

Witness; Sally Newcombe  
Made: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Witness Statement in relation to Glebe Way Level Crossing**  
**PINS REF: 3226477**

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**Witness Statement of Sally Newcombe**

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- I, Sally Newcombe live at [REDACTED] West Beach, Whitstable CT51EG, and have lived in Whitstable for 19 years.
- I make this statement because I object to the proposed extinguishment of the Glebe Way Level Crossing:
  - I have used the crossing regularly for over 17 years since I have lived on West Beach in normal times (i.e. before COVID). I previously lived in Island Wall Whitstable. I use this route to both access the shops, particularly the Co-op and the Seven Seas fish and chip shop, and to visit friends who live in the Canterbury Rd area.
  - The alternative routes are much longer; either via Alexander Rd or more dangerous via Nelson Rd and then under the railway bridge. I always avoid the route under the railway bridge where the pavement is narrow and the vehicles and buses often mount the pavement, as this junction is also narrow for vehicles, making it very hazardous to use.
  - Everyone is very concerned about the safety of the crossing and the fatalities that have happened, but I strongly feel extra safety measures should be put in place to reduce the risks as far as reasonable practicable rather than close the crossing and deny a right of access used by so many for probably centuries and meaning the rail line is effectively further cutting the Town in two.
  - Unfortunately we have had other suicides elsewhere on this rail line and accidents and fatalities involving people distracted by listening to headphones are sadly not rare.
  - Proper safety warning measures as used elsewhere by Network Rail; lights alerting you to an oncoming train or automatic barriers must surely cost less than the footbridge first proposed.

- This path is used by many in the town to access the beach, in times when we need to encourage people out of cars and to take more healthy exercise, footpaths play a vital role.

I am prepared to attend the forthcoming inquiry to give oral evidence.

**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the witness.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020.