

Angela Foster

OBJ/70

From: Jackie Plummer <jackie@plummerelectrical.co.uk>
Sent: 03 May 2017 16:16
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction Order
Attachments: MX-C301W_20170503_161513.pdf; MX-C301W_20170503_145355.pdf

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Great Bentley Parish Councils letter of objection and petition in respect of the above.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Plummer
Great Bentley Parish Council

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Great Bentley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Kate Mayhew

The Community Resource Centre, The Village Hall, Plough Road, Great Bentley, Colchester CO7 8LG
Telephone No. 01206 256410 e-mail clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

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

2nd May 2017

Dear Sirs,

Re: Network Rail Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction Order

Further to recent notification from Network Rail dated 31st March 2017 and following previous consultations we understand that the footpaths which cross the railway known as E45 at Great Bentley Station and E46 Lords No: 1 in the district of Tendring are being proposed for closure and diversion

However footpath E44 Frating Abbey which was previously proposed for closure and diversion has now been withdrawn from the list. We understand that this has resulted from the recent commissioning and handover of the automated Pedestrian crossing at E44.

Great Bentley Parish Council (GBPC) values its network of footpaths most highly. We have a footpath representative who reports to our monthly Parish Council meetings and the GBPC acts on his report as well as others received in order to ensure that in our Parish the footpaths are maintained to a standard for all to enjoy (whether this may be locals or visitors)

As such councillors resolved at the April 2017 GBPC meeting to continue to oppose any closures or diversions that my impact on our rural way of life

Having walked the footpath which crosses Frating Abbey (E44) we feel that this is an excellent fit for purpose facility which we assume satisfies all current Health & Safety obligations. Our request therefore is that Network Rail fully explore providing a similar facility on the other crossings in our parish E45 & E46

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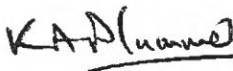
Representatives from GBPC have attended Network Rail consultation presentations at St Johns Church Colchester on 17th June 2016 & Firstsite, Colchester on 30th September 2016 (where our Tendring District Ward councillor Lynda McWilliams was also in attendance to support the GBPC). At both events representatives made every effort to engage with Network Rail representatives to explain our concerns and reservations as to how (if indeed closures are ultimately the only option) the proposals would work; given that in particular E45 would divert through land which is owned by GBPC and was a legacy from a local farmer intended solely for allotments to substitute for land taken to build a new Village Hall some 30 years ago. Suffice to say we do not feel that Network Rail have fully taken on board our concerns and comments.

Any proposed diversions would simply take pedestrians away from country side routes onto a network of footways and in some cases roads which do not have footways at all.

We attach copies of previously submitted petition which were collected from residents (256) during the previous consultation periods in 2016. For reference the numbers on the petitions 5 = E44 (now withdrawn) 8 = E45 & 12 = E46

In thanking you for your time in considering our comments we would ask in the strongest possible way that engagement between all parties and GBPC continues before a final decision is reached.
GBPC would be pleased to send representatives to meet with yourselves and look forward to receiving your responses.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Kevin Plummer on behalf of Great Bentley Parish Council