

To: Councillor Malcolm Richards,
Executive Member for Highways & Transport, WBC

12th August 2016

Dear Malcolm,

Waterloo Road Level Crossing – Date of Closure

Further to our discussions at our AGM and your replies to our questions,

I am writing on behalf of the Great Langborough Residents association to request an assurance from you that the level crossing in Waterloo Road will remain open until the works in Finchampstead Road and rail bridge replacement are complete.

We are aware that the agreement with Network Rail for the bridge from Montague Park is conditional on the closure of this level crossing.

In your reply of 20 July to our questions, we note that the aim is to deliver the bridge by December 2018. The current estimation for the completion of the Western Gateway Phase 2 – the works in Finchampstead Road and upgraded rail bridge is July 2019. The date for completion of Phase 1 – the main spine road and access by Tesco is April 2021. Furthermore, the dates for Phases 1 and 2 of the project are described as "interchangeable".

The traffic load on all the main entry and exit points to and from central Wokingham is heavy, with delays on all routes. Therefore, it is crucial that the predicted 13 week closure of Finchampstead Road does not happen *after* the Waterloo Road crossing has been closed. Until the two "gateways" and the spine road are open, the traffic using residential roads through central Wokingham will continue to increase.

The Waterloo Road level crossing must remain open until the Southern Distribution Road and the Phase 2 project in Finchampstead Road are complete – even if this is as late as April 2021.

We believe that it is essential that the potential variations in the sequencing of the project phases do not result in the simultaneous long term loss of two key access routes.

Please can you ensure that this request is given the consideration that it demands.

Regards

Pat Smith,
Chair, GLRA