users, with new steps up to the track each side and hand rails. This suggests they had intended future use of the crossing for some considerable time.

We object to the proposed route of the new footpath for the following reasons:

1. The footpath will follow a route immediately behind our back garden, and our neighbour's, and we have concerns that our property will be more vulnerable to burglary as a result and we are also worried for our personal safety. This is a very rural area and we have regular spates of burglaries. The land bordering the back of our property is currently privately owned and therefore any trespassers can be challenged, but this would not be the case if it were a public footpath.
2. It would jeopardize any future opportunity we may have to purchase additional land to extend our garden.
3. Surely a better route would be to link up with the footpaths at/near Foxes Farm which then connect with Wheatsheaf Lane, minimising any disturbance to local wildlife by having to create new footpaths across other land in the proposed route.
4. Or route the path directly down Church Road, so walkers can enjoy the historical church and other views of the estuary (and the Grayson Perry House for Essex), until it connects with Wheatsheaf Lane (minimising disturbance to wildlife).

Please contact us if you would like any further details regarding our objections and we look forward to receiving updates on the situation and any decisions made.

Yours faithfully

Andy and Gill Moffat