

# Kelvedon Parish Council

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Clerk: Mrs Philippa Potter

VAT Registration No: 940723238

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Mr C Green  
Associate Director  
Hamer Associates Ltd  
104-106 Colmore Row  
Birmingham  
B3 3AG

21 July 2016

Dear Mr Green

**E20 – Snivellers**  
**Kelvedon Parish: EX/92/34**

The Parish Council OBJECTS to this crossing being closed and sets out its reasons below.

To take your list of benefits which would arise from closure, as outlined on the information sheet:

- **Improve safety of level crossing users:**  
There is no recorded history of accident or misuse at this crossing, which is user operated.
- **Deliver a more efficient and reliable railway, which is vital in supporting the regional and UK economy:**  
This crossing does not disrupt the train network. The gates are manually operated by the person crossing, which does not involve input from any member of staff working on the rail network, or cause any disruption to train journeys.
- **Reduce the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the railway:**  
This crossing is well maintained, all signage is intact and has recently been relaid by Network Rail, which included the provision of mounting steps for horse riders on both sides of the crossing. It would seem to be a false economy to now remove the crossing after it has been invested in.
- **Reduce delays to trains, pedestrians and other users:**  
The crossing is manually operated as and when required, without any disruption to the train network, therefore not contributing to any delays.
- **Improve journey time reliability for all railways, highway and other right of way users:**  
As stated before, this crossing does not disrupt train journeys, nor does it disrupt any highways as it is a public right of way/bridleway for pedestrians and horse riders, not vehicles. Therefore, its removal would not contribute to the improvement of journey times.

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## Path Diversion Proposals

This crossing forms a strategic link in the local Public Right of Way (PROW) network and is also currently designated as a bridleway. It forms part of two of the Parish Council's published circular walks.

Snivellers Lane is an ancient byway connecting the parishes of Rivenhall, Silver End and Kelvedon. Closure of the crossing will leave truncated and redundant sections of the PROW on both sides of the railway line.

There is no proposal for any new alternative pedestrian route provision, most notably south of the railway. Here, Network Rail are proposing that pedestrians should use the A12 foot/cycleway from the Snivellers Lane junction to join Cranes Lane and proceed north to cross the line at Hamiltons Bridge. This is a metalled public highway towards Clarkes Farm, to rejoin the footpath network. This route is circuitous and an unpleasant and potentially unsafe path for pedestrians alongside the A12.

In addition, Network Rail have proposed an alternative 'loop' for horse riders north of the line, utilising alternative or new (to be created) bridleways. This, however, is removed from the existing Snivellers Lane route, and does not provide any connectivity to pedestrians south of the railway line.

The Parish Council therefore OBJECTS to the closure of this crossing on the basis of the points put forward above but most notably on the basis of the unacceptable loss of rural PROW and lack of acceptable alternative provision for pedestrians. An alternative would be to retain a 'foot only' crossing, taking away the bridleway status, to remove any dangers posed by horses using the crossing, however, there have not been any recorded incidents of this nature, to date.

We therefore hope that Network Rail decide to retain this crossing.

Yours sincerely

*Philippa Potter*

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Clerk to Kelvedon Parish Council