

25 Paddocks Drive  
Newmarket  
Suffolk CB8 9BE

4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Mr Peter Hulbert  
Town Council  
King Edward VII Memorial Hall  
High Street  
Newmarket

Dear Sir

**Re Weatherby Crossing**

I would like to add my name to the list of objectors to the closure of this crossing. I am not normally an objector or of the NIMBY persuasion but this is a very important access route for many locals and their families.

From a personal perspective, I use it with my son to help out an old chap who has an allotment that's really too much for him now. (My son has special needs and he's perfectly safe at the crossing by himself). To make this walk a good deal longer (there and back) to what is already a pretty physically demanding session would be an unwelcome change, given the relative safety of this crossing.

Obviously, all crossings have risk but it seems to me this is a particularly low risk example, with good barriers, excellent signage, a clear view both ways, minimal surrounding noise and the actual speed of most trains at this point being very modest and nothing like the actual limit for this stretch of line.

If this crossing were to be closed, it would in my view represent another example of the namby pamby state we are becoming with statutory authorities acting in a way, albeit no doubt well intentioned, to remove the need for people to think for themselves. After all, to me, the risk seems infinitely safer than crossing the road!!

If the Secretary of State decides that Network Rail should be given the option to close the crossing when it deems conditions justify it, I hope this will be subjected to robust objective criteria to be specified in advance and not just giving them carte blanche.

Yours faithfully

lamie Stewart