

The Hatches Level Crossing Issues

27th April 2022

Just to confirm that from talking to residents I think the three big issues are:

1. Objections to a bridge - mixed reasons include the effect on those living nearby, the extra distance to walk for those going to Farnborough North (and vice versa), concerns about whether it is the best choice and that it is a disproportionate and expensive response to what people perceive to be a small safety risk. Some views are based on logic, others are more about how they feel about the impact locally.
2. Unconvincing evidence and argument about the different options - the favoured option seems to be miniature stop lights (with alarms and locking gates). It would be good to see the risk assessment for this option and be able to put it alongside the risk assessment for a bridge. The two risk assessment scores - along with what that means in terms of the risk of a) an accident (such as tripping) and b) a fatality - would be good to compare. If it is possible, it would also be good to see what that equates to as a risk in everyday life e.g. climbing a ladder, crossing the road. It would also be good to see all the pros and cons of both options including environmental impact and life-time costs.
3. The need for proper consultation - I think your plans for a proper sit down Q&A and having a dedicated web page are a welcome step forward. I think people will want to know that their views will be taken into account and will, potentially, impact on any decision. They won't want to feel that this is a done deal and they will not be listened to. It might be helpful if you agree to collate the views of residents and other users of the crossing (many come from further afield such as fishers and cyclists) and to include that with any planning application. It will also be good to engage directly with local councillors.

Graham O'Connell
Acting Chair
Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society