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From: Alan Churchard [<mailto:ajb.churchard@gmail.com>]

Sent: 08 July 2016 15:42

To: Champion Karen

Subject: Re: Our Ref 61308 - Footcrossing Closure Second Drove No2 Footcrossing - May-Jun 2016 - NR High Output KL141BNCS2/4138021WK6-12

Dear Karen

By way of background, I am a retired sexagenarian and very much enjoy my country walks in the fens and along the rivers. I can regularly (once a week) do five, six or seven miles. I appreciate this isn't much compared to some but it is important to me as the only form of exercise I can undertake.

I live on the north side of Ely and generally plan my weekly walk from home on a circular route using footpaths, bridleways, tracks and river banks, wherever possible. And that is where the rail crossings become so critical to me. To have a walk down the river, from home, I need to cross three different railway lines, and depending on my route, three more on the way home. I regularly use 9 of the 19 crossings which came within Network Rail's consultation at Littleport on 8th June 2016.

Using Network Rail's consultation crossing numbers, I use C10, C11, C21 and C22 perhaps two or three times a year. I use C25 and C08 more often but a month probably won't go by without me using C09, C23 and C24. Starting from home in Ely, planning a circular route with a limit of six or seven miles, means these are the ones that are most frequently used. I'm sure you are entirely au fait with their consultation materials.

I've never had the slightest difficulty crossing the lines. Obviously, some care and attention is required but there is much time when no train is in sound or sight.

My quotable sentence:

"I am not very sympathetic to the proposed crossing closures, because I don't see the necessity, but could cope with them if sensible nearby alternatives were provided."

To be more specific, if Network Rail were to close C09 Second Drove and C23 Queen Adelaide, I would not be greatly affected because there is a viable alternative not far away at C24 Cross Keys. If However, C24 Cross Keys were to be closed and the right of way footpath created to an under bridge 1/2 mile north, I just would not be able to access the river and countryside in that direction because it would be too far for me.

I hope all this helps and I would like to thank you very much indeed for taking my issue seriously.

Kind regards

Alan

