

Joint Transportation Board

13th March 2012

Public Right of Way Crossing at Hamstreet Station

Board Members may be aware of the above crossing and the fact that it is one of a few left in the country with no safety gates or stop lights.

On the request of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the appended letter has been sent to Network Rail and copied to Southern Railways and KCC Public Rights of Way asking about the future plans for upgrading the crossing. Members will be kept informed of any responses received.

The Joint Transportation Board is asked to:-

Note and support the sending of the Chairman/Vice-Chairman's letter and await any responses.

COUNCILLOR M J C BURGESS

MEMBER FOR ISLE OF OXNEY WARD
CHAIRMAN OF ASHFORD JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

c/o Danny Sheppard, Member Services, Ashford Borough Council,
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Date 1st March 2012



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Dear Sir/Madam

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY CROSSING AT HAMSTREET STATION

We write in our capacity as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Ashford Joint Transportation Board – a Joint Board of Ashford Borough Councillors and Kent County Councillors.

Following recent discussions we have become increasingly concerned about the Public Right of Way foot crossing at Hamstreet Station. The crossing is one of a few left in the country with no gates or miniature stop lights, and the safety of the persons using this crossing relies purely on the user seeing the approach of the trains and then waiting for the trains to pass before stepping on to the crossing.

Having read the Rail Accident Investigation Branch report regarding the fatal accident at Elsenham Station in 2005, we note that there were a number of general recommendations to address safety matters observed during the investigation. These included: -

“The upgrading of all station pedestrian crossings at which the individual risk to the most exposed user is assessed as being above the upper limit of tolerability” and

“The implementation of improved safety measures, where shown to be necessary, commensurate with the level of risk at each station pedestrian crossing”

It is for this reason that we write as we would like to know what the plans are for upgrading the crossing at Hamstreet. It clearly falls into the above categories and we would therefore suggest that in the circumstances this should be a priority for Network Rail. Particularly in the light of proposed housing development at Lancaster Close, Hamstreet which could lead to a further increase in pedestrian usage of this crossing point.

We await your response with interest.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Michael Burgess
Chairman (Joint Transportation Board)

County Councillor Andrew Wickham
Vice-Chairman (Joint Transportation Board)

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