

From: Sheila Foster
Sent: 12 May 2017 01:47
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: ESSEX LEVEL CROSSINGS ORDER E41, E42, E57

Re. The proposed foot crossing closures Paget Rd E41, Sand Pit E42 and Wivenhoe Park E57

To the Transport & Works Act Orders Unit, General Counsel's Office, Department of Transport.

I have lived in Wivenhoe for 43 years and use the Paget Road foot crossing (subject of Proposal E41) of the railway line on a regular basis to get from Stanley Road to visit friends in the south of Paget Road and on the Quay, to go to the the Brook Street Trading Estate for classes and other services, to go to the Sailing Club for meetings and for river walks. The crossing is easy to use, trains need to slow down for the bend and the station and there is therefore plenty of time to cross safely, and always has been, even before the introduction of very loud hooters (which can be heard in my house a mile away with the windows closed).

There has never been an accident on the crossing, and local children have always been taught to respect it and use it safely. I believe that this is a public right of way.

I object to its closure and hope that there will be a public enquiry into this unnecessary measure. I understand that National Rail propose bridging a stream which runs near the north side of the line, so that people on the north of Paget Road can easily get along the railway line to Paget Road. This will not help them to go by the most direct route across the railway line.

I have raised nay objections twice already in an online consultation. National Rail conceded that 92% of respondents objected to the closure, but reported that they were going ahead with it anyway. This shows a frustrating disregard for the findings of the consultation.

Before retirement I worked at the University of Essex and regularly used the Wive hoe trail to get to work on foot or by bicycle. This involved using the crossing (E57 at Wivenhoe Park) and this was essential for a safe walk or cycle to work, as well as giving the opportunity for an inspiring and attractive country walk or ride before work. Many others use this path for the same purpose, and I also object to the proposed closure of this crossing.

The third local crossing is by Alresford Sand Pits, and is part of the route of a regular walk from Wivenhoe through Cockaynes Wood and along the river which again is used for leisure and health bay many locals. The crossing enables the walk to take its circular route.

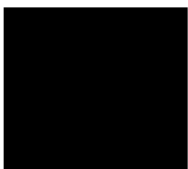
I would urge you to reconsider the proposed closures here. Increases in building and a proposed "garden" community are robbing us of our green spaces and healthy walks locally, and these closures will make us feel even more hemmed in and restricted in our movements.

Best wishes

Sheila Foster

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