

Bramley Parish Council Ref the Railway Crossing/C32

The Bramley Parish Council have received the following communication from Network Rail. A similar letter we believe has also been sent to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

The Parish Council have no further information other than what is contained within this letter. We have requested a meeting with Network Rail to fully understand the overall proposal and will ensure all information is shared with the community when this is made available to the Parish Council.

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

From: Stuart Kistruck, Acting Wessex Route Director



Cllr Tony Durrant
Chairman, Bramley Parish Council
Bramley Level Crossing

24 July 2016

I am contacting you regarding Bramley CCTV level crossing on Network Rail's Wessex Route, which crosses the Basingstoke to Reading line with a speed of up to 75 mph, used by approximately 211 trains every day.

As you may already be aware, the high number of train services using the crossing means that the barriers are down for an average of twenty minutes in the hour due to a regular hourly stopping and non-stopping passenger service and a variety of freight trains. This causes inconvenience amongst pedestrians who are forced to wait to use the crossing, which can lead to misuse, involving people forcing their way through or jumping over the level crossing barriers. Indeed, there were six incidents of misuse between February 2013 and February 2014. Red light violations are endemic, and the long barrier downtime also increases the likelihood of vehicular misuse. We understand that the Parish Council have also carried out a traffic survey within Bramley and identified that the majority of users are using the level crossing as a 'rat run'.

I understand that the Council would be open to discussions on the future of the crossing and possible alternatives to the current situation, and we would be keen to speak to you and your colleagues about these options in more detail. Network Rail's concerns relate to level crossing safety, and in this instance, there is an opportunity to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome by improving traffic flows within Bramley.

Network Rail would be willing to part-fund a project to close the crossing, and I hope this assurance is useful to any conversations you may be holding with other stakeholders regarding funding for such a project. This is not a representation as to the final arrangements, and our offer of funding would be subject to further discussions and is not a binding agreement.

The safety of everyone who comes into contact with the railway is our highest priority and we have a responsibility to ensure this. I hope this update on our position is helpful. As I mentioned, we would be happy to meet to discuss the proposal and if this would be of interest please contact Alexander Boatfield, Project Sponsor, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Kistruck

Acting Wessex Route Director