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Sent: 05 August 2016 15:37
To: Haggett Camilla <Camilla.Haggett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Cooney Brid
<Brid.Cooney@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Smith Laurence <Laurence.Smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Anglia Level Crossing Proposals – Response to NR

ECDC has commented on specific crossings but not on the impact of the proposed closures on future development in the area.

Some of the crossings identified for potential closure are in the vicinity of the North Ely development of 3,000 new homes (see East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 policy Ely 1: Housing-led sustainable urban extension, North Ely). Part of this development is an extension of Ely Country park which run up to the boundary with the railway north of Ely. One of the aims of the new country Park is to improve and increase peoples access to the countryside, so the Council would seek assurance that links to the countryside via Rights of Way and cycle paths are not negatively impacted as a result of any crossing closures.

Local Plan policy COM 5 seeks to protect and develop the strategic green infrastructure network in the district. Strategic sites/networks in East Cambridgeshire include:

- Ely Country Park
- Ely Ouse corridor
- Soham Town Commons
- Littleport Urban Greenway
- Ouse Washes improvement and habitat creation
- Wicken Fen Vision
- Green Fen Way (Fens Adventurers Partnership)
- Fens Waterway Link
- Block Fen Nature Reserve.

Again we would not want to see access to these negatively impacted as a result of any crossing closures.

The council has also recently adopted a Health and Wellbeing Strategy and a Sports and Activity Strategy, both of which encourage participation in physical activity. The Council would be concerned if any proposed level crossing closures severed or unacceptably extended routes which local residents use for walking, cycling, horse riding, accessing green space, keeping active etc. Nor should these routes become less attractive by, for example, forcing people out of the countryside onto the Highway, as this may deter people from using them and therefore reduce participation in physical activity.

Kind regards,

Sally