

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

Witness Statement of Shirley Lesley Rosser

1. I, Shirley Lesley Rosser am retired and live at [REDACTED] West Cliff, Whitstable.
2. Whitstable has been my home town for all of my 82 years of life. Born and bred here I am a true Whitstable Native.
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 I and my husband came to live at our current address to be near to my mother and grandmother who lived in the flat above us. At that time they were in their 70s and 90s respectively. In the last 3 years of her life my grandmother moved to a nursing home at the end of West Cliff. Also living nearby was my younger sister who was disabled with MS. Prior to our purchase of the flat, [REDACTED] we had been living a further distance away, first in Chestfield and then in Seasalter. We wanted to move closer to our family but to a property with off street parking for our two cars. West Cliff is a road comprised largely of terraced properties with no off street parking. On street parking is very difficult with little chance of finding a space. When no [REDACTED] came on to the market, with a garage as part of the sale price, it was the obvious choice for us.

The garage is located in Glebe Way, a short walk away to just the other the other side of the railway line from the house in West Cliff but easily accessed by foot via using the Public Right of Way across the railway crossing. Not only have I used the railway crossing to reach our garage but also to visit friends living on the south side of the railway line.

5. If the Public Right of Way across the railway crossing was to be closed, it would have a serious impact on the lives of my husband and myself. The distance between our garage and home is considerably greater by road than via the crossing and it would take us far longer to walk the distance via the roads (there are several). 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 by the crossing but 25 minutes by road. We are both in our 80s now and walking is difficult for my husband. We need 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.

6. I am prepared to attend the forthcoming inquiry to give oral evidence although I would be unable to participate in a virtual meeting using computer technology.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: _____

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the witness.

Date: _____

22-07-20