

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 31 May 2016
Enquiries to: Kerry Allen
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Email: Kerry.Allen@suffolk.gov.uk



COUNCILLOR

Dear Colleagues,

NETWORK RAIL LEVEL CROSSING STRATEGY

You may be aware from details in the press about Network Rail's plans to review level crossings across Suffolk. I am writing to you to ensure that you have the correct details about Network Rail's level crossing project and how you can be involved.

Network Rail is reviewing 31 level crossings (a mixture of private and public level crossings) in Suffolk on the Great Eastern Main Line and on the line between Ipswich and Cambridge. Network Rail have stated that this review is being undertaken to:

- Improve safety (by removing the point where people come into contact with trains);
- Improve reliability of train services; and
- Reduce operating and maintenance costs.

Network Rail's review of the level crossings will involve extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders including members of the public, local councillors and user groups. Network Rail has produced a number of options for each level crossing, for the consultation. The options (which could include closing the level crossing through diversion, downgrading, or maintaining the level crossing as it is currently) will be tested through the public consultation.

The public consultation dates are as follows:

Saturday, 11th June (11am – 3pm), St Edmundsbury C of E Aided Primary School, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3BJ;

Tuesday, 14th June (3pm – 8pm), Stowmarket Community Centre, Stowmarket, IP14 2BD;

Wednesday, 15th June (2pm – 7pm), Burlington Baptist Church, Ipswich, IP1 2EZ

Network Rail officers will be available an hour before each consultation event to brief councillors.

The June consultation events will be used by Network Rail as a fact finding exercise to gauge public opinion. Workshops will be arranged for councillors across Suffolk to learn about the outcomes of the June consultation events. The outcomes of the consultations and workshops will inform the final proposals for each level crossing.

Another round of public consultations will take place in September to consult on the final proposals. Network Rail will then apply to the Secretary of State for Transport, under the Transport Works Act

Order (TWAO) powers, to make any potential alterations that are agreed. The applications will be submitted to the Department for Transport for a final decision.

The full level crossing process and timetabling is set out below:

Action	Timescale
Public Consultation (Options)	June 2016
Councillor Workshops	Early September 2016
Public Consultation (Final Proposal)	September 2016
TWAO application submitted to Secretary of State for Transport	March 2017
Public Inquiry	November 2017 – January 2018
Department for Transport decision announcement	February/March 2018
Level crossing closures (where applicable)	April 2018 - March 2019

I have attached a list of the level crossings that are being considered by Network Rail for your information.

Further enquiries should be sent to Network Rail, by contacting the following officers:

Hannah Briggs, Communications Manager, Network Rail - e-mail:

Hannah.Briggs@networkrail.co.uk

Andrew Kenning, Level Crossing Engineer, Network Rail – e-mail:

Andrew.kenning@networkrail.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Cllr James Finch
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Suffolk County Council

CC: Cllr Guy McGregor, Suffolk County Councillor with Special Responsibility for Rail

LEVEL CROSSINGS FOR REVIEW

IPSWICH

Level Crossing	Ward
Brantham High Bridge (Footpath 6 Brantham)	Alton Ward
Broomfield (Footpath 12 Barham)	Claydon and Barham Ward
Buxton Wood (Footpath 22 Bentley)	Dodnash Ward
Island (Footpath 18 Bentley)	Dodnash Ward
Pannington Hall (Footpath 34 Wherstead)	Brook Ward
Sea Wall (Footpath 13 Brantham)	Alton Ward
Stacpool (Footpath 33 Barking)	Barking and Somersham Ward
Westerfield (Footpath 18 Ipswich)	St. Margaret's Ward

STOWMARKET

Level Crossing	Ward
Abbotts (No recorded public right of way)	Gislingham Ward
Bacton (Footpath 13 Bacton)	Bacton and Old Newton Ward
Beecroft (No recorded public right of way)	Gislingham Ward
Cow Pasture Lane (Byway 11 Mellis)	Gislingham Ward
Finningham (Footpath 15 Cotton)	Mendlesham Ward
Fords Green (Footpath 14 Bacton)	Bacton and Old Newton Ward
Gislingham (Bridleway 10 Gislingham)	Badwell Ash Ward

Gooderhams (Footpath 19 Bacton)	Bacton and Old Newton Ward
Haughley Green (Footpath 1 Haughley)	Haughley and Wetherden Ward
Hawk End Lane (Footpath 12 Elmswell)	Elmswell and Norton Ward
Leggetts (Footpath 6 Old Newton & Dagworth)	Bacton and Old Newton Ward
Lords No.29 (Footpath 9 Elmswell)	Elmswell and Norton Ward
Mutton Hall (Footpath 35 Wetherden)	Haughley and Wetherden Ward
Paynes (Footpath 22 Gislingham)	Gislingham Ward
Rectory Road (Mellis U5442)	Gislingham Ward
Steggals (Footpath 13 Cotton)	Mendlesham Ward

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Level Crossing	Ward
Barrels (Footpath 5 Thurston)	Thurston and Hissett Ward -
Cattishall (Footpath 17 Great Barton)	Great Barton Ward
Grove Farm (Footpath 11 Thurston)	Thurston and Hissett Ward
Great Barton (Bridleway 12 Great Barton)	Great Barton Ward
Higham (Footpath 1 Higham)	Iceni Ward
Higham Ground Frame (Footpath 4 Higham)	Barrow Ward
Weatherby (No recorded public right of way)	All Saints Ward