From:
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Tackley - Network Rail Proposals.
Date: 24 January 2024 23:48:15

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To whom it may concern.

I am a local Tackley resident, and horse rider of 60+ years. Safely crossing the railway track with my horse, my tractor (when we were allowed to use it for agricultural uses), my quad bike, my bicycle and dogs.

I most strongly object to the Network Rail proposals at Tackley.

When it was originally proposed, on safety grounds, in the early 2000's, an underpass was proposed and planning permission was obtained, this was never built.

When the latest proposal was put forward the underpass was promised again but then withdrawn as it was too expensive.

It is an absolute travesty to close a bridleway/footpath that has been there for hundreds of years, safely allowing people to go about their business and replace it with a path that runs alongside the track. Where horses will be within four meters of a train travelling at 100 mph and goods trains that rattle past with noise and objects that will frighten animals. The new proposed route, adjacent to the track, will be fenced in, therefore if and when a horse bolts and they will, it will likely knock down any pedestrians, children, elderly people, dog walkers or cyclist that happen to be on the path at the same time. The local equestrians have proved to NR that is a dangerous option. They are aware but choose to ignore the facts. (Neither will they agree to accept any responsibility for any accidents that might occur.) On being asked if he would ride along there, the NR Access Officer admitted that he knew nothing about horses and was afraid of them!! He was asked if the organisation did have someone who could come and prove to us that it was a safe option, we are still waiting.

The new proposed route over the track for station users is a monstrous unsightly bridge at the bottom of residents gardens and 50 meters from the station, where they will have to walk or take wheel chairs up the track, over the bridge and back down the other side. This will dramatically reduce the use of the trains. Plus the fact that the station is on its last legs and will, within the next ten years, either be closed or have to be rebuilt.

There is an alternative option here for a new bridge over the railway cutting to the north of the station. A plot of land was held back for a carpark and railway access when the fields were developed, (currently the train users park in Nethercote Rd. and cause problems where there is already a serious parking problem for residents). The bridleway can be easily linked to the current path and the station, (Or as the station will need serious remedial work soon, a new one placed

further north to link to the the bridge).

We the residents of Tackley and local equestrians want what is safe, user friendly, and the best for us for many years to come. NOT a quick fix that happens to be the cheapest option for NR. Peoples lives and quality of life should be uppermost in the decision made here and not be jeopardised by a short term fix. . We will have to live with this for ever, unlike NR who will move on to their next hideous project.

Yours sincerely,

June Collier

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