

From: Anoushka Mutanda Dougherty [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 August 2020 18:59
To: Richards, Clive <clive.richards@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Glebe way closure

I intend for this to be submitted as evidence and to speak at the hearing.

After the death of Sacha BBC News ran an article commenting on the outpouring of communal support and tributes to Sacha laid at the crossing. They finished the piece with a quote from network rail saying -"We want to close level crossings where we can and Glebe Way is one that we would like to close."

That was on the 12th of February 2015. I was 14.

I am now nearly 20.

I have grieved for my friend in every way imaginable. I have seen Sachas parents watch me grow and experience all the things denied to their daughter and yet wish me nothing but success and happiness. I have, with every year looked at those younger than me and wondered how, at 14 we all dealt with such pain. And I have in some small way come to terms with the fact, that my friend, through no fault of her own, was dealt a cruel hand.

I will however never be able to fathom the sheer unapologetic and shameless apathy demonstrated by some of the members of my supposed community.

This was and never will be about inconveniences and personal annoyances, this has and always will be about human empathy. There should have been no hesitation, the preservation of human life and the safety of local residents should have weighed heavier on the conscience of all involved than the trivial grievances put forward.

I am heartbroken, that the voices receiving the largest platform in this case, whom appear to be operating as the self appointed voices of this community, are ones, not wishing to amplify the message of support, compassion and unity but rather something much crueler.

I feel that one small group in our community, are, through their ability to have the time to commit to this case, overriding the voices of others.

I know I speak for the young people of this town, many who knew Sacha or remember the devastation her loss caused, when I say that it is shameful that this crossing remains open today.

Anoushka Mutanda-Dougherty