



BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Member of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils

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Stuart Kistruck
Acting Wessex Route Director
Network Rail
Waterloo General Offices
London
SE1 8SW

Your ref:

My ref:

Date: 12th October 2016

Cc Alexander Boatfield, Assistant Commercial Scheme Sponsor, Wessex, Network Rail

Dear Stuart

Following your letter to Bramley Parish Council of 24th July 2016, I can confirm that Bramley Parish Council have met to consider Network Rail's early proposals for Bramley Level Crossing, and have had considerable input from residents in the Parish. Outlined below are initial concerns and questions from both the Parish Council and from residents.

- Great concern at how local services will be affected – the school, the Village Hall, Doctor's surgery, local shops and business, etc. Related to this is the impact on local business, which is likely to be severe.
- Access to east Bramley for emergency services from Basingstoke would be adversely affected by rail crossing closure.
- Bus services will be affected – how will those without cars get to hospital appointments, shops, etc?
- Closure of the crossing will divide the community, and will particularly affect mobility disabled people. A pedestrian bridge would be very difficult for mobility disabled people – there would need to be some kind of lift or a shallow ramp. Any bridge intended for pedestrian use must be supportive of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), as the bridge will be such a critical point for connection between east and west Bramley. An underpass would be the only acceptable solution for pedestrian traffic.
- Some residents were concerned that the station may also close. Are there any plans to discontinue the passenger service at Bramley?
- The so called 'rat run' over the level crossing is actually the main road through the village, with half of the traffic being local. Some residents felt that a road bridge seems to be the only sensible solution, which Network Rail should fund.
- Concerns about the increase in rail traffic and how this will affect houses near the railway line.
- There are three possible options for traffic – a bypass, a road tunnel, or a road bridge. The consequences for the entire village should be looked at very carefully in each

instance. Further to this, the level crossing should not be closed until the necessary infrastructure is in place.

- There is NO evidence to show that the current level crossing is a high risk installation as it is a fully controlled level crossing. Electrification of the line and the subsequent increase in rail traffic is much more a contributory factor for wanting to close it.
- Concern was expressed about the speed of the process involved.

In summary, closure of the level crossing would have an enormous impact on Bramley Village, its residents, and the surrounding parishes. The Parish Council trust that Network Rail will liaise and consult closely with all the relevant authorities before reaching a decision.

The Parish Council are keen to speak with representatives from Network Rail, but thus far have had difficulty in making contact. To discuss this further, please contact Cllr Bruce Ansell at Cllr.Bruce.Ansell@bramleypc.co.uk or Cllr Tony Durrant at anthony.durrant6@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Maxta Thomas
Clerk to Bramley Parish Council