



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Debbie Ward
Chief Executive
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1XJ

29th
March 2018

Dear

Debbie,

Future of Wareham Level Crossing

I write concerning item 6 on the cabinet agenda for the meeting on 4th April 2018.

I have received representations from a large number of residents who are deeply concerned about the proposals for the level crossing in Wareham. I cannot stress enough the strength of feeling in the town against the proposals. There is a sincere fear that these proposals will split the town in two and that the gradient of the proposed ramp will be an unacceptable barrier to some of the least mobile in the community. I share these concerns.

Since this issue was first raised, I have sought to convey the concerns that have been raised with me and find an acceptable solution. I am sorry that an outcome that is suitable for everyone has not been found. Throughout the process Councillors, the Town Trust and local residents have sought to explain their concerns about these proposals. The decision of the local planning committee at Purbeck District Council to reject the plans on 31st January was welcomed but concerns remain that this decision will now be taken by a council that has not taken on board the views of the local community.

I have attended demonstrations and chaired public meetings where the anger at these proposals and the process that has led to this point has been palpable. This extends far beyond the realms of a normal planning application, this is a community trying to make their voice heard on an issue that they care deeply about. The number of residents that have taken the time to sign a petition is a further example of the strength of feeling within Wareham.

I urge the cabinet to keep these concerns at the forefront of their minds when deliberating on this matter. I would also implore the council and Network Rail to remove the plans and continue to explore alternative options with the community.

Yours sincerely

Michael Tomlinson MP

cc Wareham County -
District Councillors
cc Wareham Town Council
cc Nick Page, Wareham
Town Trust.

Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole