

**GRANGE OVER SANDS
CUMBRIA
14 January 202019**

5.1.423 Bailey lane crossing

Dear Sir

I write to signify my objection to the permanent closure of Bailey Lane crossing. I wrote to network rail on 17 July 2017 objecting to their 'temporary' closure of the crossing and never received a satisfactory answer.

It is regrettable that there has been an incident at this crossing but matters need to be kept in proportion. There are a great many incidents on the roads of Britain every day and we do not close the National road network. Given that the crossing has been in operation since the 1860's its overall safety record is very good.

Whilst network rail seem to contend that the underpass is a satisfactory substitute this is not the case. The floodgates are very occasionally closed and more frequently the underpass is flooded. These failings do not affect the Bailey Lane crossing.

The fact that the underpass involves a small but significant detour inconveniences a very large number of people every day. If you stand near the crossing you will still find a surprising number of people walking up intending to use it and then finding it closed.

As I pointed out in my letter to Network Rail they have taken no steps to improve safety the crossing, they have simply used the incident as an excuse to close it.

The crossing could be equipped with better signage and markings and above all should be flanked by 'anti-walking' boards. These simple precautions are present at the majority of crossings yet Network Rail have not adopted them at this crossing.

They should take these simple normal steps to improve safety at the crossing and only if these are demonstrated to have failed should they then give consideration to closing the crossing.

As I say the safety or otherwise of this crossing should be kept in proportion and I very much hope that you will refuse Network Rail's request for permanent closure.

YOURS SINCERELY

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