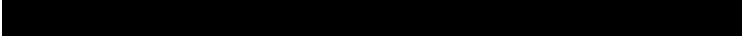


From: [Kate Plumridge](#)
To: [Roberts, Ali](#)
Subject: Please don't close Penleigh Park level crossing
Sent: 04/06/2025 12:02:03


Good morning Ali,

I would like to express my views regarding the proposed closure of the Penleigh Park pedestrian rail crossing. In short, I believe this would be a mistake. This email is lengthy but I want to be thorough in my reasoning.

As I'm sure you know, this crossing is used daily, often multiple times, by residents of the Spinnaker Estate, as well as residents of the other nearby estates. Many of these are families with children going to school or nursery. It also provides the fastest pedestrian route to the doctors surgery and shops - vital for those who do not have access to a vehicle.

I appreciate that a level crossing is inherently risky, but, to the best of my knowledge, there have been very few incidents at this crossing. I'm not personally aware of any since the estate was built.

To give you my family as an example, we use this crossing 4 times a day every weekday during term time to walk our eldest child (5) to Westbury infants school and back, usually accompanied by her younger sister (20 months) who obviously cannot be left home alone. We also use it at other times to access the doctor, shops, town centre etc. We have no option to use a car most days as it is required for my work commute.

If we had to walk via Station Road using the proposed diversion, that's an extra 4km every single day that we need to navigate with a toddler (and 2km of that with a toddler and young child), often in unpleasant or dangerous weather (wet, cold, icy, excessively hot). The proposed alternative route has several hazards:

- A pavement not wide enough for two adults to pass each other, with no safety barriers, under the railway bridge that frequently floods in wet weather and is littered with hazardous bird droppings
- Or, attempting to cross Station Road twice to access the safer pavement, with no pedestrian crossing and poor visibility, at peak times with fast moving traffic
- A busy garage entrance and exit
- Residential roads on both sides of the road which must be crossed
- Attempting to cross Oldfield Road at the busiest point next to the roundabout, with poor visibility.
- Being out for longer than necessary in poor weather, leading to significant discomfort and/or health risks for young children or other vulnerable people

I am struggling to understand how all of that that is safer than a short, light controlled railway crossing.

It also adds significant extra time to the journey which adds extra pressure to busy mornings and could cause us and others to be late for school or work.

This is our example, but many of the other families living on this estate have similar stories to tell. I'm sure you will have heard from some of them already.

The notice mentions vulnerable users who require extra time to cross; they would either require significant extra time or simply be unable to walk the additional 1km proposed and would need to find alternative transport.


Older children who may be old enough to walk to school unaccompanied using the shortest path across the crossing are not likely to be able to safely manage the additional hazards and distance of the proposed alternative route, reducing their independence and causing logistical problems for their families.

I believe that if this crossing is closed, those who can will resort to using private vehicles, adding extra traffic to already busy roads, causing extra pollution to the already poor air quality and making school runs even more difficult as parents will be unable to park safely. Those who cannot do this, such as my family, will struggle with the extra distance and hazards.

I agree that the best solution would be to install an accessible bridge (or subway) to replace the crossing, along with a proper pedestrian crossing for Oldfield Road at this point (a separate but connected issue). However, if this is not practical, I firmly believe that the crossing should remain open. Closing it would negatively impact too many residents.

I hope that you will consider my points and encourage Network Rail to reconsider this request.

Many thanks,

Kate Plumridge
 Flint Crescent, Westbury