

Tackley Level Crossing Order – Public Inquiry

1. Tackley Parish Council (TPC) are volunteers elected to give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish. Most of the seven councillors elected work full time, hence the lack of attendance at the Public Inquiry.
2. TPC remain of the opinion that the proposed bridleway (referred to as Route F during Inquiry), is unsafe for horse riders, cyclists, walkers and dogs. Whatever decision is made, Tackley community have to live with it forever.
3. As communication with Network Rail (NR) had been erratic in the past, it is true to say that the general feeling was that the level crossing permanent closure, footbridge with lift and proposed bridleway route, were a forgone conclusion for the most recent consultation. This was because, at that time, it appeared that other options had not been considered and had been summarily dismissed.
4. Whilst it is clear from NR evidence that an optioneering exercise was carried out on the various options discussed with the community, this was not shared before the Inquiry was announced, and, so far as we are aware, no quantified cost benefit analysis or relative/comparative risk analysis has been carried out (e.g. “Barwood bridge”, warning lights etc.).
5. TPC favoured option remains that “Barwood bridge” would be the chosen solution. Moving the station slightly further north would
 - a. Remove the need for train passengers to park on Nethercote Road, sometimes for days at a time, as a car park can be included;

- b. Satisfy the people in Nethercote Road who back on to the railway (Tackley Residents Railway Action Group) as there will be no bridge at the bottom of their gardens;
 - c. It will be safer for horse riders, cyclists, walkers and dogs.
- 6. The alternative route which seems to be favoured by some (referred to as Route D at Inquiry) is marginally safer, however there is still 60m along the railway, which, in fact, is much closer in proximity to the line. TPC would therefore suggest that access via Lime Kiln would make this safer.

Sue Lygo

Parish Councillor

On behalf of Tackley Parish Council