



030/183



10 May 2017

Ref: Railway crossing Paget Road E41

Secretary of State for Transport
Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
33 Horseferry Road
SW1P 4DR

Sir

I am writing to add my concerns to those objecting to the proposed closure of the Paget Road railway crossing in Wivenhoe (E41). There are several good reasons why the crossing should remain open.

1. The crossing is the most convenient and level access to the town for a large residential area. To use either of the bridges suggested as alternatives will require pedestrians, especially the old or infirm, to climb considerable inclines. Also, one of the bridges suggested is crossed by an unmade road with no pavements, quite unsuitable for the elderly or very young.
2. As I understand it, there has never been an accident or reported near miss with walkers using this crossing. Historically it is very safe.
3. With the close proximity of Wivenhoe station, where the vast majority of trains stop, it seems unlikely that rail-journey times would be reduced by a significant amount, if at all, with the crossing closure.
4. The financial benefits to the rail companies of closure are but a drop in the ocean, especially short term, bearing in mind recent expenditure on the site.
5. The thoroughfare, Paget Road, predates the railway and should not be closed to the public. If the foot crossing was deemed necessary when the railway was built, that need is enhanced by more recent housing development and a growing population.

Please add these thoughts to those who also appose the footpath closure.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bather