

Angela Foster

030/63

From: Helen Polom
Sent: 03 May 2017 09:38
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Re Wivenhoe Paget Rd E41, Sand Pit E42 and Wivenhoe Park E57

Planned closures and diversions for Wivenhoe area footpath crossings: Paget Rd E41, Sand Pit E42 and Wivenhoe Park E57

Helen Polom
[REDACTED]

I would like to raise 3 objections to the planned closures and diversions of the railway crossings listed above.

I dispute the fact that these closures can be deemed a health and safety risk. I have walked these routes for the past 30 years and there have been no accidents to my knowledge at these points. The sight lines are very clear at all these points with no bends. Even before the trees were severely coppiced at E57 there was no problem seeing in either direction.

In my opinion there is far less danger for anyone young or old at these crossings than there is trying to cross a road. I would also put forward that compared to a road in a town such as Wivenhoe or a city, that statistically pedestrians would be more likely to be injured or killed crossing the road. In my experience it is more dangerous for me to walk along the Wivenhoe to Alresford road where there is no footpath to reach crossing E42 due to speeding road traffic than it is to use the crossing where an occasional train passes.

I cannot see how compliance with our two disability discrimination laws, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order 2005 could be a valid argument in favour of it either, given that for all points people with most disabilities would be prevented from reaching these points by obstacles not on land owned by yourselves.

At each point my 30 years' experience informs me that the proposed diversions themselves are unsuitable.

I am also objecting because the planned closures at these 3 points with long diversions breaches my right of access on these long standing footpaths. The Wivenhoe History Group has evidence of these footpaths being used long before the railways arrived in this area in 1863. These footpaths and crossings are used daily by people.

I am requesting that a public enquiry is held so that that these proposed closures can be independently assessed.

I look forward to your response.

Helen Polom

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