

Angela Foster

080/132

From: Jennifer Wright <ossiejen@sky.com>
Sent: 11 May 2017 10:09
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: Ben Wilson; Mike Welch; Mr. David Lee ; Duncan Kennett; crowe1934@hotmail.com; Carol Barnham; Hugh Turner
Subject: Network Rail Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction Order - Re E54 Bures
Attachments: Response to Secretary of State.docx; Level crossing response 1st phase.docx; Level crossing response 2nd phase.docx

FAO Secretary of State for Transport

Please find attached Bures Hamlet Parish Council representations and objections to the proposed closure of E54 Bures in the District of Braintree in the Parish Of Bures Hamlet.

I attach letter dated 10th May 2017 and also attach our 2 previous responses to the Consultations Phases 1 and 2 dated 5th July 2016 and 5th October 2016 respectively.

Kind regards
Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council
38 The Paddocks
Bures
Suffolk
CO8 5DF

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BURES HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Mrs Jenny Wright
38 The Paddocks
Bures
Suffolk CO8 5DF

The 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

10th May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Network Rail Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction Order
E54 Bures - In the District of Braintree – In the Parish of Bures Hamlet**

We attach our two previous letters of objection (5/7/2016 and 5/10/2016) and ask that the contents be carefully considered to prevent the unnecessary closure of this important village asset.

We wish to particularly draw your attention to the danger to pedestrians of having to cross under the railway bridge where there is currently no footpath on the Colne Road side, a far greater safety hazard than crossing the railway line where there is one train per hour in each direction travelling at slow speed on the approach to or departure from the station platform.

Bures Hamlet Parish Council does not consider that constructing a footpath under the railway bridge on the Colne Road side is a viable option because it would severely limit the road width and lead to an increased risk of traffic accidents and potential for vehicle damage to the low headroom arch bridge.

We respectfully suggest that the rail infrastructure authority is consulted concerning these particular matters.

We trust that the Parish Council's concerns particularly on the safety of pedestrians will be thoroughly considered and investigated before any final decision is reached.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

BURES HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:

Mrs Jenny Wright

38 The Paddocks

Bures, Suffolk

CO8 5DF

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Anglia Level Crossing Proposals
Network Rail
One Stratford Place
Montfitchet Road
London
E20 1EJ

5th July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Level Crossing Proposals E54 Bures, Bures Hamlet Parish EX/70/30

Please find below the parish council's comments on the closure proposal for the above listed pedestrian rail crossing.

Network Rail is currently proposing one option to replace the pedestrian rail crossing at Bures, with a route along The Paddocks and underneath the railway bridge in Station Hill.

The existing rail crossing has excellent visibility in both directions whereas the underbridge does not. Pedestrians will be in constant danger from road traffic. In addition train speeds are predictable, road traffic is changeable and speeds are variable. We also understand that traffic calming under the railway bridge has been suggested but traffic light control would be totally unacceptable to the parish council.

Network Rail's proposal handout lists a number of benefits perceived in closing or modifying level crossings that can help to bring about a number of benefits. Listed below are comments to those perceived benefits in relation to E54:

Improve the safety of level crossing users. The alternative routes proposed would considerably increase the safety risk to pedestrians. Note the comments stated earlier.

Deliver a more efficient railway, which is vital in supporting the regional and UK economy. Abellio Greater Anglia has advised previously that the Gainsborough Line has a very good punctuality rating. The closure of this pedestrian rail crossing would have no effect on the efficiency of the service.

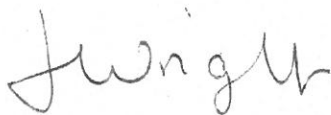
Reduce the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the railway. The crossing remains in good condition, and maintenance cost for this type of crossing is minimal. Temporary removal for track maintenance probably would not incur any additional cost.

Reduce delays to trains, pedestrians and other highway users. Here the only concern is pedestrian safety. There have been no reported incidents on this crossing. Visibility in both directions is excellent, the crossing is properly signed. All down trains are slowing when passing the crossing to stop at the station. Up trains are accelerating but not up to line speed when passing the crossing. The exceptions to this are early morning empty trains and the 7.39 Marks Tey to Sudbury weekdays.

Improve journey time reliability for all railways, highway and other rights of way users. Since this is pedestrian use only, closure will have no effect. The pedestrian crossing is considered to be a safe route to cross the railway, therefore it has no effect on journey time reliability.

We trust that the parish council's concerns particularly on the safety of pedestrians, if Network Rail continues with its current proposal for E54, will be thoroughly considered and investigated before any final decision is reached.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council

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Anglia Level Crossing Proposals
Network Rail
One Stratford Place
Montfitchet Road
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E20 1EJ

5th October 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Level Crossing Proposals E54 Bures, Bures Hamlet Parish EX/70/30 - Phase 2 Consultation

Bures Hamlet Parish Council is extremely disappointed that closure of the above is still being pursued following the initial consultations carried out earlier this year.

We remain opposed to this proposal for the reasons set out in our letter dated 5th July 2016 (see copy attached) and we consider that the points made have not been properly taken into account.

In particular, the proximity of this crossing to the station, meaning that trains approaching in either direction are travelling at a low speed where there is good visibility; and the added danger to pedestrians of diverting the footpath under the existing roadbridge where there is no pavement and bad visibility.

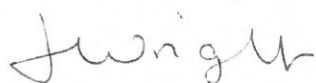
We would therefore challenge the high ALCRM rating given of "D".

We also find it difficult to accept that public opinion has been taken into account when your report states that 82% of those who responded were against the proposal with only 9% in support.

As requested by the Parish Council Chairman at the second consultation on 30th September 2016, we would like to arrange a meeting where the issues that we have raised can be explained at first hand. As discussed, we would be quite prepared to meet with your representatives at a time when they already have a site visit arranged.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Wright', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Jenny Wright
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council