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Dear Jenny,

As you may be aware, Network Rail has been working for over three years to produce proposals to close and replace Sheet level crossing with an alternate access arrangement.

The level crossing has been identified by the Office of Rail and Road, the Railway Regulator, as being of great concern due to its proximity to Sheet Primary School and the frequency of train movements. Indeed, the crossing has the 17th highest risk score out of 345 level crossings on the Wessex Route, and the 6th highest score at an Automatic Half Barrier level crossing.

As part of this project, Network Rail has consulted Sheet Parish Council, Steep Parish Council, South Downs National Park, East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council to try to agree a solution that would benefit all parties.

However we have been unable to agree a solution that would achieve planning approval, so Network Rail will not be proceeding with the closure and replacement of Sheet level crossing with a ramped footbridge. We recognise that local residents who supported the scheme will be disappointed by this news. We share their disappointment as Network Rail has spent a significant amount of time and effort trying to find a solution to mitigate the risk at this level crossing, yet this has not been forthcoming.

Although closure is not currently possible, Network Rail would like to improve the safety at Sheet level crossing for its users, in particular the school children who use it, so we will upgrade the half barrier crossing to full barriers in due course. Network Rail is grateful for your support in its attempt to reduce the risks at level crossings, and we hope that this support will continue for future key railway safety projects.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Boatfield

Project Sponsor