

Joint Transportation Board

11th June 2013

Hamstreet Crossing

At its meeting on the 13th March 2012 the Board discussed the Public Right of Way crossing at Hamstreet Station and the fact that it was one of the few left in the country with no safety gates or stop lights. The issue had been raised by one of the Ward Members as there had been at least one near miss and there was concern that the situation was 'an accident waiting to happen'. A letter was sent to Network Rail and copied to Southern Railways and KCC Public Rights of Way asking about the future plans for upgrading the crossing and Members were promised to be kept informed of any responses received. Local Members also kept the issue 'live' in the local press etc.

The issue was discussed further at the Ashford Transport Forum meeting on the 16th November 2012 when it was confirmed that the crossing was being investigated by Network Rail. At this stage Stephen Gasche of KCC advised that there were plans to improve the crossing but it would not be on the scale of the improvements at Elsenham as sight lines up and down the line were good and it was a public footpath.

Network Rail has now advised the following: -

"Hamstreet Station – Public Crossing – A survey of the public crossing at Hamstreet Station has been completed with a view to submitting a bid for a footbridge at this location to Network Rail's £70m fund for level crossing closures during their Control Period 5, which covers the period 2014 – 2019. While this does not guarantee that the scheme will be funded, it is expected to feature highly on the national priority list."

The Board is asked to note the positive news from Network Rail