

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

Witness Statement of John Ernest Rosser

1. I, John Ernest Rosser am retired and live at [REDACTED] West Cliff, Whitstable.
2. I have lived in Whitstable for 57 years, 25 of them at my current home in West Cliff.
3. I make this statement because I object to the proposed extinguishment of the Glebe Way Level Crossing.
4. I have used this crossing every day and sometimes more than once a day for 25 years since my wife and I came to live at our current address to support her mother and grandmother already living in the flat above us and her disabled sister living a few doors away. A decisive factor in our purchase of no [REDACTED] was a garage included in the deeds of the property. This is a distinct advantage given that West Cliff has little or no off street parking facilities and on street parking is very much in demand and rarely available. The garage is located in Glebe way, a short walking distance from our home and just the other side of the railway line via the railway crossing. I use the crossing to reach my car and also to visit my osteopath in Saddleton Road and to visit friends on that side of the railway line.
5. In my 86th year I am unable to walk very far due to arthritic pain and I walk now at a slower rate. If the Public Right of Way across the railway crossing was to be closed, it would have a serious impact on my daily life and that of my wife, also in her 80s because the distance between our garage and home is considerably greater by road than via the crossing. We have tested the time it takes us to walk the distance via the crossing and via the roads and it took us 5 minutes via the railway crossing but 25 minutes by road. We need to be able to easily access our car for visits to the health clinic at Estuary View – a couple of miles away up a very steep hill – for shopping and to visit friends but closure of the railway crossing would prevent us doing so.
6. I am prepared to attend the forthcoming inquiry to give oral evidence although I would be unable to participate in a virtual meeting because I have no knowledge of computer technology nor do I possess the necessary technology.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: _____
[REDACTED]

Date: _____
22/8/20