

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th August 2020

Dear Cllr Blagrove,

Further to previous correspondence, I enclose a copy of the reply that I have now received from the Authority.

If I can be of any further assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes'.

The Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP
South Holland & The Deepings

The Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Andy Gutherson
Executive Director of Place
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Ref: 102017/AG/PR/ACH

3 August 2020

Dear Sir John

Re: Drainage Issues in West Deeping / Railway Crossing at Tallington

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of a number of your constituents and members West Deeping Parish Council regarding the above matters. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

While I have been unable to find a record of a site visit on 24 October 2019, I am aware of some issues with surface water standing on King Street. A Highways Officer attended in November of last year and his investigation indicated that the surface water drainage gullies were fully functioning, and that the overall capacity of the system may be limiting the volume of water it can accept. Because additional funding has been made available to address drainage issues such as this I have now arranged for the site to be re-assessed to see if we can increase the capacity of the system.

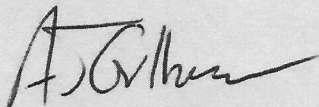
Anglian Water may be aware of further issues with their foul drainage system. I have made an enquiry to them and await their response.

With regard to the railway crossing at Tallington, I understand that Network Rail produced a feasibility study and a proposal to install a bridge to the north-east of the level crossing. I had made an enquiry with Network Rail and have enclosed a copy of their response for your information.

I'm sorry I have been unable to fully answer your queries on this occasion. I will write again with an update from Anglian Water and will also confirm if we are able to increase the surface water drainage capacity at King Street.

I shall make the County Councillor for the Deepings West and Rural division, Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, aware of this correspondence and my response.

Yours sincerely



Andy Gutherson BA, DipURPS, DipRSA, MRTPI
Executive Director of Place

Enc

This is a formal response from Network Rail on the issue of the Tallington Level Crossing. Their response is as follows (**verbatim**):

"Network Rail is aware of how significant the impact of barrier downtime at the level crossing is for residents in Tallington, and across the wider local area. We take this impact on the community very seriously and are acutely aware of the need to balance the needs of passengers using our railways with those of motorists and pedestrians using the crossing.

Back in 2014-2015, Network Rail carried out a study to look at the feasibility of closing a significant number of level crossings on the East Coast Main Line, and at that time also engaged with local communities on the route to present some possible options for how this might be achieved.

This study estimated the cost of closing all level crossings between London King's Cross and Doncaster would be around £340 - £400 million. Ultimately that very considerable cost fell outside of work Network Rail was able to deliver.

The Company have subsequently continued to try to seek funding for this work – including as part of our submission for the East Coast as part of our business planning process for the Control Period (6) which runs from 2019 – 2024 – but to date the work remains unfunded.

As any solution at Tallington would be likely to cost several million pounds, we will need to work with Government and local funders in order to try to take a solution forward. Nevertheless, our team will always be open to trying to do this as level crossings on the East Coast present a safety and performance risk to the railway as well as being disruptive to the local community.

We will seek to close level crossings when the opportunity is available, and where it can be aligned with other planned works, rather than as a standalone programme.

In the meantime I hope that this response is helpful in providing a summary of our understanding of the latest position on the level crossing."