



Plumpton Resident  
Information re Plumpton Level Crossing

Community Relations  
Network Rail  
1 Eversholt Street  
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Tel: 03457 11 41 41

8 October 2015

Dear Resident

### **Plumpton Level Crossing**

We're very sorry for the disruption you are experiencing as a result of the closure of Plumpton level crossing.

We recognise that the level crossing in Plumpton is hugely important to local residents but sadly, despite its heritage the Victorian level crossing presents an unacceptable safety risk to users which had to be addressed.

Because of this we developed proposals for a £2 million upgraded level crossing which would meet today's safety standards as well as providing a segregated accessible route for pedestrians. Our proposed plans included removing the Victorian barrier gates and donating these to the East Kent Railway Trust.

We started planning these works several years ago and the proposed replacement was due to take place between 25 September and 12 October this year.

Sadly our plans did not receive listed buildings consent on 30 September. On 25 September we started preparatory works to non-listed structures to prepare for a new level crossing, because we had assumed, based on the fact that our listed buildings consent application had been recommended for approval by Lewes District Council officers, that permission was likely to be granted. We should not have made this assumption and we are sorry for this.

As such we are now in the unfortunate position that we cannot currently proceed with the new level crossing whilst we do not have the listed buildings consent required to remove the existing gates. The signalling upgrade works we have already carried out on site mean we are unable to reinstate the crossing into its previous state and reopen the road immediately. We must also carry out a full safety risk assessment,

which may identify that additional mitigation works must be completed before we can safely reopen the road. We are currently in the process of doing this.

We recognise that this is an unacceptable position for the local community, residents and businesses for which we wholeheartedly apologise.

We are working round the clock to try and find a temporary safe solution for the level crossing that is acceptable to residents and the local community and meets our obligations. However, this will take us some time and it is likely that the current diversionary routes will remain in place for at least the next three months whilst we work on solutions and discuss these with Lewes District Council, residents and the local community. However, we will do everything we can to bring this forward.

We are working with Maria Caulfield MP to arrange a public information event to provide an update to the community and explain our progress. This will be advertised locally as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

We will continue to keep you updated via letters as well as posters on site. However if you would like to discuss this further please contact me on 0330 8543841 or email [james.bates@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:james.bates@networkrail.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,



**James Bates**  
Community Relations Manager  
London and the South East